



# Sunset United Church

November 28, 2021

Homesick/Hope



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*Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,  
is an Affirming community of faith. All are welcome here.*

## WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Centering Words

Hymn VU#1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel<sup>1</sup> (vs. 1 & 2)  
O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, Wisdom from on high,  
who orders all things mightily  
To us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in her ways to go.

*Refrain*

Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## Call to Worship<sup>2</sup>

Can one be homesick for something you've never known?

We are homesick for a just world,  
For peace like rivers,  
For the end of suffering.

Yes, we are homesick –

For joy that is contagious,  
For nations that feel like neighbours,  
And for hospitals that run empty.

We are homesick for the world God promises.

We are homesick, but we are on our way.  
God is here. God is still creating.  
Let us worship Holy God.

## Advent Candle Liturgy

Sung Refrain VU#7 Hope is a Star<sup>3</sup> (v. 1)

Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

*Refrain*

When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

## Prayer Seeking Reconciliation

Gracious God,  
We find ourselves with two options every day-  
To stay homesick for the world you had in mind  
Or to allow cynicism to win.  
Do we hope against hope,  
Or do we throw in the towel?

Do we insist on a better world,  
Or do we assume it is impossible?  
Forgive us for the days when cynicism wins.  
Forgive us for numbing our homesick hurt  
Instead of using it to fuel a better world.  
Kindle in us a hope that won't let go.  
Gratefully we pray, Amen.

### Words of Assurance

Family of faith, even when we throw in the towel...

...So hear and trust in this good news:

There is room for us in God's house,  
And nothing can separate us from that love.

We are claimed.

We are forgiven.

We are welcomed home.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

### Hymn MV#62 There Is Room for All<sup>4</sup>

There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;  
There is room for all, sheltered in God's love.  
And I rejoice and sing,  
"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."  
There is room for all, there is room for all!

### Sharing the Story

### Hymn MV#169 When Hands Reach Out Beyond Divides<sup>5</sup>

When hands reach out beyond divides  
and hope is truly found,  
each chain of hate will fall away  
and bells of peace shall sound,

and bells of peace, of peace shall sound,  
and bells of peace shall sound,  
each chain of hate will fall away  
and bells of peace shall sound.

When fear no longer guides our steps  
and days of war are done,  
God's dream for all shall live anew;  
our hearts will heal as one,  
our hearts will heal, will heal as one,  
our hearts will heal as one,  
God's dream for all shall live anew;  
our hearts will heal as one.

When race and creed blind us no more,  
a neighbour's face we'll see,  
and we shall dance the whole world round,  
for love will set us free,  
for love, yes love will set us free,  
for love will set us free,  
and we shall dance the whole world round,  
for love will set us free.

## WE LISTEN

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture     Jeremiah 33:14-16  
                  Luke 21:25-36

Special Music

## Reflection

Hymn VU#8 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming<sup>6</sup>

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.  
It came a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Saviour  
when half spent was the night.

## Call to Offering

### Offering Prayer

Holy God, we are homesick.  
We long for the day you spoke of  
When swords will be beaten into plowshares,  
The lion will lie down with the lamb,  
And justice will roll like waters.  
Until that holy day comes,  
Take these gifts, and use them to build  
That world here.  
We are hopeful. Amen.

## Prayers of the Community and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in  
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us  
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn VU#55 In the Bleak Midwinter<sup>7</sup>

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,  
a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.  
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,  
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Sending Forth and Blessing

*Postlude*



**Minister:** Rev. Tricia Gerhard (she/her)

**Children & Youth Minister:** Michelle McConkey (she/her)

**Choir Director:** Corinne Groff (she/her)

**Pianist:** Shirley Hill (she/her)



<sup>1</sup> Words: from the Latin antiphons for Advent, ca. 9<sup>th</sup> century; trans. John Mason Neale 1851, et al. Music: 15<sup>th</sup> century plainsong melody; arr. Healey Willan. Words copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Used by permission. Arrangement copyright © Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted under One License 605683.

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