



# Fairview United Church

## December 3, 2023

**Worship Leadership:** Rev. Angela MacLean

**Music Leadership:** Maureen McGee

*Service begins each week in Advent with  
10 minutes of carol singing before service.*

### **Prelude:** Lo How a Rose E're Blooming

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### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **About the Theme**

### **Centering Song:** VU 22 Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, God's day is near.  
Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!

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### **Acknowledgement of Territory**

We are gathered today to worship on land  
that is the Traditional and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

For thousands of years, Indigenous People have lived on this land, honouring the Creator and living with respect for creation. May we learn from their stewardship and relationship with the land and its plants and animals, as well as with the lakes, streams & oceans. Please join me in our statement of reconciliation:

**We accept the responsibility we have to nurture and protect this legacy and to live with respect and friendship with the first inhabitants of this land.**

**We Sing: VU 1** O Come, O Come Emmanuel (*v 1 & refrain*)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

In God's house, we can be joyful.

**We can be grateful.**

**We can be hopeful.**

In God's house, we can be weary.

**We can be anxious.**

**We can be grieving.**

In God's house, we can be honest—

**inspired or tired,**

**delighted or doubtful,**

**connected or curious,**

**and everything in between.**

This is God's house. You are welcome exactly as you are.

**We Sing: VU 1** O Come, O Come Emmanuel (*v 2 & refrain*)

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## Candle Lighting Liturgy: The Candle of Hope

### We Sing: VU 7 Hope Is a Star (*v 1 & refrain*)

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

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## Call to Confession

### Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we are weary.

For weary bodies that ache and cry out, we pray:

**Forgive us for pushing ourselves too hard.**

**Reminds us that we deserve Sabbath rest.**

For weary minds that feel overwhelmed & saturated with news, we pray:

**Forgive us for creating so many distractions.**

**Remind us that in the quiet, we can hear you.**

For weary hearts that long to feel the joy of this season, we pray:

**Forgive us for being impatient with ourselves.**

**Remind us that healing takes time, and that joy & grief can coexist.**

For the weary edges of our faith that struggle to hold onto hope,

**Forgive us. Remind us of Zechariah and Elizabeth.**

**Remind us that your good news knows no bounds. Amen.**

## Assurance of Grace

Family of faith,

no matter how many times we wear ourselves thin,

no matter how many times we lose ourselves to distractions,

no matter how many times we ask ourselves, "How can this be?"

God's love keeps showing up for us.

So say this with me:

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are forgiven.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## **All of Us Children**

### **We Sing: VU 5 All Earth Is Waiting**

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows await the seed of God.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,  
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'  
One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be,  
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,  
open new highways, new highways for our God,  
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,  
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.  
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,  
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

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## **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in a God who hears our prayers,  
who knows the shape and form of our weariness.  
We believe in a God who wants joy and delight for us,  
not just survival and existence.**

**We believe in a God who looks ahead,  
who is not done dreaming for the world—  
a God who sends hope in the form of people and change,  
movements and Spirit.**

**And so we return to this space.**

**We bring our joy and our weariness  
like two sides of the same coin,  
and we trust that God is already at work.**

**Yes, we believe in a God who hears our prayers.**

**Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

**We Listen for the Word:** Psalm 80, VU 794  
Luke 1:1-23

**Lisa Clarke**

**Gift of Music:** Light of the World

**Lisa Clarke, Soloist**

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## **Reflection**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

Holy One, Emmanuel: as you have given yourself to us through the coming of the Christ child, we also give ourselves to you.

## **Offering Song: VU 74** What Child Is This? *(v 3 & refrain)*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.  
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Words: William Chatterton Dix ca. 1865. Music: 16<sup>th</sup> century English melody, harm. attrib. John Stainer 1871. Public domain.

## **Prayer of Dedication**

Receive these offerings, given in hope,  
that they may be part of your life in this world. Amen.

## Preparation for Prayer: VU 670 Precious Lord, Take My Hand (v 1)

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;  
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:  
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

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## Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

### We Sing: VU 713 I See a New Heaven

#### ***Refrain:***

I see a new heaven. I see a new earth  
as the old one will pass away,  
where the fountain of life flows and without price goes  
to all people who abide in the land.

There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,  
yielding her fruit, firm in her root, the Tree of Life will be. *(ref)*

There, there where death dies and our lives are born again,  
body and soul, struggling but whole like flowers after the rain. *(ref)*

There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.  
There where the night, bearing new light, reveals the promise of love. *(ref)*

There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.  
Labour we must, true to our trust to build a promised new land. *(ref)*

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## Blessing

Family of faith, as you leave this place,  
you go into a weary world—so speak tenderly.  
Do the good that is yours to do.

Choose connection. Hold onto hope.  
And remember that Christ took on flesh for you.  
You are God's beloved. So go rejoicing.  
The world needs it. Amen.

## **Postlude:** Carol of the Bells, Ukrainian Bell Carol

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*Happy birthday to  
Maureen McGee on December 5 and  
Brian Langley on December 7*

## **🚗 Carpool Questions 🚗**

**On November 12, it was decided to begin shared services at Rockingham United Church beginning on January 7, 2024.**

**Our hope is to facilitate the transportation of others who would not be able to walk or drive on Sunday mornings, so please let us know:**

**If you might need a drive on a regular basis, starting in January  
OR**

**if you might be willing to transport members on a regular basis.**

**Please let us know by signing up - thank you! 🙏**



Again this year, during Advent, the UCW will turn on lights in memory of loved ones on Christmas Trees in front of the church. Anyone wishing to dedicate one or more lights **(\$5 per light)** can do so by placing the donation in an envelope marked "UCW Tree Lighting" and placing it on the collection plate.

Please include a note stating:

1. who is making the donation;
2. in whose memory;
3. how many lights;
4. your envelope # or address for a receipt.

You may phone Marilyn MacKenzie at 902-443-7714 or email her at [lloydmac@eastlink.ca](mailto:lloydmac@eastlink.ca) with the above information. Starting on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, there will be a list of names of those being remembered with lights each week, along with the names of those making the dedication, in the bulletin. Donations are now being accepted and will continue until **December 20<sup>th</sup>**.



*A poinsettia has been placed in loving memory of  
Hazel, Wallace and Bud Matthews  
by John & Donna Matthews and family*

*A poinsettia has been placed in appreciation of the many members past and present who created such a wonderful church home with their Bar-B-Q's, Summer Picnics, Bazaars, Turkey Dinners, Sunrise Services, Christmas Dinners followed by Candlelight Services, Lunches for Seniors, and a home for Parents and their Tots, Brownies and Guides, Cubs and Scouts. and many more groups, Thank you for the terrific memories. Janet Dalton*