



First Sunday of Advent - B  
November 29, 2020

Key Scripture - Mark 13: 24, 25

"But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.



Theme -  
Suffering Gives Way to Light

## Sing in the Season

### 35 *"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

## 50 "He Is Born"

Through long ages of the past,  
    prophets have foretold his coming;  
thru long ages of the past,  
    now the time has come at last!

### *Refrain -*

*He is born, little Child divine;  
    play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.  
He is born, little Child divine;  
    join to song to announce the day.*

O how lovely, O how pure  
    is this perfect child of heaven;  
O how lovely, O how pure  
    gracious gift to humankind!

### *Refrain -*

*He is born, little Child divine;  
    play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.  
He is born, little Child divine;  
    join to song to announce the day.*

## Welcome and Announcements

Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

- Trinity is an Affirming Congregation

## Congregational Notes -

**White Gifts / Angel Tree** - The salvation Army will be distributing toys as in the past and Trinity will still contribute. However, to reduce the possibility of contact with COVID-19, please deliver your White Gift directly to the Salvation Army. Also, instead of Christmas Hampers (food boxes) the Salvation Army will be giving Gift Cards for Walmart, Independent, and Metro.

If you wish to contribute, you may arrange to purchase Gift Cards though the Office and we will forward them to the Salvation Army. We will still have a White Gift Sunday service to recognize and celebrate this wonderful Ministry.

**Christmas Cards are available for signing in the Fellowship Hall.**

A member of the Christian Community Team will be available every Wednesday 1:30 - 7:00 pm. What beautiful cards they are! These are a gift to the Congregation and we are grateful beyond words.

**Christmas Cards will also be available for sale as gift packs.** Jan Montgomery will be set up in the front foyer for those who wish to purchase cards. We ask that if you do wish to purchase cards, that you linger in the Sanctuary until the folk who wish to go straight home have cleared the lower hallway.

The Spiritual Leadership Team is hosting an **Advent Study - *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent.* Wednesdays at 2:00 pm.** Two copies of our book will be in the church front foyer. They are available for free or by donation. A few may meet in person if remote is not an option. Please reply via email to me if you would like to participate remotely and I will send an invitation to Google Meet.

The Spiritual Leadership Team has selected an Advent Calendar for distribution.

**The Longest Night - A Worship Service of Hope, Strength, & Community - Winter Solstice** will be held on **21 December, at 6:30 pm.** While the content and intent will remain, COVID-19 will cause us to modify the format. We will meet in the main Sanctuary and your candle(s) will be lit by proxy.

Gift Cards are for sale through the office and can be ready for pickup on Sundays or by arrangement.

**Our Stewardship Team is praying for a Christmas Miracle**  
Please consider Pre-Authorized Payments (PAR) as a consistent way to support the congregation



**Trinity United Church's  
Holly Jolly Christmas Auction**

This online fundraising auction of  
new items, crafts, art and baking  
will be held on our Facebook page between  
December 4th and Dec 10th  
winning items can be picked up on the 11th between  
12 noon and 3pm

If you would like to donate to this fundraising effort,  
please email [trinitysffundraising@gmail.com](mailto:trinitysffundraising@gmail.com)  
or call Joanne at 613-283-7565

If a lunch delivered to your home would be helpful, we will serve as we are able. Our Lunch volunteers pray over each bag. Call Cynthia Sirett or Betty Lou for details

Masks are available at the church Tuesday and Saturday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm and Sunday morning prior to worship.



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and COVID-19 emergency funds.

Two Guys for Lunch are active partners with us in this community service.

## **Acknowledging Traditional Territory**

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

**Introit** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" vs. 1

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!*

## **Call to Worship**

The heavens are trembling with anticipation,

**And we wait for Jesus.**

The nights are long and the days are short,

**And we wait for Jesus.**

Our redemption is drawing near,

**And we wait for Jesus.**

Let us hope in God and worship

as people ready to see the salvation of our God!

*Lighting of the  
Christ Candle  
Advent Candle*

## **Prayer of Gathering**

Creator God,

You made the heavens and the earth.

You set the planets in their courses, lit the sun with fire,  
caused the stars to shine and the world to turn.

Life springs up wherever your breath moves.

In Jesus Christ, you brought hope into a world full of fear and despair.

You sent your Spirit to enliven our hope and guide us on the way.

We are waiting now in anxious times for the world to be made new.

We wait for new life, and we wait with deep hope.

## **Hymn 5 "All Earth Is Waiting"**

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows await the see 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.

## **Learning with Children**

### **Childrens' Prayer**

**Scripture**

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (VU 794); Mark 13:24-37

*Refrain - Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.*

Shepherd of Israel, hear us,

**you who lead Joseph like a flock,**

**you who are enthroned amidst the cherubim.**

Shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh;

**stir up your might, come and save us.**

*Refrain - Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.*

God of hosts,

how long will you be angry with your people's prayer?

**You have fed us with the bread of weeping,**

**and given us tears in plenty to drink.**

You have made a mockery of us to our neighbours,

**and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

Let your hand rest on the one at your right hand,

on the one you have made strong for yourself.

**Then we will never forsake you;**

**give us life, and we will call on your name.**

*Refrain - Your face, God, shine on us and give us peace.*

Mark 13:24-37 (NRSV)

“But in those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.



Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

## **Hymn**    8 "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

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.

## Invitation to Offering

We offer whatever we have to share, knowing these gifts can help bring hope to lives in despair.



## Offering Prayer

God of hope,

We offer you our gifts with our thanks that your love never goes out of style, your presence is never beyond our budgets.

Bless what we bring with your Spirit and enrich their impact in a world with desperate needs.

May we shine as symbols of the unending hope we have in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Friend. Amen.

**Hymn** 95 "Born In The Night, Mary's Child"

Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home;  
coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's Child, your face lights up our way;  
light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good;  
prove it is true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign;  
saviour of all, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.

**Prayers of the People**

Merciful God,

We thank you for your comforting presence in times of  
uncertainty,  
and for your promise of life beyond death, and hope beyond  
fear.

As the longest night of this year draws nearer,  
comfort those who fear the darkness.

Wherever people are overwhelmed by the demands of this  
season and the complications of COVID-19,  
let them hear your still small voice within all the clamour  
and confusion,  
and catch a glimpse of your light shining in the night.

God of all our days and nights,

We remember that the days leading up to Christmas are difficult  
for many, especially this year.

We pray for those who are hungry and cold.

Warm them with your love.

We pray for those who are grieving.

Make us patient and compassionate companions to those in mourning,

even when we're not sure what to say.

Fill emptiness with your comfort.

We remember those who are feeling isolated.

Inspire our hearts with ideas of how to reach out in friendship.

Bring hope to the lonely with your friendship.

We pray for those whose lives have been uprooted by illness, job loss or death.

Steady us amid the upheavals of this pandemic and remind us that you alone are constant.

Your steadfast love will see us through.

Heaven and earth may pass away,

but you are the source of everlasting life and undiminished hope.

Help us trust in you.

We are thankful that we can experience God in a relationship from which we draw strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - Mother, Father, Friend - Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;

may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

**Reflection**     Suffering Gives Way to Light

## **Prayer of Confession**

**Redeeming God,**

**We confess that waiting is difficult.**

**We want to be with family and friends in this season,  
but the pandemic keeps us anxious and unhappy.**

**Give us eyes to perceive the great need within our community.  
Give us eyes to see the deep need within our own lives.**

**Turn our hearts to you again and again.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, the good news of Jesus Christ is for all people. There is nothing we have done, nothing we will ever do, that will separate us from the love of God made known in Jesus Christ.

This love is yours! So live in love as forgiven and forgiving people.

**Meditation**     "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (Young)

## **Communion**

In this Advent of disquiet, God comes to us.

**God approaches to be with you, as well.**

Let us offer our hearts

as we begin this journey to Bethlehem.

**God approaches to fill us with grace and hope.**

Let us sing praises to our God.

**God approaches to teach us new songs of love.**

God ripped apart the fabric of chaos, to make  
the grass to blanket the meadows,

the backdrop for all the stars flung against it,  
the swaddling clothes for puppies and kittens.

Each of your wonders  
were crafted for those formed in your image  
so we could be with you

but we chose to quarantine ourselves from you.

You sent men and women to us,  
so we might continue to hear your heart

and discover what you do all around us

You chose to come to us  
in that Child of peace who could save us.

With those who try to be cautious in these days,  
and those who don't seem to care,  
we sing your praises this day:

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God who comes to us.  
Creation always pours out its praise to you.  
Glory to you in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who is coming to us even now.  
Glory to you in the highest!**

You chose to love us,  
coming to be one of us in Jesus.

He came to a people

whose anxiety about the future was high,  
to remind them, and the generations to come,  
that you are in control, even when it seems doubtful.

He came to those who struggled,  
He came to his kinfolk,  
And when death seemed to defeat him with its power,  
he simply waited for you

to bring him out of its clutches  
with your resurrection power.

With those who try to stay alert,  
and with those who toss and turn trying to sleep,  
we proclaim that mystery which is our faith -

**Christ died, giving his life for all;  
Christ was raised, the light of resurrection showing the way;  
Christ will come, gathering us in love and hope.**

So we pray that you would pour out  
your Spirit on your fretful people

and the gifts which remind us of your love.

**Communion Hymn - T'was on That Night When Doomed to Know**  
(Tune - Sweet Hour of Prayer)

**T'was on that night when doomed to know  
The eager rage of every foe  
That night in which he was betrayed  
The Saviour of the world took bread.**

**And after thanks and glory given  
To him that rules in earth and heaven  
That symbol of his flesh he broke,  
And thus to all his followers spoke:**

**“My broken body thus I give  
For you, for all; take, eat, and live  
“And oft the sacred rite renew  
That brings my wondrous love to view.”**

**Then in his hands the cup he raised,  
And God anew he thanked and praised,  
While kindness in his bosom glowed,  
And from his lips salvation flowed.**

**“My blood I thus pour forth” he cries,  
“To cleanse the soul in sin that lies;  
In this the covenant is sealed,  
And Heaven's eternal grace revealed.**

**“With love to man this cup is fraught'  
Let all partake the sacred draught;  
Through latest ages let it pour,  
In memory of my dying hour”**



The body of Christ,  
    **the bread of life.**  
The lifeblood of Christ,  
    **the cup of blessing.**  
The gifts of God for the people of God.  
    **Thanks be to God!**

## **Sharing the Grace**

And when human time has come to an end,  
    and you gather us around your table  
with our sisters and brothers,  
    we will sing our joyful praises to you,  
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

## **We Depart to Serve with Joy**

### **Hymn**    20 "On Jordan's Bank"

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry  
    announces that the Lamb is nigh;  
awake and hearken, for he brings  
    glad tidings of the King of Kings.

Then cleansed be every breast from sin;  
    make straight the way for God within;  
and let each heart prepare a home  
    where such a mighty guest may come.

In you, we find abundant life,  
    our refuge in the midst of strife;  
without your grace we waste away  
    like flowers that wither and decay.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,  
and help us rise to fall no more.  
O let your face upon us shine,  
and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son,  
whose advent has our freedom won;  
and praise to God whom we adore,  
with Holy Spirit evermore.

### **Benediction**

On this pilgrimage of uncertainty,  
**may we remember God has walked  
this road many times before.**  
As we live through these endless moments,  
**may we remember Jesus shares hope  
with us every day, every day.**  
In this season filled with isolation from others,  
**may we remember that the Spirit  
knows our loneliness and cradles us in love.**

### **Choral Amen**

**Postlude** "Variations on 'In Dulci Jubilo'" (Bedard)  
*Main theme and variation 1.*