

Key Scripture - Luke 21:32

Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.

Theme - Has This Taken Place?



## Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
  - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † Capacity limits for Sunday Worship may be lifted if a vaccine mandate is implemented. Council is considering what this may mean for Trinity and will return a decision at our next regularly scheduled meeting.
- † We continue to pray for those who were impacted by the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.
- † If you do not already track news and events in our larger Church Community, you may wish to [visit the United Church of Canada Website](#).
- † [E-ssentials](#) is a helpful NewsLetter you may wish to consider.
- † **The Healing Pathway Ministry** is a form of prayer which recognizes that we are all One in the Source of Life. We open to the Sacred Spirit and to allow the Healing energy of the Spirit to flow.
  - If you wish to have a conversation and / or book an individual healing session, email -
    - [trinitysmithsfallshealingpathway@yahoo.com](mailto:trinitysmithsfallshealingpathway@yahoo.com)

# gifts with vision

† Gifts with Vision is a response to member requests to be able to give gifts to relatives, friends, and loved ones that are in direct support of the church's Mission & Service partners. Catalogues at the front door highlight the possibilities.

† Trinity United Church Women Christmas Wreaths will be ready for pickup on 29 November.

**Salvation Army Christmas Campaign** - Our friends at the Salvation Army are requesting that we collect toys for the Angel Tree Program. They are also very much in need of kettle volunteers to stand by kettles for 2 hour shifts.

## **Christmas Cards are available for signing in the Church Hall.**

The Church building is open every day Monday through Thursday, 9:00am - 1:00pm. What beautiful cards they are! These are a gift to the Congregation and we are so very grateful. We hope to mail these out by 9 December.

## **Christmas Cards will also be available for sale as gift packs.**

There are 28 sets of cards that can be sold. Each has six individual cards and envelopes. They will be sold at a price of \$10.00 for the package. All revenue goes to the Church general fund.

## **Looking Ahead**

**29 November, 1:00pm** - The Spiritual Leadership Team is hosting a book study, **Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey.**

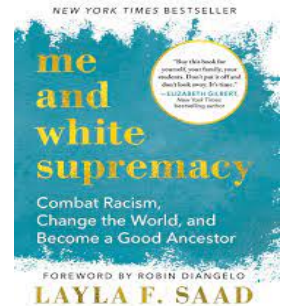
- [Video call link](#)

## **29 November, 7:00pm - Me and White Supremacy:**

A 28-Day Challenge to Combat Racism, Change the World, and Become a Good Ancestor

by Layla F. Saad

- [Remote](#) and in Person (Upper Room)



**29 November** - Christmas Wreaths will be available for pick in the gym from 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Masks and social distancing will apply.

**1 December, 9:30am** - The Spiritual Leadership Team is hosting an **Advent Study - *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent***. Starting on **Wednesday, 1 December at 9:30 am**. We may meet in person and [remotely](#) by computer or by phone. Please let the Office know if you would like to participate.

**5 December**, after Church - The UCW will meet to discuss the budget in the Church Hall.

5 December - Cookie Sale

### **Communion -**

We will celebrate Communion today. Pre-prepared Communion Elements available.

- [Video - How to open Communion Elements](#)

Bend tab downward to snap.  
Film edge over the wafer is  
easy to find and open.



- 
- Bend the plastic tab downward to release top cellophane wrapper
- Peel top cellophane wrapper back to remove bread wafer
- Grip plastic tab firmly and peel back foil wrapper to open fruit of the vine

**Advent Walk Today** - We will start at 4:00pm at St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church

**Items and Donations for Interval House -**

The UCW is collecting items and donations for Interval House.  
Some suggestions:

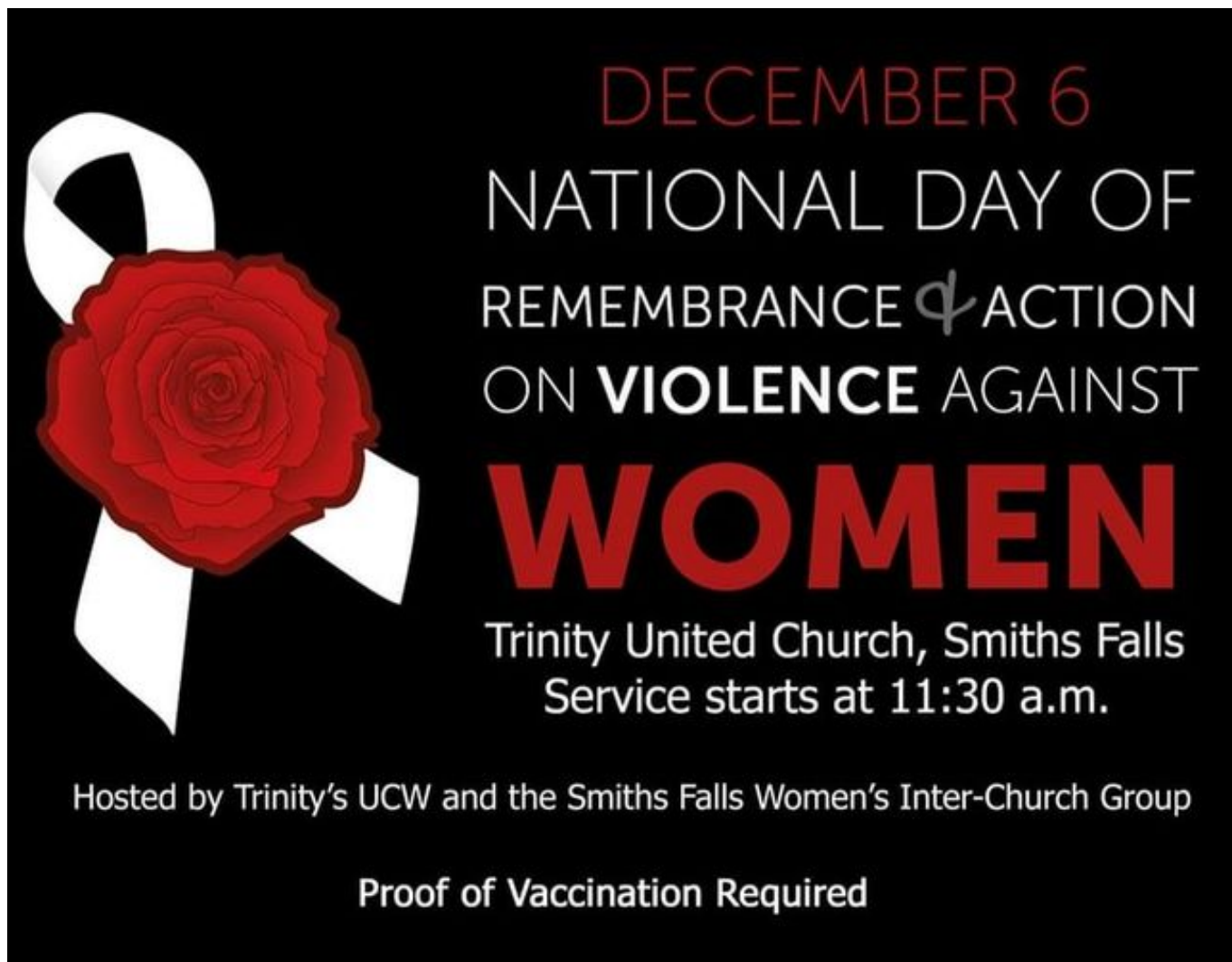
Shampoo and conditioner	Journal
Scent free soap and body wash	Wallet

Scent free deodorant  
Tweezers and makeup  
Hair accessories  
Feminine Hygiene products

Gum or Mints  
Nice pen  
Gloves and Mitts  
Gift Cards – to be left with the  
Church Secretary

A box is available to drop off your items in the front entrance of the church and will remain until Monday, 6 December. The door is open from 9:00am to 1:00pm Monday through Thursday.

*“Thank you for reaching out and planning ahead to help women who are fleeing a life of violence and abuse.”*



DECEMBER 6  
NATIONAL DAY OF  
REMEMBRANCE & ACTION  
ON **VIOLENCE** AGAINST  
**WOMEN**  
Trinity United Church, Smiths Falls  
Service starts at 11:30 a.m.  
Hosted by Trinity's UCW and the Smiths Falls Women's Inter-Church Group  
Proof of Vaccination Required

The Spiritual Leadership Team is initiating plans for Confirmation this Spring.

### **Cookie Sales After Church -**

The Kitchen Coordinators and helpers are selling cookies by the dozen after church on December 5, 12 and 19. There will be many delicious varieties. This will be a free-will offering and all funds raised will go to the life and work of Trinity United Church. So, mark your calendars and be ready to buy some scrumdolious cookies.

### **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

### **Singing 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!

#### *46 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

Gentle Mary laid her child  
lowly in a manger;  
there he lay, the undefiled,  
to the world a stranger.  
Such a Babe in such a place,  
can he be the Saviour?  
Ask the saved of all the race  
who have found his favour.

Angels sang about his birth,  
wise Men sought and found him;  
heaven's star shone brightly forth,  
glory all around him.  
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,  
heard the angels singing;  
all the plains were lit that night,  
all the hills were ringing.

**Interlude**            "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (arr. Young)

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

## *Lighting of the Advent Candle*

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.

Luke 21:25, 26

When the world seems scary  
When we try to escape and hide  
The Holy invites us to confront fear  
And we find Hope  
(Hope candle is lit)

Where in the world do we find Hope these days?

### **Call to Worship**

Advent is a time for waiting.

**We wait for God, who appears like a tender branch growing from a stump.**

Advent is a time for hoping.

**We wait for God, who comes with justice and righteousness.**

Advent is a time to worship.

**We wait for God, praising the One who comes to fulfil promises.**



## Opening Prayer

God of light and love,  
our praises and prayers overflow with hope as the season of Advent opens.

You come to your people to dwell with us.  
You come with power—not to dominate, but to transform.  
You come with promises—not to give us what we want, but to make all things new.  
You come with signs of your deep love for the world.  
You come, and your truth breaks forth,  
shattering lies and half-truths, setting your people free.

Your coming is our hope,  
and so, we offer you our worship in gratitude and anticipation.

Come into our lives again,  
and show us how to hope in the face of all that is discouraging,  
for we gather in the name of Hope made flesh,  
Jesus Christ, your promise and our desire.

## Hymn 7 “Hope is a Star”

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.*

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.

*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.*

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Savior is born.

*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.*

Love is a flame that burns in our heart.  
Jesus has come and will never depart.

## ***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.***

## **Time With Children**

### **Children's Prayer**

### **Prayer of Confession**

**The chances we have to be more compassionate;  
the moments to offer hope to a lonely friend;  
the good fortune we could give to those who have so little.**

**... are sometimes lost.**

**Remember the mercy which forgives us;  
the mercy which makes us whole; and  
especially, that living mercy who came so long ago,**

**Jesus the Advent of our redemption.**

## **Words of Assurance**

The One who comes with justice also comes with mercy. God offers forgiveness in the hope you will receive it gladly. Rejoice in the One who comes to us.

**Scripture**                Jeremiah 33:14-16;  
Psalm 25:1-10 (VU752);  
1 Thessalonians 3:9-13;  
Luke 21:25-36

Jeremiah 33:14-16;

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

Psalm 25 (VU752)

***Refrain -***

***To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.***

To You, O God, I lift my soul; my God, in you I trust.

Let me not be put to shame, nor let my foes gloat over me.

**Let none who wait for you be shamed;**

**Let them be shamed who wantonly break faith.**

Show me your ways, teach me your paths.

**Lead me in your truth and teach me.**

**For you are God my Saviour.**

**For you I wait all the day long.**

***Refrain -***

***To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.***

Remember your mercy, O God, and your steadfast love,  
For they are as old as time.

**Do not remember the sins and offenses of my youth.  
According to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O God!**

*Refrain -*

*To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.*

You are upright and good, O God,  
Therefore you show the path to those who go astray.

**You guide the humble to do what is right,  
And teach the lowly your way.**

All your ways are loving and sure

**For those who keep your covenant and commandments.**

*Refrain -*

*To you, O God, I lift my soul, to you I lift my soul.*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13;

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

## Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**Meditation** “All My Heart This Night Rejoices” (arr. Young)

**Reflection** Has This Taken Place?

**Hymn** 457 "As We Gather At Your Table"

As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your presence;  
let our hearts and minds be stirred.  
Nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy banquet  
how to make Love's victory known.

Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve you,  
bringing peace where there is strife.  
Give us, Christ, your great compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.

Gracious Spirit, help us summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will welcome  
those who had been last and least.  
There no more will envy blind us  
nor will pride our peace destroy,  
as we join with saints and angels  
to repeat the sounding joy.

## Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The days of creation came,  
when You spoke on that first morning,  
calling forth budding flowers for each spring,  
warm breezes for summer days,  
tumbling leaves in the autumn,  
bright, brittle stars on winter nights.

You did all this so we might discover Your ways,  
but we chose differently.

Prophets came, calling us back to Your truths,  
but we continued to reflect on  
the teachings of temptation.

So You sent Jesus to us,  
Your Word which will never fade.

With those whose hearts are strong,  
with those who long for justice for all people,  
we offer our songs of thanksgiving:

**Holy, holy, holy are You, God our righteousness.  
Because of You, all creation awaits Your advent.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

**Blessed is the One who comes to us in humility.  
Hosanna in the highest!**

You are holy, and Your Child is our Hope.  
He set aside glory to come to us.



Knowing our form, he showed us  
how to trust in You.  
Feeling our concern, he filled us  
with Your overflowing hope.  
Experiencing our death,  
he went into the grave  
so death might become  
Your redemption.

As we set out on this Advent journey,  
as we seek to walk the way to Bethlehem,  
we remember that mystery we call faith:

**Christ died, the Branch broken on the unjust tree;  
Christ was raised, declaring ‘the Lord is my resurrection!’  
Christ will return, the advent of God’s glory and grace for all.**

Come now to Your children  
gathered at the Table,  
pouring out Your Spirit on the gifts  
of the Bread and of the Cup.

This is the bread which, though broken,  
strengthens us to stand up for justice  
and to face the bullies named terror and hate.

This is the cup which overflows with grace,  
so we might transform our communities  
into safe places for all people;  
so we might see our sisters and brothers  
in those the world would have us fear.

And when we raise our heads  
to see our redemption draw near  
at the end of all time,  
we will join our sisters and brothers  
in singing Your praises forever and ever,  
God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.

### **Invitation to the Offering**

We make our offering today with hopeful hearts, trusting that the Holy One who comes to us will bless our gifts and our lives, to make us signs of hope in the world God loves.

### **A Minute for Mission**

#### **Offering Prayer**

Holy and Righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the need in your world is great and our gifts alone will never fill that need. We offer our gifts in hope that you will bless them and use them to help fulfil your purpose revealed in Jesus Christ, Saviour of us all.

**Amen.**

### **Hymn 9 “People Look East”**

People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the guest is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
    one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
    that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
    Love the rose is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
    guard the nest that must be filled;  
even the hour when wings are frozen  
    God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
    Love the bird is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
    one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
    bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
    Love the star is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
    Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
    with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
    Love the Lord is on the way.

## Prayers of the People

Spirit of Hope,

When the world seems bleak,  
you pierce dimness with the Light of your Word,  
and renew our vision for our lives.

Thank you for lessons learned,  
for changes of heart,  
for new discoveries made and hope restored,  
even as the pandemic stretches on.

As the world prepares for the long, cold sleep of winter,  
We pray for those who feel the burden of loneliness and  
isolation.  
We remember those without homes to shelter in,  
and those forced to leave their homes  
through conflict, natural disaster or political upheaval.

Spirit of Hope, shelter all these under your wings.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

God of Peace,

Strife and disagreement around us these days,  
sometimes in our own lives and relationships,  
and in many nations and neighbourhoods in the news.

We pray for places where violence and cruelty seem to rule the day,  
thinking especially of Afghanistan and Haiti,  
and situations closer to home that we carry on our hearts.

God of Peace, work for just and peaceful resolutions to prevail.

Lord, in your mercy.

**Hear our prayer.**

Creator of Joy,

We give you thanks for joy and celebration in our lives,  
for pleasure given and received,  
for quiet times of reflection and conversation,  
and for the many ways that allow us to keep in contact with  
those we love.

As the days cool,

we remember those who feel bitter while others rejoice,  
those who grieve the loss of loved ones,  
and those who face a bleak winter for any reason.

Creator of Joy, bring light and warmth in the season ahead,  
and let your joy shine through us as compassionate companions.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Love divine made flesh in Christ,

You call us into communion and community.

We pray for your church and our congregation,

that love will guide as we plan for our life and mission.

We remember before you our families,

whether we are close or estranged;

for our friends, nearby or far away.

Love divine, bless each one with your love  
and help us express our gratitude and concern in word and  
action.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

### **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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

**[EOORC Prayer Cycle](#)**

**Admaston Pastoral Charge**

Grace United Church  
Haley United Church  
Northcote United Church

## The Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

### **Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore**

O God,

Keep our churches faithful in bearing witness  
to your great love for all humanity.

Deliver us from intolerance and all that hinder others from  
seeking you.

Bless our country and guide our political leaders  
so that their fruit may abound  
and the interest of the people is served.

Grant grace to our priests, pastors and ministers  
so that they may be diligent in the study of your Word  
and in the discharge of the work they have been called.

(Lee K. Tham, Singapore, September 2014)

### **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**

Now may our God prepare us to serve our sisters and brothers.  
**We will devote ourselves to walking with others to  
Bethlehem.**

Now may Jesus steer us into all the places we must go.  
**We will feed the hungry,  
And learn from the poor.**

Now may the Holy Spirit move us to increase our love for others.  
**We will take up the cause of justice,  
we will bring the kingdom of hope to everyone around us.**

## **Choral Amen**

**Postlude**      “The Advent Star” (Martin)