



Second Sunday of Advent - C
10 December, 2023

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

Mark 1:2,3

Welcome and Announcements

- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † Our building is open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday
(Stat holidays on Mondays, the office is closed)

In person Sunday School is the 2nd and last Sunday of each month
Smiths Falls Community Food Bank appreciates donations.

UCW are selling cookies for a minimum donation of \$5 or more for a container of cookies following the morning service.

UCW Emergency Meeting Monday, December 18th to elect the 2024 UCW Executive, make year end distribution of funds and plan the 2024 Budget. Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Enjoy an hour of beauty, inspiration and fun in **A Musical Celebration of Christmas at St. Paul's United Church Perth** 2:00 PM Sunday, December 17 th . Hear a dramatic rendition of the Christmas Story sung

by St. Paul's Choir; Rev. Don McLean and Brad Mills performing a cello-piano duet; Joel Leblanc's beautiful baritone voice; a barbershop octet; a jazz combo; and of course some carolling; all followed by light refreshments. Admission by freewill offering.

Chair Exercise – will not start again until possibly late January or early February of 2024. Those who have been attending will be contacted.

White Gift Sunday - Today

Advent Walk - Today, 4:00pm Start at St. Francis de Sales to Trinity United, Westminster Presbyterian and end at St. John's Anglican.

Note from Property Team – Please advise someone on the property team if food or drink is spilled on the carpet, and you are unable to remove it.

Christmas Cards are set up in the Fellowship Hall for signing. There are also packages of cards for sale.

Lanark Interval House – We continue to pack a parcel for Interval House. Unopened personal items, small gifts for women and children would be appreciated. Consider regular and fragrance-free items. Donations may be left in the box provided at the entrance to the Church. Last day is **tomorrow**. Contact Diane Combdon or Joanne Hunter.

Christmas Services - Mark the following services on your calendars!

December 21st - Longest Night – 6:30 p.m.

December 24th – Regular Sunday Service – 10:30 a.m.

December 24th – Children's Services – 4:30 p.m.

December 24th – Family Service – 7:30 p.m.

December 24th – Communion – 10:30 p.m.

Gifts with Vision - Gifts with Vision is an excellent way to support those less fortunate by providing a secure supply of food, fresh and clean water, reliable power, a support network, clean laundry, and much more. Visit www.giftswithvision.ca for supported initiatives.

Healing Pathway – 1st Wednesday of each month at Trinity United and the 3rd Wednesday at St. Paul's United in Perth. Practitioners meet at 1 p.m. Recipient appointments are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Please contact the Church Secretary at 613-283-4444 for appointment or information.

Social Time After Church – Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Individuals or groups are invited to sign-up.

Write for Rights in Toledo - Drop in to sign a petition or write a card or letter. Enjoy music and free refreshments. Join us in standing up for human rights and shine the light of hope! Hosted by St Andrew's United Church, 284 County Road 8, Toledo. Today - 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Introit VU 6 "A Candle is Burning" vs 1

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessing from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

Advent Liturgy Second Sunday in Advent - Peace

The prophets call and an apostle writes that peace comes from God.
“For a child has been born for us...and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ...and there shall be endless peace.” (Isaiah 9)

“The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4)

The world, our relationships and our lives are all too often torn by conflict and injustice. Advent calls us to pray and work for peace, shalom, in the world God loves and to which Christ came. But God’s shalom is not simply the absence of conflict. Shalom is the peace that comes when we live life in the balance, loving God and one another.

Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

Jesus Christ comes as the Prince of Peace.

We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

We light this candle to shine for peace.

Introit VU 6 "A Candle is Burning" vs 2

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
A candle to signal that conflict must cease:
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

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

Call to Worship

Now is the time to get ready:

Let us prepare the way of the Lord!

Now is the time to be changed:

Let us repent and seek God's forgiveness.

Now is the time to welcome God into our midst:

We will worship God in humble expectation.

Opening Prayer

Lord,

Grant us a glimpse of your glory:

Open our eyes to your coming to us,
that we may know you are with us always,
and that you are a very present help in trouble.

As you abide in us, and we abide in you,
may we show traces of your glory in our lives,
and so glorify you, Lord Jesus,
Who lives and reigns with the Creator and the Sustainer,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn 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.

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy,

We resist change,

**even when your Word compels us to reconsider our actions
or opinions.**

We are set in our ways,

and prefer to consider the changes others should make.

Forgive us.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

give us new eyes for seeing, new ears for hearing

so that we follow Jesus more faithfully day by day.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gift to you this day through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Receive the renewing power of the Holy Spirit and be at peace with God, with yourselves and with each other.

The Peace

Dear friends,

While you are waiting for the day of God,
strive to be found at peace by him.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Scripture

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13 (VU 802)

Mark 1:1-8

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 (VU 802)

Refrain -

***God, show us your love,
show us your love and mercy.***

Once you were gracious to your land, O God,
you restored the fortunes of Jacob;
**you forgave the offence of your people,
and pardoned all their sin.**

You drew back all your displeasure,
and turned from your fiery wrath.

**Restore us again, God our Saviour,
and put away your just anger toward us.**

Will you be angry with us forever?

Will you prolong your wrath to all generations?

**Will you not revive us again,
that your people may rejoice in you?**

Refrain -

***God, show us your love,
show us your love and mercy.***

Let me hear what you will say, O God,
for you will speak peace to your people,
to the faithful who turn their hearts to you.
**Surely salvation is near those who fear you,
and your glory will dwell in our land.**

Mercy and faithfulness will meet,
justice and peace will embrace.
Faithfulness will spring up from the earth,
and righteousness look down from heaven.
You, O God, will give what is good,
and our land will yield its harvest.
**Righteousness will go before you,
and the paths of your feet will be peace.**

Refrain -

***God, show us your love,
show us your love and mercy.***

Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Meditation "Pastorale from a French Carol" (arr. Young)

Reflection Make Straight the Way

Hymn 29 "Hark The Glad Sound" vs. 1,3,4

Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
The Saviour promised long:
Let every heart prepare a throne,
And every voice a song.

He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
And heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.

Invitation to the Offering

This Sunday in Advent celebrates God's gift of peace. We see places where peace is missing, in neighbourhoods and nations. Because we know the gift of God's peace, we can trust that our gifts will help restore true peace to souls and situations by the power of the Spirit.

Offering Prayer

God of promise, we offer our gifts in Jesus' name, for we know peace through his forgiveness and faithfulness. Bless our gifts and our lives. Help us share the peace you offer with lives that touch ours throughout the world you love. Amen.

Anthem "Hurry to Bethlehem" (Larson)

Prayers of the People

Lord,

You come to us in power, to send us out in your Name.

Strengthen us to proclaim the Good News without fear.

May we be able to say 'Here is your God',
and show forth your glory in our land.

We pray for preachers of the word and ministers of the sacraments;
for all who lead worship, for choirs and organists.

We pray for spiritual leaders and writers,
for all who seek to witness to your love.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

We pray for all who influence the minds of your people:
for the press and for broadcasters,
for those who through the spoken or written word affect the
way we live.

We pray for teachers and leaders of young people,

for all who make decisions about our future or set us standards
to follow,

for all who influence our minds and our hearts.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Lord,

In our homes let us be wise in our use of words,

that we may dwell in love and peace with each other.

We pray for the gift of good communication.

We remember all who have stopped speaking to each other.

We pray for areas where words are used to hurt,

for homes where there is abuse,

and places where there is violence and cruelty.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

Lord,

You restore, you forgive, you bring peace.

We pray for broken peoples,

for the broken-hearted and the broken-spirited.

We pray for the guilt-ridden,

for the disturbed, for those who are unable to communicate with
others,

that they may know your peace and your love.

We remember friends and loved ones with whom we have lost
contact through illness.

We pray for all who are ill at this time. . .

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

As we wait for your coming in glory, we pray for all who have passed
into the fullness of your kingdom.

We give you thanks for the saints in glory,

for our benefactors who have gone before us.

We pray for all our loved ones departed from us.

Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

We pray the prayer you taught us

in the voice of our age -

The Lord's Prayer - *from a Celtic Perspective*, J. Philip Newell

Ground of all being,

Mother of life, Father of the universe,

Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.

May we know your presence,

may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.

May there be food for the human family today

and for the whole earth community.

Forgive us the falseness of what we have done

as we forgive those who are untrue to us.

Do not forsake us in our time of conflict

but lead us into new beginnings.

For the light of life, the vitality of life,

and the glory of life are yours now and forever.

Amen.

EOORC Prayer Cycle

St. Andrew's, Westmeath

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

We Depart to Serve in Peace and with Love

Time for the Young

Hymn 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!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

Benediction

The Lord comes to you this day in great power:

as a shepherd to care for their flock;

to heal, to restore, to forgive, to bring you home;

the Lord comes to you;

and the blessing of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life,

be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

Choral Amen / Postlude

"Silver Bells" (Evans/Livingston)

Silver bells, silver bells

It's Christmas time in the city

Ring-a-ling, (ring-a-ling) hear them ring (ting-a-ling)

Soon it will be Christmas day

City sidewalks, busy sidewalks

Dressed in holiday style

In the air there's a feeling of Christmas

Children laughing, people passing

Meeting smile after smile

And on every street corner you hear

Refrain -

Strings of street lights, even stoplights

Blinkin' bright red and green

As the shoppers rush home with their treasures

Hear the snow crunch, see the kids bunch

This is Santa's big day

And above all this bustle you hear

Refrain -

Recurring Events and Activities at Trinity	
Every Monday, 1:00pm	Book Group
First Monday, 9:30am	UCW
Fourth Monday, 9:30am	Property Team / Church Hall
Every Tuesday, All Day	Pastoral Visitation
First Tuesday, 2:00pm - 3:00pm	Van Horne
First Tuesday, 7:00pm	Outreach and Social Justice
Third Tuesday, 9:30am	Stewardship & Finance Team / Upper Room
Third Tuesday, 6:00pm	Potluck and Praise
Every Wednesday, 9:30am	Bible Study / Seasonal Study
First Wednesday, 1:00pm	Healing Pathway, Smiths Falls
Second Wednesday, 7:00pm	Spiritual Leadership Meeting
Third Wednesday, 1:00pm	Healing Pathway, Perth
Last Wednesday, 7:00pm	Council
Second Friday, 6:00pm	Rainbow 101
Every Sunday, 8:30am (Except Second Sunday)	Choir Practice
Second Sunday, 8:30am	Early Communion
Second Sunday, 9:00am	Choir Practice
Second Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 1:00pm	Lanark Drum Circle