

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 3, 2017 – Advent 1

## Prelude

### Welcome and greetings

### Call to worship/ Opening prayer

This is the season of Advent.

### A time for getting ready!

Just as we would prepare for a splendid feast,

**Just as we would prepare for a little child joining our family,**

Just as we would prepare to give or receive a most precious gift,

**So let us prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Jesus!**

Let us praise God for the anticipation of wonderful times to come.

**Let us praise God together this day!**

### \* Introit

VU 7 #1

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.

### Advent candle lighting

(see insert)

### \*Opening hymn

O come, o come, Emmanuel

VU 1

### Prayer of confession and affirmation of grace

God, we look forward to Christmas Day and think of your coming to us as a baby, laid in a manger, so many years ago.

**Help us, to be alive to your coming at any moment, in the pleading eyes of child, in the outstretched hand of one in need, in the voice of an excited fool. We confess that much of the time we sit back, tuned-out to your presence, hoping that the world's problems will go away or that someone else will take care of them. Forgive us, we pray, and fire us up with the enthusiasm of your creative Spirit. Amen.**

. OT: Old Testament

VU: Voices United MV: More Voices

\* the congregation standing, as able

NT: New Testament

*Plymouth-Trinity United Church*

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*December 3 2017*

Our God is a loving and forgiving God who knows our weaknesses and our strengths.

Be assured that God is always ready to forgive us and strengthen us.

With God's understanding and forgiveness comes the challenge: to live life anew, without excuses or complaints, led by the Spirit in all we say and do.

### Thanks be to God!

**\*Affirmation of faith** VU 918

**\*Hymn** As a fire is meant for burning VU 578

### Prayer for illumination

**Scripture** Isaiah 64: 1-9 OT 694

Mark 13: 24-37 NT 50

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

### Sermon:

### Personal reflection

**\* Hymn** Great is thy faithfulness VU 288

### Minute for mission

### Offering

**\* Offertory** MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with Joy (I'll sing with joy) I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

### Announcements and sharing in the life of the Community

### Prayers of the people followed by the Lord's Prayer

**\*Hymn** All my hope on God is founded VU 655

### \*Benediction

**\* Choral closing:**

VU 44 #4

For, lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which soon the angels sing.

**Postlude**

**Plymouth-Trinity United Church**

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# Announcements

**Welcome** to all who are worshipping with us today. On this first Sunday of the new church year **B**, may you have a meaningful and blessed journey of Advent journey. We are invited as individuals and as a community to make straight the way of God as we actively wait the coming of Emmanuel!

**Bienvenue** à l'Église Unie Plymouth-Trinity! Des **Bibles en français** se trouvent à l'arrière.

**If you are a visitor**, please join us for fair-trade coffee or a cold drink after the service and take a peace candle back to your congregation.

**We thank our volunteers:**

**Reader:** Janet McBurney

**Ushers:** Val Rawlings and Carol Smith

**Sextons:** Esaie Kuitche and Robert Stratton

**Happy birthday** to Vivienne Galanis and Frieda Christelle Ngotjeck Nhinack (December 7)

**Bulletin covers this week** are donated by Vae Hershey in memory of her brother Darrel Hershey and her husband Darryl Albright. Also by Thelma Philbrick in memory of her father Percy Dunbar and her brother Percy Emerald Dunbar.

**Membership classes:** Are you interested in better knowing The United of Canada and/or becoming a member of Plymouth-Trinity? Please check with our minister.

**Christmas baking:** Janet McBurney is once again taking orders for Christmas puddings. Large pudding \$14, small (syrup can size) \$6. Please contact Janet at [j.mcburney@sympatico.ca](mailto:j.mcburney@sympatico.ca) or 819-565-9716 by December 15<sup>th</sup>– delivery December 17<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds to the UCW.

**2018 Church calendars** – the UCW is once again selling church calendars for \$7.00. If you wish to purchase one, please contact Janet or Lois.

**Poinsettias:** If you would like to donate a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season, please speak to Kristi Roht or contact her at [kristiroht@gmail.com](mailto:kristiroht@gmail.com) or [819-566-6296](tel:819-566-6296) by December 12<sup>th</sup>. Please let Kristi know if you wish to have your name printed in the bulletin, along with the person or people in whose memory the flowers are given.

## *This week*

**Tonight at 7: Annual ecumenical Carols and Candles service** for Green Ridge Baptist, St. Andrew's Presbyterian and St. George's Anglican as well as Lennoxville United and Plymouth-Trinity, at St. Andrew's.

**Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>:** The UCW will be preparing their Christmas baskets (15) tomorrow, beginning at 1 p.m.

## *Next week*

**Sunday, December 10:** 2nd Sunday of Advent, White Gifts Sunday.  
**Lectionary readings.**

Service en français à 9 h

Worship in English at 10:30 a.m.

## *In the community*

**Today at 4 p.m. St. Mark's Chapel Choir** on Bishop's University campus invites us to their annual Service of Lessons & Carols. It will feature traditional anthems and carols to usher in the Advent and Christmas season. A freewill offering will be collected to support local charities. Parking is free. All are welcome!

# Outreach

**Gifts with Vision 2017:** The new United Church “Giving catalogue” arrived with the November issue of *The Observer*. There are copies available at the front and back of the sanctuary ; you can also check the website [www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca) to choose gifts or make donations; tax receipts will be issued. The Gifts with Vision programme has given over \$1.7 million to United Church partners making a difference in people’s lives.

**Example:** A gift of \$50 will support Toronto’s Christian Resource Centre’s Clothing Room, a source of clean, basic attire and supervised job training site in Toronto’s Regent Park.

**White Gift Sunday, December 10:** Once again we will be donating non-perishable food items and money\* to Sherbrooke Elementary School's Christmas Basket Campaign which looks after SES families in need. Please plan to bring whatever you can in next Sunday. \*Make your cheque out to Plymouth-Trinity, mark it “Christmas baskets” and place it on the offering plate.

**Mitten tree:** We again have an outlet for winter shoppers and idle fingers! Mental Health Estrie prepares festive HUGS packages (Hats, Underwear, Gloves, Socks/Scarves) for homeless people. The gift bags contain hats, underwear, gloves, scarves and socks in adult sizes, either hand-made or bought. Our mitten tree will be ready to receive any fruit for HUGS you can provide, between Advent and Palm Sunday.

**Give a Perfect Gift this Christmas:** Are you looking for a gift for someone who has everything, or a gift with meaning? Consider giving a *perfect gift*, by making a donation to the United Church’s Mission and Service Fund or the local food bank, Moisson Estrie, in the name of your family member or friend. Hand-made gift cards are available, in English and French, on the side table at the front of the sanctuary. We thank Janet

McBurney for her donation of time and supplies for these beautiful cards.

**Moisson Estrie:** The local food bank has launched Club des nouilles or Pasta Club. Members commit to donating at least \$5 per month for a year. These extra funds, will enable Moisson Estrie to stock the precious macaroni, spaghetti and other forms of pasta which are essential items, especially for low-income families. The money will also go towards other basic ingredients which are always in short supply, such as flour, sugar, oil, peanut butter and canned fruit and vegetables.

Because of generous partners, \$5/month is multiplied by 12, i.e. for each \$5, \$60 of food is distributed.

Each week the food bank assists about 300 individuals or families as well as supporting around 30 community organisations and a dozen schools.

Please remember Moisson Estrie when you do your weekly grocery shopping, with a special thought on our Super Sundays. Or join the Club des nouilles at [www.moissonestrie.com](http://www.moissonestrie.com). Janet McBurney has joined and will speak about it today.







