



The United Church of Canada
L'Église unie du Canada
St. Francis Regional Cluster

November 30, 2025 – Advent 1 - 11 am.

Worship Leaders: The Gathered Community

Clergy: Mead Baldwin, Ron Coughlin, Samuel V. Dansokho, Reg Jennings,
Juyoung Lee, Scott Patton.

Thought for Today

The term Advent comes via Old English from the Latin *adventus* (“Arrival”). It is a combination of *ad* (to) and *venire* (come). In Advent we are anticipating the arrival of the baby Jesus as well as the second coming of Jesus.

from ***Gathering Advent 2022, p 7***

We Gather

Prelude Sonata No. 3 (Muzio Clémenti 1752-1832)

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Scott Patton

Land Acknowledgement

Introit “Longing for the Light”

(Don Besig & Nancy Price)

Call to Worship

Advent is a season of waiting.

But we do not wait alone.

God is with us.

**We gather with those who have seen the signs,
heard the whispers, felt the tugs in their hearts.**

God is birthing Hope into this waiting world.

Let us worship with hearts open to Hope.

Opening Prayer

The earth has turned once more, Creator God.

**The season of hope, peace, joy and love returns
as a reminder of how to live throughout the year.**

Help us in our time of worship throughout this season of Advent

to find the words to share the message of hope, peace, joy and love.

Show us how to be fully aware of your presence,

so that we might share your presence with others.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Time of Silent Prayer & Assurance of Grace

Hymn O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU 1 (v. 2 & 3 in French)

Advent Candle Lighting (based on a reading from Isaiah 2:1-5)

Rev. Ron Coughlin

Beatrice Lambie and Meredith Lambie

One: The light of this candle meets the presence of God as the shining promise of harmony.

Two: Dans les jours à venir, le peuple dira:

«Venez, allons à la maison de notre Dieu.

Nous forgerons nos épées en socs,
nos lances en serpes.

Une nation ne lèvera plus l'épée contre une autre nation.»

One: Hope will echo between all peoples,
and safety will enfold every home.

All: **In a time vengeance,
may we become the forgiveness
we hope to receive.**

We light the first advent candle.

Advent Candle Hymn**MV 221**

I am walking a path of hope,
 I am walking a path of hope,
 I am walking a path of hope,
 Lead me home, lead me home. (Repeat)

Time of Learning Together

Shanna Bernier

To Hear the Word of God**Prayer of Illumination**

Charlotte Griffith

**God of the journey, as we travel to Bethlehem
 in this season of Advent
 may we receive your words of scripture
 with open hearts and clear minds.
 May these words guide our path
 as we approach the humble stable
 which reveals Emmanuel, God with us. Amen**

Scriptures Isaiah 2: 1-5
 Ésaïe 2: 1-5

Charlotte Griffith
 Diane Perron

Anthem "Prepare Ye the Way", with "Shout to the North"

(Michael Barrett & Martin Smith)

Gospel Matthew 24: 36-44
 Matthieu 24: 36-44

Told by Rev. Ron Coughin
 Ann Hayes Fowles

Hymn Hark the Glad Sound

VU 29

Sermon "Advent, a journey of hope"

Rev. Mead Baldwin

Musical Reflection Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (setting by Gottfried Walther 1684-1748)

And to Respond**Mission and Service Story**

Joann Cleveland

. . . with our offering Noël Angevin (César Franck 1822-1890)

Rev. Samuel V. Dansokho

Offering Response**VU 55**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
 yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

Prayer of Dedication

Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Hymn I See a New Heaven

VU 713**Benediction**

Rev. Reg Jennings

Choral Benediction "Walk in the Light"

(Joseph M. Martin)

Postlude "Tambourin sur des Noëls"

(Jean-Jacques Charpentier 1734-1794)

Announcements:

Please join us for lunch and fellowship following the service.

Thank you to Richmond-Melbourne Pastoral Charge for hosting this special St. Francis Cluster worship service.

Thank you to Maryse Simard and Leslie Young for organizing the choir and music for this special Service. Also, thank you to all those who participated in the choir.

You are invited to join with Plymouth Trinity United Church in Sherbrooke on Dec 28, 2025 at 10:30 am for a special service and Hymn Sing.