

**December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

Congregational responses are in **bold** (\*) Indicates Standing

**Hanging of the Greens**

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**We Come Together**

**Introit** "O Come All Ye Faithful"

**Connect 4**

**Welcome/Land Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

One: God says,

**All: "Do not be afraid."**

One: God says,

**All: "I have called you by name."**

One: God says,

**All: "I will be with you."**

One: God says,

**All: "you are precious and honored in my sight."**

One: At the beginning of this season,

**All: at the start of this week,**

One: in the moment of this worship,

**All: may hope to come and make a home in our hearts.**

**\*Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs 1, 3, 5, & 7)" VU#1**

**Advent Candles Reader:**

**\*Hymn: "A Candle Is Burning" vs. 1**

**VU#6**

(Lighting the Candle of Hope)

**Opening Prayer: (unison)**

**God of Blessing, once again, we find ourselves standing at the beginning of new month, at the beginning of a new church season, at the beginning of this new day, bringing our hearts to You. Meet us now in the rhythm of this worship, still us by the presence of Your Spirit, and ground us in the great gift of Your Hope. As we wait in anticipation for the birth of Your Son, may the light of this candle warm us and guide our way to You. Amen.**

**Personal Prayer and the Lord's Prayer:**

"Hope Is a Star" vs. 1

**VU# 7**

## Children's Learning Time

### Children's Prayer:

**Thank you, God, for Your gift of hope that connects us all to You. Its light is here and shows the way in all we say and do. As we walk through life, help us to know that Your Hope for us is near, so that our hearts may rest in You, Your Love for us so clear. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** "People, Look East" **VU#9**

**Christmas Poinsettia** **Reader:**

**\*Hymn:** "Joy to the World" (Placing of the Poinsettia) **VU#59**

**The Nativity** **Reader:**

**Anthem:** "While by my Sheep" **Connect 4**

**The Christmas Tree** **Reader:**

**\*Hymn:** "Angels We Have Heard on High" **VU#38**

### Invitation to the Offering

#### Sung Dedication:

"We Give Thee but Thine Own" **VU 543 vs. 1**

#### Offertory Prayer: (*unison*)

**Accept, O God, these offerings, that in these gifts given and in the goodwill of our hearts, disappointment may be turned to joy, worry into hopeful anticipation, and despair into love. We give these gifts as we wait in wonder the birth of our friend and great redeemer, Jesus the Christ, Amen.**

**Sanctuary Evergreens** **Reader:**

**\*Hymn:** "One Bread, One Body" **VU#467**

### Sacrament of Communion

**One:** Friends, Advent is a season of waiting:

**All:** **We wait for Christ to be born. We wait for the feeling that love is near. We wait for God's promised day.**

One: Advent is a season of waiting... Come end your waiting, for love is hovering close as we praise God in the unending song of faith:

**All** (*Sung*): "Kingsfold Communion Set"

**MV# 203**

**O Holy, Holy, Holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to Your Grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings Your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears Your name always!**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving:**

One: Loving God, we come to your Table today longing for a new beginning...When the stubborn forces of darkness threatened to bring his life to an end, He called his followers together and took bread...

### **Fraction and Elevation**

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

One: Holy One, Creator of all people and worlds...

One: May the Peace of our friend Jesus the Christ rest with you all this day.

**All: and also, with you.**

One: My faith family, in and through Christ, these are not the gifts...

### **Concluding Prayer**

**Knitted Wise Men**

**Reader:**

**\*Hymn**

"What Child Is This"

**VU#74**

### **Benediction:**

May God's Hope be born in our lives, the Peace of Christ walk beside us, and the Spirit of life guide us, until our hearts find their home at the side of Jesus' blessed manger. **Amen.**

**Postlude**

"Chopsticks"

**Connect 4**



***This bulletin is dedicated in loving memory of Ed and Grace Harris by their family.***

**Volunteer Schedule:**

<b><i>Ushers:</i></b> Dec 1 Annie T. & John	<b>Dec 8</b> Marlene & John
<b><i>Screens:</i></b> Dec 1 Kevin	<b>Dec 8</b> Erik <b>Ded</b> Tracy

<b>This Week's Calendar</b>			
<b>Tues</b>	10:00am	<b>Craft Group</b>	<b>Kitchen</b>
<b>Wed</b>	7:00pm	<b>Choir</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>

\***Tai Chi** with Val is offered Mon, Wed & Fri at 9:30am\*

**Announcements:**

**Grocery Cards are Here!** This is an excellent way to support your church and one of our major fundraisers. Please plan to buy a card from Terry after church or stop by the office to purchase during the week.

**Memorial Tree Bulbs:** Would you like to light a bulb on the Memorial Tree to honour or say thanks to someone? Send your dedication to the office by **Dec 5th**. Suggested donation - \$5.00

**WOMEN UNITE: Potluck & "Christmas Tag" craft.** All women are invited to join us on **December 10<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm** for a fun evening! Please let the office know (by phone or email) what you plan to bring and keep in mind that if it's a warm dish, it needs to arrive warm as we won't have kitchen access.

**Winter Item Donations for Advent:** We are collecting winter items for folks at Ensemble. Some ideas of items: hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, hand warmers, socks, granola bars, water bottles.

**A friendly reminder** that we do not "pass the plate" during our service. If you would like to leave a cash/cheque donation, please place it in the offering plate located at the back of the sanctuary beside the guestbook.

## **November 19<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting Highlights: NOMINATING**

**COMMITTEE:** All council members agreeable to continue on with following exceptions: Kevin Gallant will begin working with Ensor Nicholson for Property & Maintenance; Penny McIntyre will not renew as chair of Christian Development but will continue to volunteer until the end of April 2025; Marlene MacLeod will serve as Ministry & Personnel Chair until end of June 2025. **FINANCIAL REPORT:** October revenue is up over last year. Local offerings are up although expenses have also increased with largest being wages. Year to date down \$20,000 in revenue as this year we don't have grants to offset losses. Rentals are helping. Last year, we moved 23,000 from the memorial fund to the operating fund and this year we drew 25,000 from the manse fund. Investments are currently doing well. Moved to donate outreach funds in the form of Sobeys gift cards to the following schools/organisations for the following amounts: Ecole St. Bernadette \$300, Bessborough School \$500, Food Bank \$2500, Reconnect \$500, Harvest House \$200. **Motion Carried. MINISTRY & PERSONNEL:** Rev. Scott Stuart's sabbatical will be for the months of April, May and June 2025. The sabbatical has been approved by the region. Rev. Audrey Louder is available to cover the entirety of the sabbatical at half time ministry **FUNDY ST.**

**LAWRENCE DAWNING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL:** Gail Hennessey has attended many regional events in recent months including services at Visions United and Sackville United as well as a covenanting service at Central United. Also attended the recent "Flourishing Workshop". A print copy of the workbook used at the workshop is available in the office **PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE:** Received "Ruling of Compatibility" from city planning advisory committee for after-school learning centre for a max of 10 students. Flooring project was successfully completed. **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** Pancake breakfast had record amount of \$2442. Maple products also sold well. Indoor Yard Sale upcoming. Grocery cards have arrived. **FINANCE/ TRUSTEES: Insurance:** New insurance policy received. **CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT/KIDS KORNER:** Kids Korner program scheduled for December 15<sup>th</sup>.

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