



**Westminster United Church**  
**Worship Service for December 1st, 2019**  
Today's Worship Leader is Rev. Kristy Reimers-Loader  
1<sup>st</sup> Advent

*"We are a faith community building relationships with God, all people, and our world."*

CALL TO WORSHIP:

A star rises on the horizon

**It calls to us**

The time of preparation is here

**We bring our hearts to this time**

Let the proud be pleased to humbly draw near

**Let the lowly find hope to raise their downcast eyes**

All the world waits in breathless anticipation

**Come, Lord Jesus! Receive our worship and praise!**

✠Lighting of the Advent Candle: **"Of the Father's Love"**

**Choir:** *Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be. He is Alpha and omega, he the source, the ending he*

**All: Emmanuel, Emmanuel, evermore and evermore, Emmanuel**

*Responsive Litany (Read by member of the Congregation with Congregation responding)*

During Advent we wait for the one promised in scripture.

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor.**

We wait for the one who will bring answers to a world filled with questions.

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor.**

We wait for the one who can heal what has been wounded and mend what has been broken.

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor.**

We wait for the one who can renew our weary spirits and ignite our hearts with hope.

**And he will be called Wonderful Counselor.**

*Candle Lighting (Read by Member of Congregation)*

*Today we light the first candle-the candle of hope-reminding us that Jesus was sent not only to be our Saviour, but also to be our Wonderful Counselor; the one who*

*hears our prayers with compassion, and who offers guidance when we seek it. As we begin the season of Advent, we remember that our rest can be found in God, and through the gift of God's son our hope is forever restored.*

**Choir** *Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts his praises sing: powers, dominions bow before him, and extol our God and King*

**All: Emmanuel, Emmanuel, evermore and evermore, Emmanuel**

OPENING PRAYER:

Loving God, give us grace to put away all that is of the darkness and turn our faces to the true Light. Now in the time of this mortal life, in which our Lord Jesus Christ came in such humility, that on the last day when he comes again in glory, having been made worthy to serve Him in whose holy name we pray, we may rise to life immortal with him. Amen

CELEBRATIONS

SHARING THE PEACE

✠OPENING HYMN: **"My Lord, What a Morning" (VU 708)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

God of life, all that we are, all that we do, all that we have done is known to you, **Forgive us our wrongdoings, Lord, and continue to build in us what is good.** All that we might be, our dreams and aspirations, await your inspiration and your encouragement.  
**Inspire us, Lord, to do what is right.**

*(a time of silent reflection)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Our God is merciful, kind, and just.  
**God's steadfast love endures forever. Thanks be to God!**

INVITATION TO PRAYER: **"To Us All, to Every Nation" (VU 694 vs 1)**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

**"The Lord's Prayer" (Sung VU 959)**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION:

We give thanks, O God, for Holy Scripture and for your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ.

**Open our hearts, Lord, so that in hearing your Word, we may be inspired to the greatest good.**

In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

One: This is the witness of Israel.

**ALL: Thanks be to God for the Word.**

**Romans 13:11-14**

One: This is the witness of the Church.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Anthem:

**Matthew 24:36-44**

One: This is the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**ALL: Praise to Christ, the Living Word.**

SERMON: "Gospel Reflection"

†HYMN: "**Sleepers, Wake**" (VU 711)

MINUTES FOR MISSION: "**Spiritual Care**"

LIFE AND WORK:

OFFERTORY:

†DOXOLOGY: "**In the Bleak Midwinter**"( VU 55 vs 4)

†DEDICATION:

Lord, accept this offering from our open hands and hearts. We give with joy and gratitude for the many blessings we have received in this life. May this offering be acceptable in your sight.

†A NEW CREED: **(Spoken)**

†CLOSING HYMN: **"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (VU 8)**

†ADVENT I CLOSING PRAYER:

Gracious Lord, we thank you for your promises and for coming to earth as our Wonderful Counselor. As we begin our advent journey, help us to know the abiding hope that comes from knowing that you will keep your promises to us. May we radiate that hope in everything we say and do. We pray this in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

†CHORAL AMEN **"May the Grace of Christ"(VU 963)**

†COMMISSIONING:

The world outside awaits the Light we bear  
**Let us go out as the people of God**  
There is hope in the midst of the world's turmoil  
**Let us go out in love and serve in faith**  
Go forth created by God, called by the Spirit,  
**We are ready to proclaim the Good News!**

†SENDING FORTH: **"I am Walking a Path of Hope" (MV 221 2X)**

*Postlude*

#### ***Announcements***

*Help us keep the air we share healthy and fragrance-free. The chemicals used in scented products can make some people sick, especially those with asthma, allergies and other medical conditions. Please do not wear perfume, cologne, aftershave and other fragrances.*

**The Peace Candle is lit as a reminder to Christians to pray for and work for world peace.**

**Sunday, December 1 Blue Christmas Service: (2:00 pm)**  
**Westminster United Church invites you to this service that is designed for those for whom the holidays might be difficult. If you have undergone a difficult loss, transition, or life change, the church cares about you and invites you to a special time of music and worship. Rev. Dave Pollard will be leading the service and there will be a time for refreshments following the service.**

**"What Child is This?" a Christmas Cantata** by Joel Raney will be performed by Music Director Chris White and the WUC Choir at Westminster United Church on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:25 am

**Volunteers are needed to help with this year's Salvation Army Kettle Drive:**

Canadian Tire Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>

Hill Safeway Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

Canadian Tire Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**If anyone is interested, please speak with Pat Bohnet at Coffee today after the Service.**

**Thank-you to those who volunteered on the 26<sup>th</sup>!**

The WUCW will be hosting a Potluck on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am. At Chinook Village Rm #33. Cheryl Finnie will be leading a Sing-a-Long.

### **Carolfest**

an evening of choirs and carols Sunday, December 8 @ 7p.m.

Featuring: Choirs from: St John's Presbyterian Unity & Victory Lutheran, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Gordon Memorial, Westminster & Fifth Avenue Memorial United The Veiner Center choir, the TarTones, Ella Hoffarth, Josie Hoffarth, Expandable Brass, and Darrel Maier

Fifth Avenue Memorial United Church 476 – 4 St SE Admission is free / Refreshments to follow

If you are looking for a pithy, short, free, on line, daily devotional based on the scriptures for the coming week, go to

<http://www.uhill.net/daily/> There you will find a scripture verse and commentary and prayer to enhance your meditations.

This resource comes from University Hill congregation in Vancouver where Heather Carlson was as a student, The writer of the season of Advent material is Janice Love. She and her husband Jim, lived in Medicine Hat the summer of 1997 when Jim was the student minister at Fifth Avenue Memorial. The devotions are in conjunction with the Christian Calendar which is also produced by this congregation. This calendar starts with the first Sunday in Advent and is divided, not by months but by the Seasons of the Christian year. This resource can be ordered via the congregation's website. I recommend both, Helen Reid.

We will be getting the donations envelopes printed up in the next week. So this is a perfect time for you to sign up for PAR (Pre -Authorized Remittances) and then you won't need envelopes. Your donation comes out of your bank account on the 20th of every month and into Westminster United bank the same day. No looking for the right bills or to write up a cheque each week. It is worry free.

Contact Donna Scharf at 403-526-1555 or e-mail [rdscharf@shaw.ca](mailto:rdscharf@shaw.ca) for information.

***The 2020 UCC Calendars are now here! Calendars are available in the office priced at \$6.00***

***Drive a Friend to Church***

*We are fine tuning our Drive a Friend plan. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please contact Pat Marshall or Jennifer in the church office.*

*Donations at Coffee Time during December are allocated to the UCW*

***Assisting with the Service This Morning***

---

***Elder-in-Charge:***

Donna Scharf

***Greeters:***

BJ Maddaford

***Scripture Reader:***

Sandra McDonald

***Minutes For Mission***

***Coffee Hosts:***

Albina Jackson & Linda Kisell

***Sound :***

Hayley McKim

***PowerPoint Operator:***

Kathy Nielsen

***Wheelchair Lift Operator:***