

Applewood United Church
an Affirming Congregation
Sunday, December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
(*please stand in body or in spirit)
Bold words are for all to share

Carol Sing

Territorial Acknowledgement and Announcements

We understand that the land on which we live, work and worship is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The territory is mutually covered by the "Dish with One Spoon" Wampum Belt agreement. In the spirit of reconciliation, we commit to building relationships with all created beings, those who were here before, those who have settled, and those who continue to settle on this land. We commit to partnering with our Indigenous neighbours in being stewards and caretakers of God's Creation. Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we seek to live as reconciled people through our respect for, and our learning and understanding of, our Indigenous siblings.

Centering Music: "The Kingdom of God" MV 146

* Call to Worship and Opening Prayer: (*responsive*)

One: The shopping-mall seasonal music is louder than ever,

All: so we come to worship and sing with all we have.

One: The pressure to purchase the perfect gift is strong,

**All: so we come to this place to give of ourselves,
and receive God's love as we follow God's way.**

One: Santa and his elves seem more popular than Jesus,

**All: so we come to hear once again the stories
that shape, ground and inform our faith.**

One: Let us pray together as we share the Advent journey:

**All: God of dreams and dreamers,
you speak to us at all times
and sometimes when we least expect it.
Help us to pay attention to you,
help us to hear the voices of your
messengers in our midst.
Encourage and inspire us to be trusting,
faithful, and active participants in the**

coming of Emmanuel: you-with-us.

**May we continue to see your world and your Word
come alive in our world. Amen**

* Opening Hymn: "God, We Praise You for the Morning" VU 415

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy

One: This morning, we mark the third Sunday in our Advent journey.....

Two: ... that can lead us in new directions of joy.

**All: Illuminating God, may this candle remind us that we are called to carry your light of
joy in our hearts and our lives, as we prepare the way for your Coming One. Amen**

Sung Response: "We Light This Candle" TLUS 55

Prayer for Reflection and Revelation:

"Angel-Filled Advent" by Anne Weems

Music for Reflection: "In a Far-off Place"

Scripture readings:

Luke 1:46-55 *The Inclusive Bible*

Matthew 1:18-25 *The Inclusive Bible*

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "Deo! Marching to Bethlehem"

Reflection: Listening for Angels

*Hymn: "O Ancient Love" VU 17

Time for the Nativity – The Unexpected Ones

Offering of Music

Hymn of Dedication: *tune 'Good King Wenceslas'*

God of hope and God of peace,

God of joy and loving,

here we bring our gifts to share,

**humbled by your blessings.
As we wait for Love's rebirth,
hearts and minds preparing,
bless the givers and the gifts,
lights in this world's darkness.**

*** Offering Prayer (*together*)**

**All: With grateful hearts we bring our best, O God.
With anticipation of the Coming One we give
with hope to build hope,
with peace to share peace,
with joy to spread joy.
Bless all that we offer, God, in Jesus' name. Amen**

Prayers of the People – Starry Prayers

Special Music: "In the Bleak Midwinter"

The Lord's Prayer (*said*)

*** Closing Hymn: "My Soul Cries Out" MV 120**

*** Commissioning/Benediction**

*** Sung Blessing for Advent: "A Light is Gleaming" VU 82 *chorus only***

Music for Scattering