

Applewood United Church
an Affirming Congregation
Sunday, December 7, 2025
Second Sunday of Advent with Communion
(*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: "Come and Fill Our Hearts" MV 16

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

One: The prophets of old call to us –

All: "a shoot will sprout from the stump of Jesse."

One: We anticipate the coming of God's Anointed One.

All: We prepare our hearts and spirits to welcome him as we follow the Advent path.

One: From the river's edge we hear the call:

All: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

One: We await the in-breaking love of God.

All: We prepare for the changing of hearts and minds.

One: God calls us to worship today -

All: We answer with prayer and with praise.

One: So let us pray together:

**All: God of wisdom, truth and peace,
gather us into the light of your love
as we continue our Advent journey.
Help us to hear the voices of the past
as well as the voices that surround us**

**so that we may continue to share your
justice, and peace in the world. Amen**

* Opening Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" VU 8

Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

One: Today we continue our Advent journey ...

Two: ... lead us in new directions of peace.

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

Sung Response: "We Light This Candle" TLUS 55

Sharing the Peace of Christ:

One: The peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Scripture readings:

Isaiah 11:1-10 *The Inclusive Bible*

Matthew 3:1-12 *The Inclusive Bible*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "We Wait for God"

Reflection: Voices from the Wilderness

* Hymn: "There's a Voice in the Wilderness" VU 18

Time for the Nativity – the animals

Offering of Music: "Child of Spirit, Child of Light"

* **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.**

* Prayer and Dedication of Gifts for Others and Pledges

One: God of love, today we share gifts from hearts and hands,

**All: gifts of warm mittens and hats, nourishing food,
dollars and gift cards, offerings to this community and the wider church.**

One: Some of what we offer have come through PAR donations, others arrived in envelopes,
some in bags -

All: all of them offered and wrapped with love and care.

One: We also offer our pledges of commitment and care, God.

**All: We offer them with gratitude and humble thanks,
as we support this space and the work of this community, for the sake of all your
people, God.**

One: Bless all our offerings today, Giving One,

All: and may they continue to spread your love into the world. Amen

Sacrament of Communion

One: God is with us

All: We are not alone

One: Christ is present here

All: The Spirit moves within us

One: Let us give thanks to God

All: In memory and in hope

One: Blessings be to you, Creator God,
Who in the beginning brought light and life to the world
and who continues to bring love and light everlasting.

**All: Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages, your
ancient promise still brings us hope.**

Two: Over the ages you have called people to embrace your
peace and share your love.

But even when they have closed their ears to the song,
you did not stop singing.

You sent prophets and messengers to your people,
reminding them of the promised time of peace and

justice that would surround the world.

**All: They came in the midst of our despair and
filled us with hope and peace.**

One: And then you came to a young woman named Mary
and laid out the promise in a new way.
Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus.
Promising her that in her son the world would
be changed.

Two: And now as we prepare for that child to be born,
we echo the ancient cry:

All: O come, O come Emmanuel

Two: We lift our voices,
singing together the praises of ages:

All: (sung) Tune: "O Come. O Come, Emmanuel"

**O Holy, holy God of power and might,
We sing with all creation of your Light.
Blest is the One who comes in your name,
Hosanna we declare through time and space.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel will come to us as prophets do foretell.**

One: Yet even now, as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
we remember the life that this baby will live. We remember how he broke the bonds
of human tradition to show all what the Banquet of Peace could be as he ate openly
with the despised and the outcast of his world.

Two: And we remember one special meal,
foretaste of the banquet that is to come,
that he ate with his closest friends.

One: Gathering them together in an upper room
to share the story of liberation,
he prepared them for liberation.

Two: And at the end of the meal he took bread,
blessed and broke it, then passed it to them saying: Take and eat. This bread is the
body of Life,
broken by the world. Eat it in remembrance and in hope.

One: After that he took the cup, blessed it,

and passed it to them saying: This cup is the sign of the New Covenant. Whenever you drink it, remember me

Two: Remembering the birth of the child in the stable,
we remember also his life, his death and his resurrection. We remember how he
poured his love to out all he met
and look forward to his return and the
coming reign of peace, love, and justice.
And in our remembering we share the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

One: God, you poured your Spirit on Mary and she sang
words of defiance and hope, and peace.
Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here.
As we eat and drink may we know your presence.
As we eat and drink may we be opened to the
possibilities of your peace and power
And may we be strengthened in our time of waiting
for your peace and justice so that we will have the courage to make the Christmas
promise a reality.

Two: At this time, we also remember all those
with whom you would have us share your feast.
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain . . .
all who are ill or alone . . .
all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger . . .
all whom the world counts as last and least . . .
We pray for your church and its varied ministries . . .
for the nations as they strive for peace and justice . . .
for the earth, and the fragile web of life we share . . .
for our families and friends . . .

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*) VU 960

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

Prayer after Communion

**All: God of pregnant expectations,
God of Christmas promise,**

**God of child-like hope,
we have eaten and drunk from your table.
May the eating and the drinking fill us
with hope in a world of despair.
May we be beacons of hope as we wait for the day when the world will be changed.
Grant that this taste of your banquet which is to come would give us the hunger for
peace and justice in our community and around the world. Amen**

Advent Communion Liturgy adapted and used with the permission of author Rev Gord Waldie, St Paul's United Church, Grand Prairie, Alberta.

* Closing Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" VU 43

* Commissioning/Benediction

* Sung Blessing for Advent:

"A Light is Gleaming" VU 82 *chorus only*

Music for Scattering