

Applewood United Church
an Affirming Congregation
Sunday, November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent
(*please stand in body or in spirit)
Bold words are for all to share

Music for Gathering: "Bridge of Light"

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: "Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"

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

One: The season of Advent is here,

All: the season of waiting and preparing has begun.

One: A new year is beginning; a fresh light is shining.

**All: We begin our cycle of faith stories once again,
we anticipate the radiance of God's love.**

One: God calls us into this time of illumination and preparation.

**All: We answer God's call as we worship,
in shared prayers and shared praise.**

One: Let us pray together:

**All: Luminous and loving God, today we begin our
Advent journey towards Christmas.**

In our hearts and in our worship,

inspire us to prepare a space for your love to be born.

**We pray that you would help us to find unique ways to experience your light, and
discover creative ways to share it in our community and our church. Lead us to
contemplation and to action**

in this season of waiting, wondering and preparing.

**In the name of your Coming One, Your Present One,
your Beloved one, we pray. Amen**

*** Opening Hymn: "God of the Bible" MV 28**

Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope

One: Today we begin our Advent journey

Two: lead us in new directions of hope.

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

Sung Response: "We Light This Candle" TLUS 55

Laying our Cloth in the Cradle

Scripture readings:

Romans 13:11-14 *The Inclusive Bible*

Matthew 24:36-44 *The Inclusive Bible*

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir: "Shine the Light of Your Love"

Reflection: Reimagining the Light

*** Hymn: "I'm Gonna Live" VU 575**

Time for the Nativity – Mary and Joseph

Offering of Music

*** Hymn of Dedication: "What Can I Do?" MV 191**

*** Offering Prayer (together)**

All: **Accept our gifts, Generous God,
and may they bring light, comfort,
justice and joy to your world. Amen**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (Caribbean version)

* **Closing Hymn:** "Draw the Circle Wide" MV 145

* **Commissioning/Benediction**

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

Music for Scattering