

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of understanding the local context in which a project is implemented. This includes identifying the key stakeholders, their interests, and the potential challenges that may arise. The second part of the paper focuses on the design and implementation of the project, highlighting the need for flexibility and adaptability in response to changing circumstances. The third part of the paper discusses the evaluation and monitoring of the project, emphasizing the importance of collecting and analyzing data to assess the project's impact and effectiveness. Finally, the paper concludes with a discussion of the lessons learned and the implications for future projects.

ALMONTE UNITED CHURCH

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Sunday, December 1, 2024 10:30 am Advent 1

*We gather today on the traditional and unceded territory
of the Algonquin Anishnaabe Nation.*

May we dwell on this land with respect and peace.

The Musical Prelude

Welcome and the Announcements

The Call to Worship and Lighting of The First Advent Candle

One: Long ago, before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah said:

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I
now declare, for I am the Lord.”

**All: Let us begin this Advent season with hope in our
hearts as we await the coming of God’s Anointed One.**

The First Advent Candle is Lit

Hymn of Response:

Hope is a star that shines in the night, Leading us on till the
morning is bright.

**Chorus: When God is a child, there’s joy in our song;
The last shall be first, and the weak shall be
strong;**

And none shall be afraid. (#7, VU)

Gathering Prayer: (together)

Great God of hope and promise, as we begin this Advent journey together, we pray that your Holy Spirit might truly inspire us in the light of the first Advent Candle, through scripture, song and Sacrament, and all that we do together here, for we pray in the Name of the Holy Child whose arrival we await. Amen.

Opening Hymn: #1 (VU) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

The Children's Time with Gus and Gloria

The Choir Anthem: "We Remember You"

The Scripture Lesson: Romans 8:18-30. (Page 919). In his deep and profound theological essay, Paul writes that "Now hope that is seen, is not hope; for who hopes for what is seen?"

Meditation

The offering is collected-

***Sung Response: MV#191**

"What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.

I'll bring my love. I'll do my share" x2

Dedication of Offerings

The Communion Hymn: 457 (VU) "As We Gather"

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer and Holy Communion

As we come to this table,

we are reminded that this is the table of Jesus Christ,
a banquet prepared for everyone.

All who seek to be nourished and sustained
in their journey of faith,
are welcome here.

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift our hearts in prayer.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray:

Blessed are you, Breath of hope,

Giver of all life,

Source of boundless love.

Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;
throughout the ages, your song of freedom has filled us with
your hope for a world where:

those considered last and least are first and most;
violence is overcome by the power of your ancient love; and,
all siblings work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth,
and send prophets to awaken us
during this Advent season.

We thank you for those who, like Mary,

have the strength and courage

to give birth to your love in the world;

for those who, like the shepherds,

dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem;

for those who, like the wise ones,

actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us

in birth and in death,

in life and in life eternal,

in tenderness and in compassion.

We join in the Advent prayer of all your people,

“O come, O come Emmanuel.”

At this time, we also remember

all 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 are close to our hearts...
all our sisters and brothers who live with fear,
oppression, or hunger...
all whose lives have been blighted by violence, racism,
or poverty...
for all whom the world counts as last and least.**

**We pray for the church and its many ministries,
for nations as they strive for peace and justice,
In our world.
O God of hope, make this bread the means of our
rebuilding,
this wine the source of our transformation,
this table the foundation of our renewal,
and this community the place of our rebirth. Amen.**

At this time, we remember Jesus,
Who on the night before he died,
took a loaf of bread,
gave you thanks, broke it, and said,
“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”
Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,
“This is the new covenant; remember me.”

**Gracious God, Breath of peace,
Make us, while many, one.
Make us, though broken, whole.
Make us, despite death, alive.
And so we pray:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

Serving the Bread and the Cup

**The Closing Hymn: #2 (VU) “Come, Thou Long Expected
Jesus”**

Extinguishing the First Advent Candle and Benediction

The Musical Postlude

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Pyjama Sunday is Almost Here!

On December 15, as part of our Children's Advent Service, everyone is invited to stay comfy and come to church in your jammies, a bath robe, bring your favourite stuffies or pillow... you get the picture! We will also be collecting new children's pyjamas for Lanark County Interval House. Thank you for once again making a difference in our community.



Important Notice:

The 2025 envelopes will be available for pickup on
Sunday, December 15th



Christmas Stockings for the Lanark Food Bank

For many of the Food Bank adults, this is the only gift they will receive this Christmas, and they look forward to the wonderful surprises that the stocking brings. If you are able, please fill a stocking with toiletries for either a lady or a gentleman, **clearly marked HIS or**

HERS, and return it no later than Wednesday, December 11, 2024. The stockings can be dropped off at the Church Office on Mondays between 10am and 2 pm, Tuesdays 10 -2 and Thursdays from 10 am- 2 pm and at Sunday worship.

Examples of useful toiletries include: Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body wash, 5-blade razors, Nail file, Nail clippers, Shaving cream, After-shave lotion, Hand lotion, Moisturizing lotion, Loofa, Hairbrush, Comb, Cleansing cream/wash, Dental floss/picks, Deodorant, Liquid hand soap, Bar soap, Wet wipes, Hand sanitizer, Q-tips, Facial mask, Sunscreen, Mouthwash, Nail polish, Nail polish remover, and perhaps a small sweet. **Thank you for your support!**

The Advent Worship Services

December 8th, Advent II. We will be learning about John the Baptist.

December 15th, Advent III. The Sunday School and Youth Group will lead worship.

December 22nd, Advent IV: The Choir will present their Christmas Cantata.

Coping with the Christmas Season

For those who are missing loved ones; lonely, or find no joy in the activities of the season, there will be two sessions:

Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 pm and Friday, December 6th at 2:30 pm.

Our time together will include quiet conversation, candle lighting, and comforting words of peace.

The Pastoral Care Team has kindly offered to provide tea and cookies. These events are open to the Almonte community and anyone who would like to join us in a quiet time of contemplation.

