

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of understanding the cultural context of the research. It highlights the need for researchers to be sensitive to the values and beliefs of the communities they are studying. This is particularly important in the field of education, where cultural differences can significantly impact learning outcomes. The paper then moves on to discuss the challenges of conducting research in culturally diverse settings. It notes that researchers often face difficulties in establishing rapport with participants and in interpreting their responses. To address these challenges, the paper suggests several strategies, including the use of local researchers and the development of culturally appropriate research instruments. The final part of the paper discusses the importance of ethical considerations in cross-cultural research. It emphasizes the need for researchers to obtain informed consent from participants and to ensure that the research is conducted in a way that respects the dignity and rights of all individuals.

# ALMONTE UNITED CHURCH

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## Children's Advent Service *The Lesson of the Lambs* Sunday, December 14th, 2025

### Piano Prelude

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Call to Worship

- 1: When life is messy and not going well,
- 2: remember that God is with you

#### **All: ...and come to worship!**

- 1: When people are blaming you for something you haven't done,
- 2: remember that God is with you

#### **All: ... and come spend time in God's community!**

- 1: When you step in the muck or hit your thumb with a hammer,
- 2: take a deep breath and remember ...

#### **All: God is with you.**

- 1: Come find the hope, peace, love and joy in this gathering of God's people.
- 2: We know that God is with us.

#### **All: O come, O come, Emmanuel**

### Choir Introit: Come, Come Emmanuel

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

#### **Hymn: Hope is a Star, VU #7, verses 1, 2, and 3**

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

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.

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.

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.

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born.

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.

### **Litany Prayer:**

One: Let us pray...

In the times of darkness and fear, God is ever near to love and guide us.

**All: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts**

One: In the times of joy and dancing, God is ever near in celebration.

**All: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts**

One: At all times and in all places, God is always with us, sustaining, healing, loving.

**All: Come, Loving God, fill our hearts with Joy.**

One: You are our God, and we are not alone.

**All: Thanks be to you, forever and ever. Amen**

### **Hymn: "Joy to the World" (VU 59)**

## **Hearing God's Word - The Lesson of the Lambs**

(all scriptures today are adapted by Rev. Susan Lukey)

**Scripture: Luke 1:26–38**

**Mary's Monologue**

**Scripture: Matthew 1:18–25**

## **Joseph's Monologues**

**Scripture: Luke 2:1–7**

## **Innkeeper's Monologue**

**Scripture: Luke 2:8–16**

## **Heavenly Chorus Anthem: Advent Alleluia**

**Scripture: Luke 2:8–16 - continued**

## **Shepherd's Monologue**

**Offering**

**Offertory**

## **Sung Response: VU # 55, In the Bleak Midwinter, verses 1 and 4**

"In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.  
What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,  
Yet what I can, I give him - give my heart."

## **Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

## **Invitation to Join the Nativity Scene**

### **Hymn: "Go Tell It On the Mountain" (VU 43)**

(Congregation is invited to move to the front during the singing of the hymn, and find a place to sit or stand in the manger scene - feeling the joy? ... join our angels; feeling the busy-ness of the the season? ... our innkeeper has a spot for you; are you keeping track of a lot of things? ... the

shepherds know exactly how you feel; is it a bit overwhelming for all sorts of reasons? ... Mary and Joseph would love your company! And if you would rather stay in your pew and imagine where you might find yourself at the manger, that is fine too!)

## **Commissioning and Benediction**

### **Postlude**

The AUC Sunday School would like to thank the Rev. Susan Lukey, from High River United Church, Alberta, for making her Advent service available to other United Church congregations and allowing us to adapt it for sharing today.

Special Thanks also goes to...

\*Neil and the Senior Choir for playing the role of "The Heavenly Chorus"

\*Richard, Brian and Dawn for our manger backdrop

\*Patti and Jon for moving the pulpit

\*Virginia for help with our bulletin

\*Rev. Heather and the Worship Committee for their support

\*Our families for helping us learn our parts, bringing us to Sunday School and even taking a part in today's service!

\*Our church family for allowing us to take the lead and share this special time and message.

## **Events of The Advent/Christmas Season**



**Sunday, December 21st at 10:30 am:** Advent IV with the lighting of the final Candle: Love.

**Christmas Eve, December 24th at 7:00 pm:** A celebration of Jesus' birth with special music and candle lighting from the Christ Candle.

**Sunday, December 28th at 10:30 am:** An informal service in the Upper Hall with music, birthday cake, stories and fellowship.

## New 2026 Donation Envelopes

The new 2026 donation envelopes will be available at the back of the Sanctuary beginning today. Please take yours.

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## NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED!



If anyone is interested in becoming a member of the Almonte United Church please reach out to the office **before December 18<sup>th</sup>** as we are having new members joining on December 21<sup>st</sup> as part of the Sunday Service

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## A NEW YEARS POTLUCK: **NEW DATE**

Please join in a new years potluck lunch on Sunday, January **18**, 2026 following worship. Items can be your choice of hot or cold. With many allergies in the congregation, please keep all dishes peanut- free and list the ingredients on a card beside your items. Let's enjoy a time of great food and fellowship to begin 2026.

**ALL WELCOME !**

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## OFFICE CLOSURE

The office will be closed for the holidays from Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. For urgent requests during this time, please contact Rev. Heather at 613-619-5966.



# WHAT'S ON AT AUC THIS WEEK

## OFFICE HOURS:

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday from 10 am to 2 pm**

### Monday to Friday

8:30 Almonte Co-operative Nursery School

### Monday, December 15

5:30 Taekwon Do

### Tuesday, December 16

10:00 Mom and Baby Physio Workout

6:00 Almonte Embers

### Wednesday, December 17

12:45 Carebridge Pilates

5:30 Taekwon Do

### Thursday, December 18

10:00 Mom and Baby Physio Workout

6:00 Rhythm & Song Choir

6:30 Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists

7:00 AUC Choir Practice

### Friday, December 19

9:30 Lisa Kmiel Yoga

5:00 Andrew Jahn Concert

### Saturday, December 20

### Sunday, December 21

10:30 Sunday Worship

Sunday School

Youth Group



