

**ORDER OF SERVICE**  
**November 29, 2020**  
**Advent 1: Hope**  
**with Communion**

**Gathering**

**Welcome/ Land Acknowledgement**

**Celebrations**

**Advent Candle Lighting**

**Hymn: Hope is a Star” VU 7 verse 1**

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

Refrain:

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.

**Call to Worship:**

**Hymn: “All Earth is Waiting” VU5**

1. All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows await the seed of God.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
2. Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:  
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,'  
one whose name is 'God with us' our Saviour shall be;  
with him hope will blossom once more within our hearts.
3. Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain;

open new highways, new highways for the Lord.  
He is now coming closer, so come all and see,  
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

4. In lowly stable the Promised One appeared;  
yet feel his presence throughout the earth today,  
for he lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, with his coming he brings us liberty.

## **Opening Prayer**

**Theme Conversation:** Laura

**Hymn:** “Come, Thou Long- Expected Jesus” **VU2**

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,  
born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us,  
let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever,  
now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to thy glorious throne.

## **Hearing the Word**

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 64:1-9; Mark 13:24-37

Isaiah 64:1-9 (The Message)

1-7 Oh, that you would rip open the heavens and descend,  
make the mountains shudder at your presence—  
As when a forest catches fire,  
as when fire makes a pot to boil—  
To shock your enemies into facing you,  
make the nations shake in their boots!  
You did terrible things we never expected,  
descended and made the mountains shudder at your presence.  
Since before time began  
no one has ever imagined,  
No ear heard, no eye seen, a God like you  
who works for those who wait for him.  
You meet those who happily do what is right,  
who keep a good memory of the way you work.  
But how angry you've been with us!  
We've sinned and kept at it so long!  
Is there any hope for us? Can we be saved?  
We're all sin-infected, sin-contaminated.  
Our best efforts are grease-stained rags.  
We dry up like autumn leaves—  
sin-dried, we're blown off by the wind.  
No one prays to you  
or makes the effort to reach out to you  
Because you've turned away from us,  
left us to stew in our sins.

8-12 Still, God, you are our Father.  
We're the clay and you're our potter:  
All of us are what you made us.  
Don't be too angry with us, O God.  
Don't keep a permanent account of wrongdoing.  
Keep in mind, please, we *are* your people—all of us.  
Your holy cities are all ghost towns:  
Zion's a ghost town,  
Jerusalem's a field of weeds.  
Our holy and beautiful Temple,  
which our ancestors filled with your praises,  
Was burned down by fire,  
all our lovely parks and gardens in ruins.  
In the face of all this,  
are you going to sit there unmoved, God?

Aren't you going to say something?  
Haven't you made us miserable long enough?

Mark 13:24-37 (The Message)

<sup>24-25</sup> "Following those hard times,

Sun will fade out,  
moon cloud over,  
Stars fall out of the sky,  
cosmic powers tremble.

<sup>26-27</sup> "And then they'll see the Son of Man enter in grand style, his Arrival filling the sky—no one will miss it! He'll dispatch the angels; they will pull in the chosen from the four winds, from pole to pole.

<sup>28-31</sup> "Take a lesson from the fig tree. From the moment you notice its buds form, the merest hint of green, you know summer's just around the corner. And so it is with you. When you see all these things, you know he is at the door. Don't take this lightly. I'm not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too—these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won't wear out.

<sup>32-37</sup> "But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven's angels, not even the Son. Only the Father. So, keep a sharp lookout, for you don't know the timetable. It's like a man who takes a trip, leaving home and putting his servants in charge, each assigned a task, and commanding the gatekeeper to stand watch. So, stay at your post, watching. You have no idea when the homeowner is returning, whether evening, midnight, cockcrow, or morning. You don't want him showing up unannounced, with you asleep on the job. I say it to you, and I'm saying it to all: Stay at your post. Keep watch."

**Solo:** Doug Dewell and Marion Reid- Clarke

**Reflection:** "Yikes it's Advent!!!!"

**Hymn: "O Come All Ye Faithful" VU60**

1. Oh come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant;  
oh come ye, oh come ye  
to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him,  
born the King of angels:

(Refrain)  
Oh come, let us adore him;  
oh come, let us adore him;  
oh come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of light,  
born unto Mary, the virgin blest,  
very God, begotten, not created:

(Refrain)

3. See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks draw nigh  
with holy fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:

(Refrain)

4. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens  
of heaven above:  
'Glory to God  
in the highest!'

(Refrain)

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be  
glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing:

(Refrain)

### **Our Response**

#### **Gratitude for our Offering**

**Solo:** Doug Dewell / Marion Reid-Clarke

### **Food for the Journey**

#### **Sacrament of Communion**

#### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

### **Going Forth**

#### **Benediction**

#### **Shalom**

Shalom to you my friend  
Shalom until we meet again  
The word “shalom” means peace, hello and good-bye  
so sing shalom, shalom

Shalom to you my friend  
Shalom until we meet again  
The word “shalom” means peace, hello and good-bye  
so sing shalom, shalom

When we join our hands across the land  
we'll hear neighbours and brothers, old friends and other  
singing shalom to you my friend,  
shalom until we meet again.

Shalom to you my friend  
Shalom until we meet again  
The word "shalom" means peace, hello and good-bye  
so sing shalom, shalom  
so sing shalom, shalom

## Tears

The chaos of this world propels you forward. You have to keep moving.  
You can't stop for fear that if you did,  
if you were still long enough,

if you were silent enough,  
you might actually cry out with no way to stop:  
cry out for help;  
cry out in anger;  
cry out for God to tear open the heavens.  
You fear that the weight of a thousand moments would crush you,  
no ten thousand moments,  
when you looked away,  
when you turned a blind eye to the cries of Creation,  
the tears of those cries culminating in a tidal wave that crashes down upon  
you, pinning your feet to the ground, paralyzed by the revelation of your  
own inaction. You look around and see the stained cheeks of a stranger on  
the street,  
looking and listening, as you are, to those same cries.  
And in that moment the weight becomes a little less,  
you're able to wiggle your toes,  
move your fingers,

becoming the hands and feet of the God of Creation.  
Because you are not alone,  
not the only one carrying the burden of Creation's cry.  
And what seemed so crushing, so enormous of a task,  
becomes something doable,  
something possible.  
You are capable of seeing and hearing Creation's cry and responding,  
not with fear, but with hope:  
hope that your actions do matter;  
hope that creation is not doomed;  
hope that God does use you;  
hope in the one who is to come.

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