

This **first Sunday in Advent**, just like every year, we light our first candle. We call it the candle of Hope, and in the past, we've always concentrated on what we hope for. But this year, perhaps we can concentrate on what it means to light a candle, any candle. We do it every week, using it as a metaphor for Jesus who explained things that were otherwise hidden to us. But that light only illuminates something that is already there. If we admire the vibrant colours of a forest in the fall or the shimmering hill slopes covered in the white of winter, all that beauty is there whether it is light or not. We can't see them at night, but they're still there. In a similar way, the glories that the light of God demonstrates are already in existence. And it seems to me that this is of incredible importance for us. If there is goodness within the human psyche (and I believe there is) then that goodness is built into the very core of our being. It is already implanted there, and the light of God causes it to grow and flourish. And so, I'd suggest, that lighting this candle is the best reason of all for us to have hope this Advent Season.

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Donations can be made by simple e-transfer to
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Tecumseh United Church

~ *An Affirming Congregation* ~

Sunday, December 1st, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

We are a fragrance-free environment.

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples.

Advent One

We Gather in God's Love

Welcome and Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

Lighting the Christ Candle

First Advent -see back of bulletin

Advent One:

(Sung to the tune of the chorus of MV 79 "Spirit, Open My Heart")

Will you come, gather in?

Come in hope and come in wonder.

There is life in our longing.

There's a voice-in the thunder.

Will you come, gather in?

Call to Worship

Hope, in the midst of fear. Hope, in the midst of sorrow.

Hope, when it seems hopeless. God offers hope.

We come seeking that hope. We come seeking a new dream. We come from the four winds seeking God-with-Us.

Let us pray for Emmanuel, let us pray for the insight,

let us pray for that promised hope.

****Hymn # 5 "All Earth Is Waiting"***

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, we begin this season of Advent with some worry in our hearts.

We begin with concerns for our families, our friends, our congregation, and our world.

Fill our hearts with the hope of the season.

Calm us as we move through this time of longer nights into the light that is to come. Amen.

****Hymn # 460 "All Who Hunger"***

Communion – see insert

Faith Friends Time / Lord's Prayer

Hymn MV # 104 "Know That God Is Good"

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture Reading: Luke 21:25-36

****Hymn # 7 "Hope Is a Star"***

Meditation

We Respond to God's Word

Choir Anthem

Offering Prayer

Offertory Hymn # 542 "We Give You But Your Own"

Prayer Book is read/Prayers of the People

We Go to Love and Serve God

****Hymn # 44 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"***

Commissioning

(Sung to the tune of the chorus of MV 79 "Spirit, Open My Heart")

May you go now in hope.

Raise your head for hope is nearing.

In the chaos, the holy

hovers, ripe-for the hearing.

May you go now in hope.

Benediction

**Music & Lyrics used under CCLI License # 11323634*

Thanks to Jill Buckles for reading and to Deb Holek for hosting Coffee Hour this morning.

Happy Birthday this coming week to Sue White, Kathy Arner and Beth Hebert

Ladies- It's the annual **UCW Advent Communion** Service followed by a **Potluck lunch and carol singing on Tuesday, December 3rd beginning at 12:30pm** Please join us for this time of fellowship.

Help Bring Christmas to Street Help: Advent 2024 On the entry table, please find out how we can add Street Help to our List for Christmas Gifts.