



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Update: Your Generosity at Work in Ukraine

Your generosity serves as a reminder of the loving spirit of God.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on February 24, Mission & Service partners have been responding to the needs of those impacted by the war. Here's an update about some of the ways your generosity is helping to provide life-saving support through our global partnerships:

- With the freezing cold of winter looming, ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) is working hard to ensure that those affected by the conflict have safe, warm, and dignified accommodation. As schools are being used to shelter refugees and internally displaced people, ACT is making certain children can continue to access education.
- In the earliest days of the crisis, one of our partners—Hungarian Interchurch Aid—opened welcome points at borders for those driving and walking across the border and transitioned to support those arriving by train. They have now opened a centralized refugee hub.
- In Poland, our partner the Lutheran World Federation is hosting cash support centres, providing refugee families with money to meet their basic needs.
- Throughout affected regions, Mission & Service partners are helping people access essentials like food, wáter, and hygiene.

Church leaders are also on the ground providing spiritual comfort. Father Eugen Omu is a Romanian Orthodox priest who is staffing a refugee welcome centre in Sculeni, Romania. "It is important to have priests here," he says. "When someone sees a priest, it reminds them of God and gives them courage to face what is to come."

Our church partners are at the forefront of the emergency response in Ukraine with help from faithful supporters like you.

Your generosity serves as a reminder of the loving spirit of God, providing care and encouragement when and where it is most needed.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

SYDENHAM-HERITAGE UNITED CHURCH

November 27, 2022

Advent #1: Longing



OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Building the Kin-dom of God

9:00 a.m. Worship Service @ Seasons Bell Lane, 55 Diana

10:30 a.m. Worship, Sunday School & Nursery

120 Sydenham Street

Brantford, Ontario N3R 3Y8

PHONE: 519-753-1248

WEBSITE: sydenham-heritage.ca

E-MAIL ADDRESS: sydenham.heritage@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Paul Shepherd, Minister

phone 647-700-7129 email: paul.shuc@gmail.com

VU refers to Voices United, MV refers to More Voices

While reading our bulletin you will notice some bold print. This indicates that the congregation will read these passages aloud together.

Please note that the Hymns will not be announced

*Indicates to stand as you are able

Musical Prelude

WE GATHER

Acknowledging the Land

One: For thousands of years First Nations people have walked in this land. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

We are gathered today on the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnawbe and Haudenosaunee peoples.

All: We acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

Welcome and Announcements

Salaam (traditional Muslim greeting)

One: May peace be upon you, as well as the mercy and the blessings of God.

All: May peace be upon you, as well as the mercy and the blessings of God.

Time of contemplation

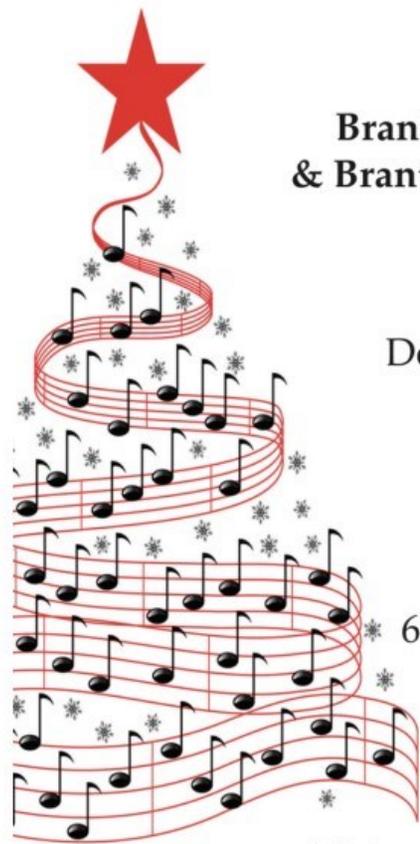
Amen.

***Hymn** - #1VU "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

***Call to Worship** (from Sojourners Magazine)

One: This we know, Lord: Christmas comes early or it comes late, but it does come.

Believe in the Magic of Christmas



Presented By

**Brant Men of Song
& Brant County Singers**

Saturday,
December 3, 2022
7:00 pm

Hope Christian
Reformed Church
64 Buchanan Crescent,
Brantford

Tickets \$20.00
available from a Chorus Member

Our church custodian, Linda Brown, will be retiring on November 30, 2022. The Board would like to invite any congregational member, their relative or friend to apply for the position of custodian. If there is interest, please call the church office at 519-753-1248 between 9:00am and 2pm Tuesday to Friday

November 27, 2022

Sunday, November 27

Advent 1

9:00am Worship @ Seasons Bell Lane

10:30am Worship (Zoom)

10:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

Monday, November 28

9:30am Safe Zone (Calder Hall)

6:30pm Brant County Singers (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, November 29

9:00am Fix-it Club

10:00am Coffee Time (Calder Hall)

1:00pm Crafty Friends (Sunshine Room)

1:00pm Drum Circle (Victoria Park)

6:30pm Prayer Group (Zoom)

7:00pm Crafty Friends(Sunshine Room)

Wednesday, November 30

9:30am Safe Zone (Calder Hall)

9:30am Outreach Project (Kitchen)

10:30am Coffee (Fellowship Room)

Thursday, December 01

10:00am M&P (Fellowship Room)

11:00am Gathering Time (Mall)

7:00pm Choir (Sanctuary)

8:00pm Video Club (Zoom)

Friday, December 02

2:30-8:30pm Pictorial Directory Pictures

Saturday, December 03

9:30am –3:00pm Pictorial Directory Pictures

Sunday, December 04

Advent 2

10:30am Worship (Zoom)

10:30am Worship (Sanctuary)

**All: It comes at the bus stop. It comes in the soup line,
or in the middle of the night.**

One: Christmas comes in that still moment when we lay down
our whole lives in a small, chilly manger warmed only by
the hearts of the lowly,

All: And know with perfect joy that we are home.

One: Come, little Word, there's a weary world awaitin'.

All: Come, little Word, with your eyes open wide.

One: Come, little Word, the welcome table is ready.

All: Now, little Word, would be a good time.

One: O come, Lord Jesus. Come.

All: Amen.

Prayer of Approach (unison)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against
you, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with all our whole heart and mind
and strength. We have not loved our neighbours as
ourselves.**

We are truly sorry.

**In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to
amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we
may delight in your will and walk in your ways; through
Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Words of Assurance (from "A Song of Faith")

WE HEAR

Lighting the First Advent Candle (by Jeanyne Slettom) **Lit by Janet Bell**

One: The Gospel of John speaks of Christ as the true light
coming into the world. in commemoration of that coming,
we light candles for the four weeks leading to Christmas
and reflect on the coming of Christ.

One: It is significant that the church has always used that
language - the coming of Christ - because it speaks to a
deep truth. Christ is coming. Christ is always coming,
always entering a troubled world, a wounded heart.

One: And so we light the first candle, the candle of hope, and dare to express our longing for peace, for healing, and the well-being of all creation.

(One candle is lit)

All: Loving God, as we enter this Advent season, we open all the dark places in our lives and memories to the healing light of Christ. Show us the creative power of hope. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, That we may walk in the light of Christ.

VU 7 Hope is a Star (verse 1)

Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on tis 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.

Words: Brian Wren. Music: Joan Collier Fogg. Words and music copyright © 1989 Hope Publishing Company. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-724934

Nativity Story Video

Readings from Scripture

Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen to these words now for the teaching they hold for you today.

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into

Masking inside our church building is optional.
As your church board we know this to be an emotional and very personal choice, so remember to be kind and respect each other's decision to mask or not mask. The board will continue to monitor monthly as agreed upon and will keep the congregation advised and included accordingly.

At Home & Needing Our Prayers: Heather MacMillan, Jean Maich; Marion Brose, Megan Cousins; Dolly & Jim Mammourias; Delores Jackson; Gary Vanderstarre; Norma & Ken Preece, Doreen Maynard, Dakota Leighton, Larry Advincula, Wayne Myhre
St. Joe's Lifecare: Bob Bell
BGH: Carey Maynard, Yvonne Sinclair,
Willett: Helen Eddy, Larry Sawkins
Prayer Cycle: Nov 27th - Erin Mills



Happy Retirement
LINDA IS RETIRING at the end of November. We will recognize her 24 years as Custodian on **Sunday, December 4th** with a *potluck lunch* and of course a cake.
If you would like to contribute to a gift for her you may do so by putting it in with your regular givings or in a separate envelope being sure to mark it "**Linda's Gift**"

In Loving Memory
MEMORIALS & DONATIONS
A donation in loving memory of **Lawrence Jackson** has been received from Ruth Graham
A donation to the **Home of Hope** has been received from Bruce & Edith Freeze

All: We will let ourselves be surprised by wonder, And set aside time to offer quiet thanks.

One: The good news of Advent is this: Christ is coming.
Christ is always coming.

All: We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will let ourselves be guided by his ministry. We will go forth from this place in hope.

*Benediction

Sung Blessings - "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others, so all the world will see.

God will be there, present in our love.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

Postlude



Join us for coffee

go to sydenham-heritage.ca, scroll down to the calendar, and click the link for Sunday ZOOM

MINISTERS - ALL OF US BY THE GRACE OF GOD

Rev. Dr. Paul Shepherd, Minister

Rev. Wayne Myhre, Minister Emeritus

Rev. Con Estoesta, Minister Emeritus

Trevor Dalton, Music Director

Linda Brown, Custodian

Aileen Johnston, Office Coordinator

Audio/Video Techs, Lyle Sylvester, Jim Linington

Organists Bell Lane, Cynthia Advincula, Ruth Sylvester,

Pat Dawood

ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Matthew 24:36-44

"But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only God. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, she would have stayed awake and would not have let her house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.

One: Within these words, let us hear the word of God

All: Thanks be to God.

Music Ministry

Reflection: Advent #1: Longing

WE REFLECT

***Hymn** - #134MV "There Was a Child in Galilee"

Invitation to Offering



***Offering Dedication** - #55VU (v4) "In the Bleak Midwinter"

What can I give him, poor as I am? I

f I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872. Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONELICENSE #A-724934

***Offering Prayer** (unison)

Accept, O God, this money offered, these gifts given, the goodwill of our hearts, that disappointment may be turned to hope, and worry may be turned to anticipation, as we await with wonder the birth of Christ. Amen.

Preparation for Prayer - #19MV "Maranatha"
Maranatha, maranatha, come, Lord Jesus, come.

Words: traditional liturgical text: French trans. More Voices, 2007.
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Prayers of the People

One: "A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord!" O God, we pray that in our hearts your way may be prepared, that the path among us, by which your Spirit comes, may be made straight. Prepare among us the path of peace. Grant the peace that comes in following your ways, in opening our lives to you, and sharing our gifts for your sake. Prepare among us the path of love.

All: We pray for all who need to be embraced by love: all who are cramped and narrowed in spirit; all who have lost the ability to trust; all who ache for a signal they are cherished, or even noticed by someone; all who struggle with a lifetime burden of being told they are not good enough. Prepare among us, O God, the path of hope.

(share the prayers of your heart, silently or out loud)

One: We pray for those in need of hope today: all who mourn the death of a loved one; who grieve the end of a relationship; who are worried for a friend; all who are anxious for a family member's health; people who are

overwhelmed by illness or disability; who live in the midst of social collapse, warfare or grinding poverty.

All: Prepare among us the path of joy. We pray for those whose spirits need to be buoyed up and who have forgotten childhood's gift of taking delight in the simple things of life, which come from you, O generous God. Hear our thanks and praise as our spirits turn to you, and as we remember, in a moment of silence, the blessings we enjoy.

(share the prayers of your heart, silently or out loud)

Lord's Prayer (Bob MacMillan)

O, mystery, beyond my comprehension, I am your creation.

Help me to live as part of your domain and not isolated from it.

I understand that I am of two natures.

Help me to choose the nature that strives for harmony rather than dominance.

Help me to use caution when judging others, and not do harm for harm done to me.

Where I must take life in order to live, help me to take it with respect and regret.

Everywhere I look, I see the infinite harmony and the beauty you have created.

I thank you for the privilege of experiencing it.

Amen.

WE GO - TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HEALING OF THE WORLD

***Hymn** - #60VU "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

***Commissioning**

One: Take time, in the busyness of this season, for quiet reflection - For the light of God's love is discernible everywhere.