



Chilliwack United Church

First Sunday of Advent

10:30 a.m.

Prelude

Lighting the Advent Candle

Hope

Every year we light candles as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

More and more candles, more and more light, as we watch and wait for Jesus, Hope of the World.

God of Promise, come into our darkness. Renew your hope in us, for you alone bring life out of death.

The eyes of Yahweh are on those who fear God, on those whose hope is in God's unfailing love, to deliver us from death and keep us alive in difficulty.

We wait in hope for Yahweh our help and our shield. In God our hearts rejoice, for we trust in God's holy name.

May your unfailing love rest upon us, O God, even as we put our hope in you.

Gathering Song

No. 34 VU

“Come, Now, O God”

Come now, O God of hope, we are your people,
pour out your spirit that we be one body.

Welcome & Greeting

God is with you.

And also with you.

Call to Worship



Prayer of the Day **Break Through**, by Sidney D. Fowler
Eternal Living God, the whole creation waits for you to break through our muddled human history, the endless days of sameness, the evening sky. Break through. Shake the foundations. Judge our compassion and justice. Heal all who suffer and are broken. Revive this creation that longs for you. Come Creator; Brooding Spirit; Ruler of Peace; Infant Holy; Emmanuel; Resplendent Light; Great Physician; Bread of Life; Jesus. Break it all open, God-with-us. Amen.

Hymn No. 1 VU “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Prayer of Confession (In Unison)
Refrain: Loving God, forgive us...

*Silent Prayer (time to sit in God's
Loving and Forgiving presence)*

Assurance of Pardon
Thanks be to God! Amen.

Anthem
Cantata Part 1 “Christmas is the Story of Promise”

Theme Conversation

Hymn No. 7 VU (Verse 1) “Hope is a Star”

Responsive Psalm No. 80 (Part 1)
Page 794 VU with Refrain



Hebrew Bible

Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Reflection

Hymn No. 215 VU (Verses 1, 2, 3) "Hope of the World"

Life & Work of the Church

Presentation of Our Offering

Offertory Hymn No. 581 VU "When We Are Living
(Verse 2)

Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.

Offertory Prayer

Passing of the Peace

Hymn No. 33 VU "Watch and Pray"
(Sing a few times)
Watch, watch and pray,
Jesus, the Word, will come.

Communion (See Insert)

Hymn No. 18 VU "There's a Voice in the Wilderness"

Commissioning & Blessing

Sung Blessing No. 649 VU
- Sing Twice -

(You are invited to join hands with those around you to form a "blessings circle")

Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.

Postlude

The church has a supply of **hearing units** for improved sound in the sanctuary. If you wish to use a set for the Sunday service, please pick one up from the sound booth at the back of the sanctuary.



Announcements

Leading the Service Today:

Clergy; Rev. Bethan Theunissen
Musician; Lynda Mundstock
Music Director; Marilyn Taves
Scripture Reader: Kim Harder

**Lectionary Readings for December 10, 2017
Advent II**

Isaiah 40:1-11
2 Peter 3:8-15a

Psalm 85:1-2,8-13
Mark 1:1-8

Budget Summary

Average Weekly Revenue Required to Service our 2017 Operating Budget	\$ 3,559.00
Average Weekly Revenue to October 31, 2017	3,500.00
Deficit as of October 31, 2017	561.00
<i>Deficit as of October 31 2016</i>	<i>(13,894.00)</i>
Average Mission & Service Weekly Revenue Required to Service our 2017 Objective	\$ 221.00
Average Mission & Service Weekly Revenue Received to October 31, 2017	183.00
Mission & Service Funds Received to Date – October 31, 2017	7,965.00
<i>Mission & Service Funds Received to Date – October 31, 2016</i>	<i>9,807.00</i>

For your information, complete regular Monthly Financial Statements are posted in the Narthex on the bulletin board next to the ramp.

We would like to acknowledge and thank The Grieve/Horricks Charitable Foundation for their generous gift of \$500.00 to Chilliwack United Church's Sylvia Horricks Bursary. This bursary is award to the winning competitor in the voice category at the Lions Music Festival.

A very sincere thank you to everyone who volunteered to organize, work, bake and cleanup at the *Annual Christmas Cake & Cookie Sale and Tea*. Your hard work made this another very successful event!

Purdy's orders will be distributed on Sunday, December 10. Thank you for your support of this annual fundraiser for the Mission & Service Fund.



We have information about the family we are sponsoring through the Salvation Army "Adopt-a-Family" Project. Please take a moment to check it out in the Narthex or at coffee time this morning. Your help with supporting "our family" is very much appreciated.

"Wear Your Name Tag Sunday" - Do you have a name tag? Do you need one? We encourage everyone to wear a name tag so we can get to know each other better and help Rev. Bethan get to know peoples names. *On Sunday, December 17, the date of our next pot luck lunch and our Christmas Concert*, we would like everyone in attendance to come wearing a name tag. If you would like to order one, contact the church office at 604-792-4634. Name tags are \$8.50 for a pin attachment and \$10.00 for a magnetic attachment, plus the applicable taxes.

Christmas Concert and Pot Luck Lunch – Come gather together to celebrate the Christmas Season with food, fun and music. *Bring your favourite food to share with others following church on Sunday, December 17.* Following the pot luck meal, we will enjoy our annual Christmas Concert.



2018 Church Calendars are now available! A very limited number of church calendars are available for purchase. They are a real bargain at only \$6.00 each. Get yours from the church office or talk to Sandra Jacob.

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the local Salvation Army Food Bank. Please place your donations in the Salvation Army bin located in our Narthex.

Our Chilliwack United Church Women continue to collect postage stamps. The stamps are collected for Eastern Star and are used to purchase cancer dressings.

As we approach the end of the year, please keep in mind that contributions for the 2017 tax year must be received by the church on or before December 31. *The church office will be open on Friday, December 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for your convenience.* We wish to thank all our donors for their wonderful generosity this year!

Offering envelopes for 2018 have been prepared and are ready to be picked up. If you made a donation through offering envelopes in 2017, a new set has been prepared for you. If you do not have a set of envelopes, but would like one for 2018, contact the church office at 604-792-4634 and a set will gladly be prepared.

Church Office Christmas Hours

Closed: Saturday, December 23 to Thursday, December 28 and Monday, January 1, 2018

Open: Friday, December 29
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Imagine: A Children's Retreat – Children ages 8 to 11 are invited to Stillwood Camp & Conference Centre at Cultus Lake for a weekend of fun and friends; February 16 to 18, 2018. Registration is online at www.imaginechildrenretreat.ca For more information, email marlynichol@gmail.com



Chilliwack United Church

Monday, December 4 to Sunday, December 10

Monday, December 4

No meetings scheduled for today.

Tuesday, December 5

9:00 Centering Prayer

1:00 Thrift Shop Open

7:30 Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 6

Rev. Bethan in the office

10:00 Thrift Shop Open

10:30 Drop In Bible Study

Thursday, December 7

Rev. Bethan in the office

10:00 Thrift Shop Open

Friday, December 8

10:30 Mission Ministry Unit Meeting

1:00 Thrift Shop Open

Saturday, December 9

12:00 Kiwanis Soup Kitchen

1:00 Thrift Shop Open

Sunday, December 10 – Advent II (Carolyn Gaunt leading worship)

10:30 All Ages Worship Service



Chilliwack United Church

45835 Spadina Ave.,
Chilliwack, BC V2P 1T4

Phone: 604-792-4634 ***Fax:*** 604-792-9667

Email: chwkuc@shaw.ca

www.chilliwackunitedchurch.com

***Minute for Mission
Microcredit Funds Hope***

Our gifts for Mission & Service support microcredit programs. Let us hear about one of these programs in Kenya.

Women with disabilities living in urban slums and rural areas of Kenya face multiple levels of discrimination and struggle to earn a living. Mission & Service partner the Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network (EDAN) has partnered with the organization Women Challenged to Challenge to address the issues of poverty these women face.

EDAN is a ministry of the World Council of Churches committed to the full inclusion of people with disabilities in church and society. Its goal is to break down the walls of fear and prejudice that prevent these people from having rich and meaningful lives. EDAN lives out this goal in different ways around the world.

In Kenya, EDAN and Women Challenged to Challenge have established a revolving loan fund that gives women with disabilities access to modest business loans. The loans, averaging US\$50, allow women to run their own small-scale businesses. These range from a vegetable stall in a local market to selling used clothing to making food to sell. No matter the business, what the loans provide is opportunity—opportunities for women to improve their families' lives and to provide shelter, food, clothing, and an education for their children.

We sing thanksgiving that Mission & Service is supporting women with disabilities in Kenya to improve their families' lives.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

(M&S Minute for Mission - Pg 53)