

McCLURE UNITED CHURCH
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Rev. Debra Berg, Rev. Brian Walton, Rev. Laura Fohse
Shirley Blackburn - Music Co-ord, Elin Sletmoen - Pianist
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The First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018

THE PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME

EMBRACING HOPE

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLES

***HYMN: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (#1 VU v. 1, 2 & 3)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Advent God, you call us to prepare a new way,
where justice, peace and hope may come.
We have not always done this.
Sometimes we think too much about the things we want,
even when we have enough.
Sometimes we forget to love and care,
even when we are cared for and loved.
Help us to not only prepare a way, but to be that way
ourselves. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

As we journey in Advent, we are not alone. God is with us each step
of the way, offering hope, peace, joy and love. These are the abundant
gifts of God for the people of God.

God is with us. Thanks be to God.

Sung Refrain: (#20 MV vs. 2)

*Spirit of Promise, Spirit of purpose,
Spirit of ceaseless prayer: bathe us in life full and free,
Kindle our wonder and hope.*

CHILDREN’S TIME

***HYMN: “Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope”**
(#24 Rainbow v. 1-4)

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH: (Announcements)

SCRIPTURE

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Help from Heaven” (Sacred Sounds)

SERMON

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

THE OFFERING

HYMN: “All Who Are Thirsty” (#4 MV sung twice)

***OFFERTORY: “In the Bleak Midwinter” (#55 VU v.4)**

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 – PRAYER OF JESUS

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be.**

Father and Mother of us all, in whom is heaven:

**The hallowing of your name echoes through the
universe!**

**The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the
world!**

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

**Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come on earth.**

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,

Now and forever. Amen.

***HYMN: “My Soul Cries Out” (#120MV)**

***COMMISSIONING:**

***BENEDICTION:** “Hope is a Star” (#7 VU v. 1)

POSTLUDE



As an Affirming Ministry within the United Church of Canada, in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, by action of the Board of McClure United Church, March 28, 2017:

McClure United Church acknowledges that for thousands of years Indigenous peoples have walked on this land, in their own country. Their relationship with the land is at the center of their lives. As we worship here today, we acknowledge that we are gathered in the traditional territory of the Cree, Salteaux, and Assiniboine First Nations and Homeland of the Metis, in the area most recently defined as Treaty 6, and we acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

And we also acknowledge that McClure United Church, as an Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada, is one that embraces diversity and strives to include and be a safe place for all people regardless of age, gender, race, culture, education, ability, economic status, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

