

**Fenwick United Church**

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Minister: Rev. Alan McLean  
Director of Music: William Outred  
Children's Ministry: Linda Sharpe-Pietras

**Sunday, December 3, 2017**

**Advent 1**

**Mission Statement:**

To be an inclusive faith community in Fenwick,  
practising the teachings of Jesus

\* *Indicates please stand, if able*

**We Gather As a People of God**

The Prelude

Words of Welcome  
Announcements and Parish Concerns

\* **Hymn MV 1** "Let Us Build a House" (*see insert*)

\* **Call to Worship:** (*responsively*)

Let every tongue give praise to God.

**Let us proclaim that God is with us,  
forgiving, liberating, and redeeming.**

Let us rejoice in our worship;  
let us be open to God's leading.

**We will praise the God of love.**

**Let us worship in Spirit and in Truth. Amen.**

\* **Prayer of Approach:** (*in unison*)

**Gracious God, your vision of peace and wholeness  
comes to us in sweeping revelations  
and in tiny signs of hope.**

**Kindle our hearts that we might be a hopeful people.  
Keep us from growing weary of waiting,  
lest we miss the glory of your appearing.  
Even so, come quickly, O God. Amen.**

Children's Time:

Collecting our Gifts for Pelham Cares  
The Journey to Bethlehem begins

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath - *The Looby/Brown Family*

Hope: The First Sunday of Advent

One: Today is the first Sunday of Advent, the Sunday in which we  
recall the hope we have in Christ.

Two: The prophets of Israel all spoke of the coming of Christ, of  
how a saviour would be born, a king in the line of David. They  
spoke of how he would rule the world wisely and bless all  
nations.

One: On Christmas Day, the Christ of our hope was born. On Good  
Friday, the Christ of our hope died. On Easter Day, the Christ  
of our hope rose from the dead. The Christ of our hope is with  
us always, calling us to see his presence and live his teachings  
in all the earth.

Two: As followers of Christ, we await his return. We light this  
candle to remember that, as he came to us humbly in the  
manger at Bethlehem and gave light to the world, so he comes  
now to deliver his people.

One: We light this candle to remind us to be alert and to watch for  
his presence.

**All: We live in this Hope.**

*Lighting of the First Candle*

**All sing:** “Hope Is a Star” - VU 7 (vs. 1)

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

**We Listen for God’s Word**

**Responsive Psalm 20** - VU pg. 742

Choir Anthem: “*Invocation for Advent*” - D. Besig

Gospel Lesson: Mark 13: 24-37 (*The Necessity for Watchfulness*)

Sermon: “Living between memory and hope”

\* **Hymn 29** “Hark the Glad Sound”

**The Service of the Table**

The Offering: We bring our gifts to the Table

\* Offertory Response: VU 538

**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love,  
and the gift of the Spirit by which we live,  
we thank you and give you  
the fruit of our hands.  
May your grace be proclaimed  
by the gifts that we give.**

\* Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People

**The Great Thanksgiving:**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

O God, in this season when we celebrate the coming of your Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks and praise.  
You created all things and called them good.  
You made us in your own image .....

Therefore, with the prophets  
and all who looked for a better age to come,  
with your people in all ages and the whole company of heaven,  
we join together in the song of unending praise, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy is your name,  
and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
whom you sent in the fullness of time .....

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

The Breaking of the Bread and the Sharing of the Cup  
Invitation to the Table  
The Communion

Prayer after Communion: (*in unison*)

**Who are we, O God, that you should come to us?  
Yet you have visited your people  
and redeemed us in your Son.  
As we prepare to celebrate his birth,  
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,  
and move us by your spirit to bless your wonderful works.  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,  
whose day draws near, even your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**We Go Out to Serve**

- \* **Closing Hymn 1** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (vs. 1,2,6,7)
- \* Commissioning and Benediction
- \* **Choral Benediction VU 18** “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”

**There’s a voice in the wilderness crying,  
 a call from the ways untrod:  
 prepare in the desert a highway,  
 a highway for our God!  
 The valleys shall be exalted,  
 the lofty hills brought low;  
 make straight all the crooked places  
 where God, our God, may go!**

**But the word of our God endureth,  
 whose arm is ever strong;  
 God stands in the midst of nations,  
 and soon will right the wrong.  
 God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
 the lambs so gently hold;  
 to pastures of peace will lead them,  
 and bring them safe to fold.**

Postlude

**Prayer List**

**Hamilton Conference:**

Let us pray for Emmanuel United Church, Hamilton in Hamilton Presbytery on the Prayer Cycle this week.

... and all those in the Fenwick congregation in need of prayer.

*Thank you to everyone who donated gifts for Pelham Cares.  
 They will be delivered this week.*

**The Life and Work of the Congregation**

**Welcome** to worship at Fenwick United Church. We welcome our guests, and pray that our worship time together will be a time of strengthening of spirit for the work of the week ahead. Please sign our guest book at the doors to the sanctuary and join us for refreshments and conversation in the church hall following the service.

**Our hosts:** The U.C.W.

**Greeting you:** Bob Pearce and Darlene McBride  
**Children’s Ministry Leader:** Linda Sharpe-Pietras

**This Week at Fenwick United Church:**

Mon. Dec 4	1:30 pm	UCW Meeting
Tues. Dec 5	10:00 am	Men’s Group
Wed. Dec 6	7:00 pm	Choir Practice

**Announcements**

**Monday, December 4** - UCW will meet at 1:30 pm to allocate funds.

**Wednesday, December 6** - Everyone is invited to Lessons, Carols & Cookies, an Advent service at Fonthill United Church at 2:00 pm.

**Memorial Poinsettias** – We will again be taking donations for memorial poinsettias this Christmas. If you want to dedicate a memorial to a loved one or a friend, see Myrna Angle and sign up your name and the name of the person you are remembering. Cost is \$5.00. A list will be printed in the bulletin near Christmas.

**Coats for Kids and Grownups** can be dropped off at Fonthill United Church, Central United Church or brought to Fenwick and will be taken to Central United in Welland for distribution.

**Choralis Camerata** will present *Handel’s Messiah* this afternoon at 2:30 pm at Welland Centennial Secondary School. Tickets: \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors.

**A Christmas Carol Sing** will be held at Wesley United Church this evening at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to attend this service of seasonal music with a massed choir and congregational singing.

## *First Sunday in Advent*

In this Advent of expectation  
draw us together in unity,  
that our praise and worship  
might echo in these walls  
and also through our lives.

In this Advent of expectation  
draw us together in mission,  
that the hope within  
might be the song we sing,  
and the melody of our lives.

In this Advent of expectation  
draw us together in service,  
that the path we follow  
might lead us from a stable  
to a glimpse of eternity.



**The United Church of Canada**

# December 3, 2017



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