

PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 2, 2018



Reflection:

“What Has This Got to Do with Hope?”

Rev. Joe Gaspar, Rev. Heather Power, Rev. Fred Monteith



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 275 Erb Street East, Waterloo, ON N2J 1N6
 519-885-0935 | parkuc@golden.net | parkuc.ca

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LARGE PRINT Bulletins, Voices United Hymn Books and Bibles are available from the ushers.

BULLETIN NOTATIONS:

★ Signal to stand, for those who are able.

VU~Voices United Hymn book **MV**~More Voices Hymn book

Welcome Visitors! We're glad to have you worshipping with us at Parkminster and would like to make sure you feel connected. Please take a few minutes to fill out one of the white information envelopes found in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or put it in the mail slot outside the office. Whether you'd like more information about Parkminster's programs, want to request offering envelopes, or have a question about becoming a member – or whatever else is important to you, we'd love to hear from you! Welcome!

GATHERING

Prelude: “People Get Ready” *by Curtis Mayfield*
 (The Band)

Welcome

Statement of Welcome

One: In gratitude and with respect we begin by recognizing the First Nations on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home, the Anishnawbe (A-nish-NA-bay) the Haudenosaunee (Ho-di-no-SHOW-nay), and the Neutral. We acknowledge, with regret, that this history has rarely been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

All: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning. Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.

One: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends. Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.

One: Welcome to each who is searching for meaning, who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

All: As we come together as church, we turn to one another with gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek blessing as we welcome the great gift of spirit in us, through us, and among us.

Joys and Concerns

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (*Children are invited to come forward to get a closer look at the Advent Wreath*)

Introduction

Week One—HOPE

One: Today is the first of four Sundays in the season of Advent.

This season is a time of anticipation as we enter into the ancient story and await again the coming birth of Jesus.

It is also a time of preparation, humbling our hearts to receive the gift of a lowly saviour and a vulnerable love.

**All: In the weeks to come,
we will prepare and wait
by lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath.
Candles that remind us
of the promises of Emmanuel – God with us –
the promises of hope, peace, joy and love.
On Christmas Eve our Advent journey will be over
and we will light the Christ candle
and give thanks for the gift of Jesus.**

One: Today we light the candle of hope,
despite all the evidence in the natural world.
We light the candle of hope
even though scientists tell us we only have
12 years to limit the warming we have caused to our
planet.
We have 12 years to slow the melting of the sea ice,
12 years to alleviate the severity of droughts, floods
and storms,
12 years to slow the increase of climate refugees.
Yet we light this candle of hope
for we remember the words of the Prophet Isaiah:
“A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.”
We light this candle of hope
for we know that the power of life is relentless.
Hope comes in watching, listening and cooperating
with what God is already doing in the world.
As we light the Candle of Hope
let us join in singing our Advent song ♪ MV #221

***I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
I am walking a path of hope,
lead me home, lead me home.***

One: Let us pray.

**All: Holy One, lover of creation,
 present in air, sun and water,
 present in human flesh,
 born among the creatures.
 As we begin our Advent journey
 in the midst of an environmental crisis
 that often overwhelms us,
 sustain us with glimpses of your hope,
 in the voices of young and old calling for a new way,
 in the wisdom of indigenous spirituality,
 that connects our well-being to the health of the
 planet,
 in the creativity and vision of eco-entrepreneurs.
 Help us to open our lives and wait
 with anticipation for the fulfillment of Your promises.
 Our journey begins, Amen.**

*After the candle lighting children and youth will leave for
 Sunday Morning Activities and return to receive communion.
 Happy Learning!*

*For babies and toddlers, there is the Family Worship Space
 at the back of the sanctuary. Each week, there will be an
 adult present so that the children can play and be cared for
 while parents worship. Parents are free to come and go from
 that space, according to the needs of their children.*

★ **Introit**

“A Light Is Gleaming”

♪ VU # 82

Passing of the Peace

One: The peace of Jesus the Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.



PREPARING

Prayer

All: God of the morning and the evening, as we rush about our days, often dismissive of your signs, give us pause. As we orient ourselves to your direction, let us become aware of your silence, let us notice your beauty, so that we may move in time with you again. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen

Jamie Miller, First United Church, Dryden, Ont.

Prayer of Confession 🎵 (2x) 🎵 MV #85

***Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.***

Words of Assurance

EXPLORING

Prayer of Preparation

All: Holy One you come to us in parable and story inviting us to find our place in your unfolding drama. We listen now to hear a word of hope; hope for ourselves, hope for this community of faith, hope for your creation. With hearts, and minds, and ears wide open we wait, for hope. Amen

Scripture: Luke 21: 25-36 (NT page 85)

One: This is the Good News.

All: Thanks be to God.

Questions for Reflection

What causes your heart to be weighed down and scattered about?

What gives you strength?

Where do you find hope?

Ministry of Music “In the Bleak Midwinter” *arr. Jay Rouse*
(Voices United Choir)

Reflection: “What Has This Got To Do With Hope?”

★ **Hymn:** “Beyond the Beauty and the Awe” 🎵 MV #80

RESPONDING

What Parkminster Means to Me

Offering – invitation

If you are visiting with us or are new to Parkminster please do not feel obligated to participate in the offering, your presence is your gift to us.

Offertory: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” *arr. Mark Hayes*

★ **Dedication:** “All Poor Ones and Humble?” 🎵 VU #68

Refrain

**Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
Our service he ne’er can despise;
Whose love still is able to show us that stable,
Where softly in manger he lies.**

★ **Offering Prayer**

★ **Hymn:** “As We Gather at Your Table” 🎵 VU #457

CELEBRATING – SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift our hearts in prayer.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

One: Blessed are you, Breath of peace, Giver of all life,
Source of love that knows no boundaries.

Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;
throughout the ages, your song of liberation has
impregnated us with your hope for a world where:

Those considered last and least are first and most;

Violence is overcome by the power of your ancient
love; and,

All siblings work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth, and send prophets
to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us.

**All: We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the
strength and courage to give birth to your love in
the world; for those who, like the shepherds, dare
to seek out your surprising presence; for those
who, like the wise ones, refuse to submit to the
wishes of oppressive powers.**

One: We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us
in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in tenderness
and compassion. We join in the Advent prayer of all
your people,

All: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

One: And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us,
we proclaim your goodness.

All: Holy, holy, holy ♪ VU #951
My heart, my heart adores you!
My heart is glad to say the words:
You are holy, God!

One: At this time, we also remember all with whom you
would have us share your feast.
We pray for all who are in sorrow or pain ...
All who are ill or alone ...
All who are close to our hearts ...
All who live with fear, oppression or hunger ...
All whose lives are blighted by violence, racism, or
poverty ...

For all whom the world counts as last and least.

We pray for the church and its many ministries, for nations as they strive for peace and justice, for an end to violence against women.

All: God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding, this wine the medium of our transformation, this table the foundation of our renewal, and this community the place of our rebirth.

One: At this time we remember Jesus, who on the night before he died, took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me." Likewise, after supper, he took a cup, saying, "This is the new covenant; remember me."

Gracious God, Breath of peace, Source of love, we pray for your Spirit.

**All: Make us, while many, one.
Make us, though broken whole.
Make us, despite death alive.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Wine

Sharing the Meal

Prayer after Communion

**All: We thank you, God, for breaking into our world and pouring into our lives and our experiences. We thank you, God, for this meal of thanksgiving and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells.
Amen**

This Week Let Us Pray For

World Council of Churches: Myanmar, Thailand.

Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle: Fenwick United Church (Niagara Presbytery).

Update from the Ariaratnam's

Ariam had a heart attack in August and had to have open heart surgery to do four by-passes. He is recuperating slowly and hopes to come to church soon. Thanks for your prayers and concerns, *Ariarani Ariaratnam*.

"WHAT'S UP AT PARKMINSTER!"

For a detailed listing of events, activities & notices please refer to the "What's UP" email sent out every Friday.

If you have an announcement you'd like to include, please email the office with a brief message. Deadline is Thursday at 10:00 a.m. To receive "What's UP" please contact the office.

A limited number of hardcopies are available in the Upper Hall.

FINANCIAL REPORT as of November 30th

As usual at this time of year, we have a little ways to go yet in order that Local Fund offerings match anticipated expenses for the year, and to reach or exceed the Outreach target.

LOCAL FUND \$300,000



OUTREACH \$80,000





Please refer to today's insert for a
**Complete listing of upcoming
 Advent/Christmas Services & Events**
 We hope you can join us
 as we prepare
 to celebrate this joyous season.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

Posters: To maintain a clear sight line for the office administrator and to keep our glass clean, please refrain from taping posters to the main entry doors. Bulletin boards &/or "What's UP" are great ways to advertise!

Community Events: Local events are posted on the bulletin board beside the Family Room.

Lost and Found: Misplaced something? Items that are discovered at church throughout the week are placed in the Lost and Found box across from the office. Feel free to have a look!

Defibrillator: A defibrillator is located on the wall at the top of the basement stairs.

Wheelchair: A wheelchair is stored in the custodian's storage room (aka the penthouse). Please return it after each use.

First Aid Supplies: A container of supplies is located on the top of the coat rack across from the office.