

# PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Advent – 2



**Reflection: “Divided No More”**

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



**PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**  
 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:** “The First Noel/The Holly and the Ivy”  
*arr. by Larry Shackley*

**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 – Week Two: *PEACE*

One: On this second Sunday of Advent we light again the first candle on our wreath, the candle of Hope.

*(a blue candle is lit)*

Today we continue our journey by lighting the second Advent candle: the candle of Peace. Even as we live with full awareness of the violence of climate change:

- People in the South Pacific who have become climate refugees as rising waters submerge their island homes.
- Animals forced to the brink of extinction as their habitats disappear.
- Powerful storms destroying homes and lives.

Yet we light this candle of peace for we recall the words of the prophet Isaiah: “A voice cries out: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” Peace is the path of right relationship—right relationship begins with repentance. As we light this candle, please join in singing our Advent song, (*a blue candle is lit*):



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

One: Let us pray.

**All: Holy One, who in the groans of creation,  
calls us back to relationship with you,  
calls us back to a relationship of humility,  
trust and gratitude.  
As we continue our Advent journey  
help us to repent of relationships  
of domination and submission in our lives,  
with each other and with creation.  
Help us to open our lives to a Saviour born  
vulnerable — under the yoke of empire,  
in the insecurity of poverty,  
running from the powers of the world.  
May the light of this candle  
ever brighten our path and help us to prepare  
and wait for the fulfillment of your promises.  
Our journey continues, Amen.**

*After the candle lighting children and youth will leave for Sunday Morning Activities. 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    *♪*                      “Let There Be Peace On Earth”                      *♪*

*Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth,  
the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we;  
let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.*

*Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,  
With ev-'ry step I take let this be my solemn vow;  
to take each moment and live each moment in peace  
eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.*

*Songs for a Gospel People*

## Passing of the Peace

One: God is the source of peace within us.

**All: In humility and surrender let us claim it.**

One: Jesus is the way of peace among us.

**All: With courage and faith let us live it.**

One: The Holy Spirit is the unity of peace between us.

**All: With generosity and joy let us share it.**

One: May the peace of Jesus, the Christ be with you...

**All: And also with you.**



Adapted—Rex A. Hunt

[www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy\\_collection/year\\_b\\_liturgy\\_collection/year\\_b\\_pentecostafter/pentecostb2452015.html](http://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com/liturgy_collection/year_b_liturgy_collection/year_b_pentecostafter/pentecostb2452015.html) One:

## PREPARING

### Prayer

**All: Holy Mystery who is Holy love, we long for your peace and trust in your promise. We hear your call to turn around and turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. Meet us here, and fill our minds with your wisdom, our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the**

challenge of your dream of wholeness for all your creation. We pray in the name of the One of peace. Amen.

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, your word which comes to us through very human words, both comforts and disturbs; breaks us open and makes us whole; invites us into mystery and shows us a clear path; and tells us we are loved. We are waiting for your word for us, we are waiting for your presence. Bless us in our waiting we pray. Amen

**Scripture:** Luke 3: 1-15 (NT page 60)

One: This is the Good News.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

#### Questions for Reflection

Who or what holds power in your life?

What path or paths are we being asked to straighten?

Ministry of Music “Prepare!” by Joseph Martin

Reflection: “Divided No More”

★ Hymn: “All Earth Is Waiting” 🎵 VU #5

## RESPONDING

### 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:**                   “Angels Medley”                   *arr. by Matt Hyzer*

★ **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

#### Prayers of the People

#### The Lord’s Prayer – Paraphrase

**Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo 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 for ever. Amen**

## RETURNING

★ **Hymn:** “There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”      🎵 VU #18

### ★ **Commissioning and Blessing**

★ **Sung Alleluia**      “Hallelujah”      🎵 MV #32

**Hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le, ha-le-lu,  
hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah. Hal-le-lu-jah!**

**Postlude:** “Allegro in G Minor”      *by Edward Broughton*

**Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer  
in various ways this Sunday:**

**Greeters:**.....Jean & Jack Wilson

**Ushers:** ..... Pat Smith, Marjorie Eveleigh,  
Kathy & Isaias Teves

**Lay Reader:**.....Jeanne Foster

**Counters:**.....Jim Bowman, Bill Spall

**A/V Coordinator:**.....Sandy Quehl

**A/V Operator:** .....Sandy Quehl, Heather Watts

**Chancel Arrangement:** .....Chancel Committee

**Coffee Hour Host:**.....Jean & Jack Wilson

**Coffee Hour Dessert:**.....Dolores Benedik

**The Ministry of Parkminster:** ....All of us

**Ministers:**.....Rev. Joe Gaspar (ext. 23)

.....Rev. Fred Monteith (ext. 22)

.....Rev. Heather Power (on leave)

**Music Director:** .....Neil Murray (ext. 25)

**Office Administrator:**.....Melanie Chisholm (ext. 21)

**Custodian:**.....Allen Switzer (ext. 26)

### This Week Let Us Pray For

**World Council of Churches:** Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam.

**Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle:** First United Church,  
(Waterloo Presbytery)



The flowers in the sanctuary are from the funeral of Enoch Martin.

TCOW – Colleen and Abbie will be selling baked goods after church on December 16. Thank you for your continued support for our TCOW trip.



### “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 December 2<sup>nd</sup>

We're nudging closer to our targets, but still have a fair ways to go. (Outreach: a minor correction from last week's total.)

#### LOCAL FUND \$300,000



#### OUTREACH \$80,000





## 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.

# PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH ~ DECEMBER SERVICES



**ADVENT 1: HOPE**

Sunday, December 2 at 10:00am  
Worship with Communion  
We light the Advent Candle of Hope

**ADVENT 2: PEACE**

Sunday, December 9 at 10:00am  
We light the Advent Candle of Peace

**ADVENT 3: JOY**

Sunday, December 16 at 10:00am  
We light the Advent Candle of Joy  
**Christmas Pageant** presented by our  
Parkminster children/youth  
**White Gifts** will be collected, blessed  
and dedicated during the service.

**ADVENT 4: LOVE**

Sunday, December 23 at 10:00am  
We light the Advent Candle of Love

**ONE DECEMBER NIGHT**

Sunday, December 16 at 7:00pm

A delightful evening of music showcasing the musical talents of Parkminster and Bluevale Collegiate. Tickets: \$10/person or \$20/family. You may purchase tickets the night of the concert or call Bob Hudgins at 519-741-4244.



**THE LONGEST NIGHT**

Friday, December 21 at 7:00pm

For some the Christmas season can bring with it reminders of pain, loss & emptiness. It is helpful to know we are not alone in these times. Please join us at Parkminster to gather in worship, share fellowship, and light a candle acknowledging our grief and loss.



**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Monday, December 24

7:00pm – Family service with lots of music  
10:00pm – Quiet, reflective service with communion, candlelight and carols



**\*\*\* WHITE GIFT TREE: December 2 – 16 \*\*\***

All are invited to bring in donations of new socks, mitts/gloves, hats, towels, personal hygiene products and more wrapped in white paper & place these items under the tree. Items will be donated to our friends at "oneRoof" in support of homeless and at-risk youth. Check out their wishlist for inspiration, [oneroof.org/wishlist/](http://oneroof.org/wishlist/). Items will be blessed and dedicated on Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>.

