

A BIG THANK YOU

Over the last two years, we've been on a journey. Today we celebrate being back "home." There are so many people who have helped us out and supported us over the last two years.

St. John's Seventh-day Adventist Church who gave a place to worship and made us feel so welcome.

St. Thomas' Anglican Church who gave us office space & place for our groups to meet.

Gower Street United Church who photocopied our bulletins and gave us meeting and event space whenever we needed.

Key Assets who let us use their meeting rooms for church council meetings.

Our Sunday morning tea time volunteers who made sure we never missed a tea time.

Coffee Matters who made sure we had coffee and tea from April until the end of October. Special thanks to Boyd Warford who delivered it.

Cochrane Centre board members and staff who have worked tirelessly to ensure the completion of the apartments and community space.

Church Council members who work on your behalf.

Group leaders, volunteers and members who kept their groups meeting and going during construction.

Our whole congregation whose attendance and worship and generosity have made it possible for us to continue to gather for worship and do God's work in the community.

Thank you all for your support.

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

***INTROIT:** O Ancient Love – Michael Joncas

***WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

Let our hospitality towards each other reflect God's love.
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

REFLECTIVE MUSIC #6: A Candle is Burning

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

God of hope, who brought love into this world,
be the love that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought peace into this world,
be the peace that dwells between us.

God of hope, who brought joy into this world,
be the joy that dwells between us.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

God of hope

be with us in our Advent journey

to the stable and beyond,

be with us in our meeting

and in our travelling together,

be with us in our worship

and our praying together,

be with us in our Advent journey

to the stable and beyond,

our God of hope. Amen.

***HYMN # 1: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs. 1 – 5)**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Tarie, Ebonee, Leslie, Obie, Amina, Lila and Nolan

Reader: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined... For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:2, 6)

Reader: Today we remember the prophets of old, who demanded to be heard, who dared to speak of a child to come, unexpected liberator of the people, vulnerable incarnation of the Holiest of Holies, a new name for God.

People: Today we give thanks for the prophets among us, who bring to us surprising new visions of hope, who challenge us to think outside the box, who show us a future we never anticipated.

Reader: On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of the prophets who renew our faith and remind us of what may be.

(Light candle.)

Hymn: Hope is a Star vs. 1

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.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Advent God,
we journey with you,
to Bethlehem's stable
and a new-born King,**

ears attuned to the song of angels,
eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.
Forgive us if on our journey
we are distracted by the tempting offers
of this world.
Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas,
and the promise of a Saviour. Amen

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Watch! Wait! God is bringing to you new hope and peace.
It is a gift, given especially for you--one that you cannot earn—it's a
gift. Praise be to the Giver of All Great Gifts, our Lord.
Thanks be to God. Amen

CHILDREN'S TIME

***HYMN # 28: Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness**

PLACING THE LAMBS TO THE BANNER Baptised while the banner was in storage:

Gabriel Simon Stowe-Piccott
Samantha Jane Peters
Nickson David William Molyneux
Calvin Clarke Greene
Amina Nyasha Hicks
Lila Maita Hicks
Nolan Rufaro Hicks
Silas Brendan Trevor Jewczyk
Liam Hayden Connors
Elliott Francis Stueken
Wyatt Raymon Benson
Benjamin Noah Beresford
Brantly Shawn Christopher Gallop-Boland
Darcy Sarah Durdle

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism of Lucy Beatrice Hopkins

Brothers and Sisters, we gather now to celebrate the gift of God's grace that is given to us in the Sacrament of Baptism.

We are one body and one spirit.

We have one hope in the risen Christ.

There is one Lord, one faith, one Baptism. One God and Creator of us all.

Out of the waters of baptism we rise to new life, forgiven of sin and one with Christ, members of Christ's body.

Presentation

On behalf of the congregation

I present the following person

for initiation into the Body of Christ through Baptism:

Lucy Beatrice Hopkins

Profession of Faith

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you promise to resist evil and to live in love and justice?

I do, by the grace of God.

Do you believe in the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit—in God, source of love, in Jesus Christ, love incarnate, and in the Holy Spirit, love's power?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in the mission and ministry of Christ's Church?

I will, God being my helper.

Vows for the parents:

Will you share with your child the Christian life, and seek to grow with her in faith, hope and love?

I will, God being my helper.

Vows for the Sponsor

Do you promise through prayer and example to support and encourage

Lucy Beatrice Hopkins to be a faithful Christian?

I do.

Vows for the Congregation

Let us pledge our support and care for those being baptized today:

**As a baptized and baptizing congregation, we
commit ourselves to support and uphold you
within a community that worships God, loves and
serves others, seeks justice and resists evil. May
God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.**

Let us with the whole Church confess our faith:

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give you thanks, Eternal God,
for you nourish and sustain all living things
by the gift of water.

In the time of Noah,
you destroyed evil by the waters of the flood,
giving righteousness a new beginning.

You led Israel out of slavery,
through the waters of the sea,
into the freedom of the promised land.

Blessed are you, O God.

In the waters of the Jordan,
Jesus was baptized by John.
and anointed with your spirit.
By the baptism of his own death and resurrection,
Christ set us free from sin and death.
And opened the way to eternal life.

Blessed are you, O God.

We praise you that in baptism
you give us your Holy Spirit,
who teaches us and leads us into all truth,
filling us with a variety of gifts,
that we might proclaim the gospel
and serve as a royal priesthood.

Blessed are you, O God.

Pour out, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us,
and upon this water
that this font may become our fount of blessing
and source of grace.

Blessed be the Lord our God, now and forever. Amen.

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

I present to you, Lucy Beatrice Hopkins a member of the Body of
Christ through Baptism.

In God's circle of love, we hold on to each other;
I can see God's love through you.
In God's circle of love, we learn to love each other;
Each of us is special, in God's circle of love.

Oh Lucy did you know that you are very special?
You're so special to us all
Oh come if you will to our circle of love.
Each of us is special, in God's circle of love.

In God's circle of love, we hold on to each other;
I can see God's love through you.
In God's circle of love, we learn to love each other;
Each of us is special, in God's circle of love.

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

***OFFERTORY HYMN #55 vs. 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

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

**Saving God,
look upon your world and heal your land and your people.
Prepare us to be changed.
This Advent, teach us to be tender and just, as you are. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 13: 24 – 27

Reader: Karen Chaytor

The Word of the Lord – Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: Run Shepherds – Victor C. Johnson

SERMON: “God Comes Near”

***HYMN # 9:** People Look East

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD’S LOVE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S PRAYER

***HYMN # 48:** Hark! the Herald Angel Sing

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

Holy God, Dreamer of dreams,
We offer Cochrane Street United Church to you. We are your people, this is your church. We come to you seeking your guidance, your purpose, your vision. Align our will with yours, so that we will be willing to do whatever it takes to carry out your plan. We ask you to break through in new ways in our church. Show us the great ministry you have in store for us. Help us dream your dreams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, giving us the vision, boldness, and confidence to do all that you call us to do. Amen.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: #895: Gloria

Glory, glory, glory, glory be to God on high!
And on earth peace to the people in who God is well pleased.

POSTLUDE

HOPE *peace*
JOY & LOVE