

December 2nd, 2018
Long Reach United 9:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent
Westfield United 11:00 AM

Two Rivers Pastoral Charge
An Affirming Ministry of the United Church of Canada
Advent 1 – HOPE
White Gift Sunday

WE GATHER IN HOPE

Choir Prelude

*indicates “to stand as able”

Response printed in **bold; yellow** on screen

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

“As we gather to worship, let us pause to remember that in this region we live and work and worship on lands that are, by law, the unceded territories of the Wabanaki peoples – predominantly the lands of the Mi’kmaq, Maliseet, Passamaquoddy and Penobscot. May we live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship with its people.”

Welcome Bienvenue Kulashkul

Life and Work of the Church

Lighting our Advent Candle

Lindsay Crossman, Griffin Crossman, Ronnie Sabean (WF)
Gwen Quigley & Family (LR)

Before the beginning,
when darkness covered the face of the deep,

God said,
“Let there be light.”

In December in Canada,
our days are short, and our nights are long
and sometimes we cry out to God,

Let there be light!

TWO RIVERS PASTORAL CHARGE
UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

Bayswater-Summerville, Long Reach, Westfield United Churches
133 Nerepis Road, Grand Bay-Westfield, N. B. E5K 2Z3
Office Phone: 757-2201 Office e-mail: wuc@nb.sympatico.ca
Pastoral Charge Website: www.2riversunited.com
United Church of Canada Website: www.united-church.ca

Clergy: Rev. Kate Jones (506) 343-1307
email: revkate.tworivers@gmail.com

Rev. Kate’s Hours

Tuesday 9:30 – Noon: Bayswater-Summerville United

Tuesday 1 – 3:30 PM: Westfield United

Thursday 9:30 – Noon: Long Reach United

Or by appointment.

Youth & Young Families Gabrielle Anderson (506) 651-2988
Ministry Coordinator email: anderson.yfmc@gmail.com

Music Directors: Long Reach Joan Small 763-2479
Westfield Bertis Sutton 757-2531
Bayswater-Summerville Peter Boyce

Worship Resources:

Come Now, O God of Peace, Geonyong Lee, Korean National Institute of Art
Sung Benediction: *Go Now In Peace*. Reproduced with permission under Licensing #605755.

Readers: *Shirley Cochran (LR); Youth Connection (W)*
Greeters/Offering: *Shirley Cochran & Natalie Wood (LR)*
Youth Connection (W)

Lectionary Reading for December 9th

Baruch 5: 1-9 or Malachi 3: 1-4; Luke 1: 68-79;
Philippians 1: 3-11; Luke 3: 1-6

Offering Invitation Offering

***Offertory Hymn:** *“In the Bleak Midwinter”* Voices United 55v.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 can I give him – give him my heart.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

**God of endless generosity,
with these gifts, we offer you our hearts.
Accept these gifts
and transform them to match the needs of the world;
and accept our hearts
and transform us into people who live the gospel.
We pray this in the name of Jesus,
the one for whom we wait. Amen**

WE SCATTER IN HOPE

***Closing Hymn:** *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”* Voices United 64

***Commissioning and Benediction:**

Sending Forth: *“Go Now In Peace”*
***Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe,
reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, Amen, Amen***



In these days of darkness,
we light our Advent candles,
bringing a little bit more light into this space each week,
as we await the birth of Jesus,
the Light of the World.

This week, we light a candle for hope,
hope for light in the darkness of this world,
hope for the fulfillment of God’s promises,
hope for God’s kingdom to come.

(our first candle is lit)

In the silence that follows, I invite you to close your eyes,
or focus on the flame.

Find the hope that you carry inside yourself,
or if you can’t find hope today,
ask God to help you to find it.

Jesus, shine your light of hope in us.

(2 minute silence, followed by a chime)

**Come now, O God of hope,
we are your people;
pour out your spirit
that we be one body.**

***Opening Hymn:** *“Jesus, Our Brother”* *Voices United 56*

Prayer of Awareness:

**God of our Advent Waiting,
as we move through these December weeks,
it is tempting to rush through Advent
and jump headlong into Christmas.
It is easier to read the familiar stories
than to live out the gospel.
It is easier to listen to familiar carols
than to hear the voices
of people crying out for justice.
It is easier to look at lights and decorations
than to see the faces of people who are struggling.
It is easier to worship the idols of culture and consumerism
than to bow down before
the newborn Prince of Peace.
Empower us, by your Holy Spirit,
to be people who do the
real, gritty, holy, grace-full and loving
work of Christmas
every day.**

Amen

Moment for Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance

WE LISTEN WITH HOPE

Sunday School Pageant (*Westfield*)

Story for All Ages

Gathering the White Gifts

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

Luke 21: 25-36

Reader: *This is the witness of God’s people.*

Musical Selection

Reflection

***Hymn:** *“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”* *Voices United 2*

WE RESPOND IN HOPE

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen

Minute for Mission

Dedication of the Sanctuary Wall

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*A very special Thank You to
Bob and Oriole Titus
for their generous Gift of Scripture
painted on the Westfield United Church
Sanctuary wall.*

*May we never forget that
"Christ is with us"*