



Richmond Hill United Church
An Affirming Ministry



November 28, 2021

The following resource is offered to help you worship at home, either on your own or online. The worship will be livestreamed on Zoom. Log-in details are sent weekly by email to those on RHUC's contact list. For a recording of the service, click the following link: www.facebook.com/RichmondHillUnitedChurch/. This will take you to our Facebook page. We may be apart physically but we are still a community of faith spiritually, and digitally.

Prelude: "Improvisation on a Come, O come Emmanuel" (Charles Callahan)

Words of welcome: Happy New Year and welcome to worship, my name is Rev. Ruth Noble and it is my pleasure to be in worship with you today. We begin the season of Advent, the season of journeying towards the season of Christmas.

Announcements:

Just a couple of housekeeping reminders:

If you are in the Sanctuary you can stand and sing as long as you are distanced and masked, offering is to be placed in the locked box at the back of the Sanctuary near the Nursery, please remain seated for the postlude and then exit on the Nursery side of the Sanctuary.

For those at home, please mute and sing loudly during the hymns, go to the website in order to donate through the Canada Helps portal.

Today we will be sharing communion, if you are in the Sanctuary please make sure that you have your celebration cup and if you are at home please make sure that you have some type of bread or biscuit and some juice or other beverage.

Let us take a moment to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Lighting of the Advent Candles: Joan Verner and Ian Wilgus

One: Arise and be bold, good news of hope is here!

All: The warm glow of the Divine lightens our hearts.

Two: Here we are together, not alone. We join with the cloud of witnesses here, there, elsewhere, and everywhere.

One: On this first Sunday in Advent, we will dream and imagine a different future, a rising-up and life-flourishing one.

Two: We are witnesses to hope. (*The first candle is lit.*)

All: Our habit of hope and hoping finds sustenance and meaning in God's promise of fullness of life

Sung Response: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star (More Voices #220)

Hope shines as a solitary star.

Faith is the inner light.

**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights
and illumine the pathway home.**

Acknowledgement of the Land: Let us now take a moment to acknowledge the land that we are on today, Richmond Hill United is on the land of the Anishaabeg and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit River, this land is part of Treaty 13 also known as the Toronto Purchase, if you know the territory and treaty where you are I invite you to silently reflect on whose territory you are on, as we strive to walk the way of reconciliation.

Call to Worship: Please join me in the call to worship that is projected on your screen, from Stephanie Dorsey

Emmanuel! God with us!
Incarnate one! Embodied one!
Crying one! Bleeding one!
At-table one! Loving one!
Hand-in-the-wounds one!
Signs-in-the-moon one!
Hear our plea!
Come! Be here now.

Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Voices United #1)

**1 O come, O come, Immanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**2 O come, O Wisdom from on high,
who ordered all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show
and teach us in its ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**3 O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**4 O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

5 O come, O Key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe for us the heavenward road
and bar the way to death's abode.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

6 O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
and bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
and turn our darkness into light.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

7 O come, O King of nations, bind
in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease
and be yourself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

Reflecting Together as a Community

Prayer: Loving God, you speak to us in so many ways, Speak to us now. Help us to hear your voice and follow in the way. Amen

Scripture:

Jeremiah 33: 14-18:

The Message Version

Ruth Perratt

'Watch for this: The time is coming'—God's Decree—'when I will keep the promise I made to the families of Israel and Judah. When that time comes, I will make a fresh and true shoot sprout from the David-Tree. He will run this country honestly and fairly. He will set things right. That's when Judah will be secure and Jerusalem live in safety. The motto for the city will be, "God Has Set Things Right for Us."

Anthem: "The Wilderness Shall Bloom" (David Lantz)

Message: "What is Advent?!"

Rev. Ruth Noble

Hymn: Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming Voices United #8

1 Lo, how a rose, e'er blooming,
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung.
It came a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter
when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Saviour
when half-spent was the night.

Sharing in a Spirit of Gratitude

Prayers of the People

Doug Loweth

The Prayer of Jesus translated from Aramaic by Neil Douglas-Klotz

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos
Focus your light within us—make it useful.
Create your reign of unity now—
through our fiery hearts and willing hands.
Help us love beyond our ideals
and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures.
Animate the earth within us:
we then feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all.
Untangle the knots within
so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other.
Don't let surface things delude us,
but free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.
Out of you, the astonishing fire,
returning light and sound to the cosmos.
Amen.

Our Mission: Donna Smith will share a Mission & Service message

Offering

Sacrament of Communion by Rev. Andrew O'Neil

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

In the rich dark of winter,... so that all God's people might rejoice together, singing:

O Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of time and space, All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heaven, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always! (More Voices #203)

We give thanks for the mystery and wonder revealed that first night... We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Sharing the Bread & Cup:

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Amen amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

Prayer after Communion At this table, Christ is the host, welcoming all who hunger. At our tables, may Christ be our guest this day and always, that we might welcome hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives, and become hosts to God's presence and people.

God of Love, guide us to the stables of our world, where the lonely and longing gather. Lead us to the mangers of our time, where hope and renewal are born again. Make us heralds of your love and joy. Amen.

Hymn: People Look East (Voices United #9)

**1. People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.**

**Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.**

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.**

**2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:**

**Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.**

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.**

**3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
Guard the nest that must be filled.**

**Even the hour when wings are frozen
God for fledging time has chosen.**

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the bird, is on the way.**

**4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
One more light the bowl shall brim,**

**Shining beyond the frosty weather,
Bright as sun and moon together.**

**People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.**

**5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

Called beyond Ourselves to Minister to the World

Blessing and Sending Forth

Postlude: "Toccata on O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (Page Long)