

Port Wallis United Church

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Minister: *The Rev. Ivan Gregan*, BA, MDiv. Assisting Min: *The Rev. Blake Caldwell*, BTh.

Secretary: *Cheryl Settle* Custodian: *Judy Zinck* Student Minister: *Tamsin Michael Robson*

Musician: *Adam Johnson*, BA, M.Mus., Mus.Ed.

* Εν αρχη ην ο λόγος * In the beginning was the Word * Au commencement était la Parole * An toiseach bha am Focal * Al principio, c'era colui che è "la Parola"

Advent 1

White Gift Sunday

28 November 2021

**Port Wallis United Church
is an open Congregation
that affirms you as a child of God,
made in God's Image,
and loved by God.**

WORDS OF WELCOME / BIENVENUE / FAILTE / PJILA'DIK

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND

We acknowledge that we are meeting in Mi'kma'ki,
the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

LIGHTING OF A CHRIST CANDLE *(for use at home and together on Sunday morning)*

You, O God, are light shining in the darkness of the universe,
guiding us onward from what was to what can be.
May this candle, whether lit or unlit,
remind me of your presence and bring me comfort in every day.
In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is the Light for our Journey.

A light shining in the darkness.

The Spirit fans the flame of faith so that it becomes

A light shining in the darkness.

Let us ask God to fill our lives that we may become

A light shining in the darkness.

GATHERING MUSIC *(tune at # 37 in Voices United)*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia! alleluia!

Glory to God! Glory to God! Glory in the Highest!

Glory to God! Glory to God! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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PRAYER OF APPROACH

Light for the Shadows, Beacon in the darkness, and Ray of Hope for the weary,
Walk with us on our journey,
show us the pathway home,
and disperse all clouds of confusion.

Send your Holy Spirit into our midst
that we may be filled with your breath of life.

Impregnate your people, once again, with a vision of new life.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who taught us to pray before You, saying,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father..... Notre Père..... Ar n-Athair.... 주님의 기도 Fader vår....
Ons Vader.... Onze Vader... Vater unser... Padre Nostro... Padre nuestro...
主の祈り 主禱文 أَبَاتَا Isä meidän Πάτερ ἡμῶν Baba yetu

HYMN *(St. Thomas at # 715 VU)*

The Advent of our God, with eager prayers we greet,
 And hastening onward to the Light, our Saviour God to meet.

Confusion may abound and fear grip many lands,
 But we will live in joyful hope and held in God's own hands.

We turn to God in prayer, with open heart and mind,
 And ask that God will be the guide for all of humankind.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty and Ever-Present God, we confess the brokenness that is in our world
between the vaccinated and unvaccinated,
between the hopeful and fearful,
between the churchd and the unchurchd.

We confess the brokenness in which we live,
Arising from what was said and cannot be unsaid,
Arising from what has been done and cannot be undone,
Arising from what was intended and cannot be taken back.

We confess the brokenness within ourselves,
Thoughts, words, and deeds that haunt us, torture us and imprison us in the land
of shame and regret.

Eternal God, You sent your son to redeem us, restore us and refresh us,
Hear now our silent confession that we make in the Presence of Jesus Christ our
Lord, Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE ~ HOPE

Hope admits that we are not there yet.

**Hope means that something good is within our reach
but we are not there yet.**

Hope calls out to us, encouraging us onward,
envisioning a future but we are not there yet.

**Hope is found in surprising places,
foretastes of a future in the present moment,
inspiring us on a journey to a place and a time and,
even though we are not there yet,
we have seen and know hope.**

God is our hope and fills us with hope.

**In the future lies a baby, found in manger, a surprising place,
they call out to us from the past and from the future,
and they lie within our reach – but we are not there yet.
We are still ‘a people of hope’.**

Congregational Response as the Candle of Hope is lit:

**A candle of hope we light at this hour
Proclaiming that God is coming in power.
We wait for a future, yet hidden from view,
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.**

Sung response (*# 6 in Voices United*)

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.

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SCRIPTURE LESSONS

First Testament: Jeremiah 33: 14 – 16

Responsive Lesson ~ Psalm 25

Reader, Congregation, *Choir (and Congregation)*

In You, O LORD, my God, I put my trust each day.

2 I trust in you; O LORD, my God, do not let me be put to shame,
do not let my enemies triumph over me.

3 I know that anyone who hopes in you will ever be put to shame,
I also know that shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.

4 Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.

5 Guide me in understanding your truth and teach me your will

for you are the LORD, my God, my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

In You, O LORD, my God, I put my trust each day.

6 Remember, LORD, your great mercy and love, from the very beginning you have shown us love and mercy.

7 Do not remember the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways as a teenager; remember me according to your love, for you, LORD, are good.

In You, O LORD, my God, I put my trust each day.

8 Yes, good and upright is the LORD;

God instructs sinners in the ways of holiness.

9 God guides the humble in what is right and teaches us the way.

10 All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful

toward all those who keep the demands of the Divine Covenant.

11 For the sake of your name, O LORD, forgive my iniquity.

In You, O LORD, my God, I put my trust each day.

12 Who, then, are those who honour the LORD?

They are the ones who seek our God's path and God instructs them in the ways they should choose.

13 They spend their days doing good, seeking the welfare of the people, and their descendants will inherit the Kingdom of God.

14 The LORD confides in all who love him;

and makes the covenant of love known to them.

15 My eyes are ever on the LORD,

for only God will release my feet from the snare.

In You, O LORD, my God, I put my trust each day.

16 Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.

17 Relieve the troubles of my heart and free me from my anguish.

18 Look on my affliction and my distress and take away all my sins.

19 See how numerous are my enemies and how fiercely they hate me!

20 Guard my life and rescue me; do not let me be put to shame,

for I take refuge in you.

21 May integrity and uprightness protect me, because my hope, O LORD, is in you.

22 Deliver Israel, O God,

Yes, deliver your people from all our troubles!

In You, O LORD, my God, I put my trust each day.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, amen.

Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3: 9 - 13

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2: 1 – 11 (*Gifts of the Magi*)

A TEACHING TIME (*a time of learning for younger folk*)

TEACHING PRAYER

In peace, dear God, I come to You through Jesus Christ who makes me new
And while I run or play or rest, be with those whom I love best,
Guide me in your Holy Way, as You walk with me each day, AMEN.

HYMN # 12 (VU) SHE WALKED IN THE SUMMER

She walked in the summer through the heat on the hill.
She hurried as one who went with a will.
She danced in the sunlight when the day was done.
Her heart knew no evening Who carried the Son.

Fresh as a flower at the first ray of dawn,
She came to Her cousin whose morning was gone.
But there leapt a little child in the ancient womb
And there leapt a little hope in every ancient tomb.

Hail, little sister, who heralds the spring.
Hail, brave Mother, who carries the King.
Hail to the moment beneath Your breast.
May all generations call You blessed.

When you walk in the summer through the heat on the hill,
When your wound with the wind and one with His will - be brave
with the burdens you are blessed to bear, for it's Christ that you carry
everywhere, everywhere, everywhere.

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REFLECTION

STATEMENT OF 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. Amen.

ANTHEM ~

OFFERTORY PRAYER ~ OFFERING PLATE AND A SYMBOLIC WHITE GIFT

Almighty and ever-present God,
 receive the gifts we offer, both visible and invisible,
 and use them and us
 for Your Glory and the good of all people.
 In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN # 43 (VU) GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
 behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
 rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,
 and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

PARTING PRAYER *(in unison)*

Bless to us, O God, this day,

The doors we open, the thresholds we cross, and all the roads that lie before us.

Go with us always as we go and,

at the close of our day, welcome us home.

EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLE

*We are reminded that the Light of Christ is not in candles nor institutions
 but within each of us. We are the Light of the World*

BENEDICTION

May the blessing of the Maker be yours,

Encircling us, above us and within us.

May the blessing of the Son be yours,

**The Wine and the water, the Bread and the stories,
to feed us and remind us.**

May the blessing of the Spirit be yours,

**The wind and the fire, the still small voice of calm,
to comfort us & disturb us.**

May the blessing of God, Three-in-One and One-in-Three,
be yours, this day and every day,

To protect us, defend us, encourage us and strengthen us.

And may we bless each other,

**A blessing rooted in our common pilgrimage,
the blessing of a friend.**

EXCHANGING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Mention someone's name and hold them in your heart.

CHORAL PRAYER *(Singing - Tune is at # 298 in Voices United) (Canada)*

When you walk from here,

When you walk from here,

Walk with Justice, walk with Mercy,

And with God's Humble Care. *Linnea Good 1991*

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