

Sunday Dec 1, 2024

10:30am

Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church

Advent 1

**Prelude/Announcement Video**

**Greetings**

May our loving Creator be with you  
**And also with you.**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Community Update**

**Moment to Gather Ourselves:**

Witnessing the hope expressed through love,  
as Dwayne Brian Guay & Sandy Patricia Joice affirm their wedding vows taken in the  
Dominican Republic.

***Prayer for the couple***

**Gracious God, send your spirit upon these two as they make promises to each other. Strengthen them in the years to come; surround them with loving influences, and place in their hearts the self-sacrificing love that you showed us by your living example. Bless them we all pray, in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

***Blessing by the gathered people***

Will you, the friends, family and faith family of Sandy and Dwayne  
do everything in your power to support these two  
as they continue build a life together.  
**We will.**

**Welcome/Call to Worship Gesture**

We are gathered in God's presence, the source of our hope

**Opening prayer**

Unison, drawing from Jeremiah 33:14–16, Psalm 25:5,9, and Luke 21:28,36)

**Long-Expected Jesus, the day of our redemption is drawing near! Your holy Advent weaves past, present, and future together in a timeless tapestry of hope, of gracious promises made and fulfilled. We remember your faithfulness to your people, O God, and we are encouraged. As we worship, keep us alert to your realm and watchful in prayer. We anticipate the future, longing to roll or walk, sit or stand more completely in your presence as we await your glorious return. Holy Spirit, lead us in your steadfast love; we humbly place our trust in you. Amen.**

**Opening Carol:** VU2, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free:

from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver; born a child and yet a king;  
born to reign in us for ever; now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

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### **Candle Lighting Liturgy**

Voice 1: A candle of hope burns...

*Voice 2: through longing, doubt, and despair,  
through earthquakes, famine, and drought.*

**All: Through it all, God is with us; there is always a spark of hope.**

Voice 1: Hope burns...

*Voice 2: in [name local situations and places where hope is being shared through actions];*

Voice 1: in the Fairview Resource Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where new parents can learn how to take care of their little ones.

**All: In every place, God calls us, to share and reflect the Lights of Lights**

*Voice 2: that is and is to come;*

Voice 1: our hope in a despairing world.

### **Sing: VU 6, A Candle Is Burning**

1 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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### **Minute for Mission**

Voice 1: Ministries and programs enabled by our gifts for Mission and Service is the United Church's way of living out our creed:

**All: We celebrate God's presence, we love and serve others,  
we seek justice, and we resist evil.**

Voice 1: Every gift for Mission and Service is used wisely,  
helps to transform lives,  
and provides healing and hope to thousands around the world.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

**Holy Wondering:** Praying for hope with our bodies

## Children's Hymn: MV 33, Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope (vs 1)

1. Jesus came bringing us hope,\* (3X)  
hallelujah forever more!

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## Prayer Of Confession

Merciful God, as the new church year begins, we know we are not ready for your coming. **We confess that we can be selfish, making choices that benefit us while hurting others, forgetting your desire for justice and righteousness to prevail.**

Sometimes, we find ourselves trapped in doubt and fear, worrying that there isn't *really* enough hope for us to depend on, or that you've somehow forgotten your promises.

**We are sorry, God, and we ask you to forgive us. Reorient us as citizens of your realm; remind us that we are your beloved children.**

We now pause to prayerfully search our hearts, sharing with you the thoughts, words, and actions that we so deeply regret and no longer wish to carry ... (*pause for silent confession*).

## Words of Assurance

Siblings in Christ, receive this good news; in Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven, and our hope is restored! The Psalmist boldly addresses God, singing "be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of (our) youth or our transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember (us), for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!" (Psalm 25: 6–7). We can be confident of God's steadfast love and mercy. All is forgiven! Thanks be to God, **Amen.**

**Scripture:** Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Luke 21: 25-36

Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** Were You There That Christmas Night

*Words and music by Natalie Sleeth*

**Message:** What is blooming in your soul?

## Offering Our Gifts

*We recognize all the gifts donated to help Christ's ministry here in Brighton, and this offering is one way we can continue to be Christ's hands and feet here in Brighton. As we pass the plate, we are also honouring gifts of ministry and love for Christ's work expressed in other ways.*

**Offering Hymn:** VU 8, Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

- 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.

Words: German, 15th century, English trans. Theodore Baker 1894; French trans. L. Monastier 1926. Music: German traditional melody 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius 1609. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #732922.

### **Offering Blessing:**

**Take our gifts this morning, Holy One,  
And may the signs of this time be softened,  
May they be filled with your hope,  
as you bless our generosity,  
And change this world, one heart at a time. Amen.**

### **Communion**

#### **Welcome to the table**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift our hearts in prayer.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

*Let us pray:*

Holy and loving mystery, you are our creator,  
You are our redeemer, you are the ground of our being.  
As we gather to share this radical meal of justice and hope,  
We give thanks for your promise that good will prevail.  
We remember the hope of the Jesse Tree,  
Your promise that the righteous one will one day rule our hearts.  
We remember the hope of this season,  
That hearts open to share, love guides our daily actions,  
And joy shapes our songs.

We thank you for the season of waiting, and remember Mary,  
Who waited in anticipation of the holy child.  
We remember Joseph, who chose love over social convention,  
We remember the shepherds who trusted in mystery.  
We pray that the same spirit may guide us now,

Helping us to sing through our sadness,  
love through our fear,  
and trust in your abundance even through our scarcity.

And so we wait for the same child, the new, green shoot of the Jesse tree, to be born in  
our hearts this season of winter.

Come, Lord Jesus, Come, and fill us with the hope of the season.

**Blessed are you who come in the name of the Lord,**

May your redemption and hope draw us even nearer to your presence.

**Blessed are you who come in the name of the Lord.**

Live in our hearts today, gracious Jesus,

And teach us your way.

Show us the true meaning of love:

**Give us the courage to love, even when the world says "hate."**

**Give us the power to heal, even when the world wants division.**

**Give us the hope of your presence,**

**so that anything is possible.**

At this time we remember your last night.

Eating with friends, you took a loaf of bread,

gave thanks, broke it, and said,

"Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me."

Likewise, after supper, you took the cup, saying,

"This is the new covenant; remember me."

Holy mystery, redeemer, creator and ground of our being,

We pray to you this morning in trust, asking you

To send your Holy Spirit upon all we do here, and transform us into the image of your  
holiness and mystery.

Change us so that there is no more crying or pain in our world.

But until that time, we hold up our suffering to you in trust:

Be with those of us who mourn...

Those of us who wait anxiously...

Those of us who worry...

Be with all our sisters who suffer violence because of their gender.

Be with all of us who struggle to control anger.

Be with our leaders: national, provincial, and municipal.

Be with all of us who long for peace...

*(Prayers are lifted for others today as we remember especially:*

*Keith Stainton; Bev McLean.*

*Please hold these people in your ongoing prayers:*

*Rebecca; Chris; The McArthur family; Bill; Nancy; Larry; Philippa; Ken; Mike; Richard; Henry; Danny Li; Alexandra; Ron; Margaret Knight; Barb; Lori.)*

Tend to us all, the way a mother hen shelters her chicks, the way a loving parent gazes upon a newborn in awe, be with us as we pray...

**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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP**

The body of Christ,

**the Bread of life.**

The lifeblood of Christ,

**the cup of blessing.**

Let us eat and drink together  
for our strengthening in the faith,  
and for the sake of the world.

*Communion is served*

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**We thank you, God,  
For giving us ancient hope  
In family trees.**

**We thank you, God,  
for this meal of gratitude  
and the holy stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn: VU 62, Once In Royal David's City**

- 1 Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattleshed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven who, with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

- 3 For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew,  
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

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### **Sending Forth:**

Once again, we begin the story started so long ago.

**We wait for the promise to take root in our hearts...again.**

Through the holy child, the messiah, the mystery we are nourished and strengthened to be God's people.

**May we be agents of hope, grounded in ancient truth, guided by holy light, and emboldened by God-with-us.**

**Choral Amen:** Amen Amen Amen.

### **Postlude**

#### **Announcements**

**Please join us** in person and on Zoom and Facebook, Dec1, 2024 at 10:30am for our worship service. You are welcome to wear a mask. Please wear your nametag and if you don't have one, contact Pamela (613-475-1311) in the church office to arrange one. If you wish to donate towards your nametag, our cost for ordering is \$9 per nametag.

**Scent Free Environment** –Please be mindful that many people suffer from scent-triggered reactions to personal products (such as fragrances, colognes, hairsprays, lotions and powders) that are perceptible to others and these should be avoided. Changes have already been made to ensure that the sanctuary, hall and other areas are scent free. With your support, we are creating a scent free environment that is welcoming for all.

**Colours for the Advent Season...**Starting on Dec 1, we are encouraging you to wear the corresponding colour for the week in advent as follows:

Dec 1 green; Dec 8 white or silver (White Gift Sunday); Dec 15 blue, Dec 22 red.

**On December 8th** we will continue the White Gift tradition by supporting the Legion's Angel Tree. Like last year we will focus on youth. You are asked to bring a gift, if you are able. We are not asking you to wrap it in white paper but we will have a white box at the front for you to drop off your gift. Also during the Holy Wondering time Trinity-St. Andrew's youth will collect gifts from those who do not wish to personally drop their gift in the box. Some suggestions for gifts include gift cards for Subway, Tim Hortons, McDonald's, the Drug Store - for personal hygiene products, or warm mittens/gloves, hats and scarves.

## Upcoming

Sun Dec 1	9:00am, Community Breakfast 10:30am Worship(1 <sup>st</sup> in Advent) 7pm, Candle Vigil
Tues Dec 3	3pm, Affirm & Equity mtg 6pm, LGBTQ+ support group 7pm, M&P mtg
Wed Dec 4	10am, Bible Study 5pm, Supper's Ready
Thurs Dec 5	9am, Joyful Strummers 9:30am, Choir 7pm, Brighton All Stars Showband
Fri Dec 6	6pm-8pm, Ten Thousand Villages Sale
Sat Dec 7	10am – 2pm, Ten Thousand Villages Sale & Grannies Bake Sale
Sun Dec 8	10:30am Worship Ten Thousand Villages Sale during coffee hour & Grannies Bake Sale 2:30pm, Vocalese Concert

### *From the Outreach Committee*

#### **The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women**

It has been over 30 years since the murder of 14 young women at Polytechnique Montreal (December 6, 1989). This act of violent misogyny shook our country and led Parliament to designate December 6 as The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. December 6 is about remembering those who have experienced gender-based violence and those we have lost to it. It is also a time to take action. This requires us to educate ourselves and speak up against harmful behaviour. Here is an Advent prayer written for the The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women taken from the United Church website

#### *God of Hope and Love*

Today we stand somewhere between peace and joy,  
Unsure where to find them  
In a world where women continue to be subject to violence  
Because they are women, because they are indigenous.  
Today it is hard for us to imagine  
The lion and the lamb together,  
To know that our hearts will rejoice  
At the arrival of justice,  
And yet, we persevere,  
We remember, and we persevere.

### *From The Worship Committee*

#### **Calling All Greeter/Ushers**

Please consider adding your name to the Greeters/Ushers sign up list on the bulletin board in the back hall. Thank you.

**Bible Study** meets every Wednesday morning at 10am, in the Quiet Room, a group of us meet to discuss the upcoming scripture readings or sometimes a book. You are invited to join us. Reach out to Rev. Wanda at [minister@trinitystandrews.ca](mailto:minister@trinitystandrews.ca) if you need more information



**Quinte Transit** is picking up residents from Applefest Lodge and Brighton Retirement Living to come to church. If you know someone who might benefit from this service, please let them know to advise their Activities Director.

***From the Fundraising Committee***

**175th Anniversary Shirts for Sale.** If you haven't already ordered a long-sleeve Trinity-St. Andrew's anniversary shirt, what are you waiting for? The long-sleeve shirts are perfect for this time of year and might even make a great Christmas gift! Featuring eye-catching artwork by our very own Sandra Candeloro, the shirts are available in a variety of colours and sizes for adults and youth at a cost of \$20 for short-sleeve or \$30 for long-sleeve shirts.

To place your order, please speak with Jeanette Cournoyer after church, email [jeanettecournoyer@gmail.com](mailto:jeanettecournoyer@gmail.com) or call 647-341-6095.

**Community Breakfast**, hot cooked breakfast, 9am Dec 1. All are welcome. Pay at the door. \$15

**Brighton All Stars Showband**, Dec 5, 7pm, free will offering.

**Ten Thousand Villages Sale**, Dec 6, 6-8pm, Dec 7 10am-2pm, Dec 8 during coffee hour and after Vocalese concert 4pm. **Grannies Holly-Jolly Bake Sale** will also be happening in the church hall during the sale. Proceeds will go to the Stephen Lewis Foundation "Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign".

**Vocalese Concert**, 2:30pm, \$20, tickets available from choir members or at the door.

**Military Wives Choir Memorial Concert for Keith Smith**, Dec 15, 2pm, \$20, tickets at the church office.

**Ian Simpson and Stephanie Bird Concert**, Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, 7pm, \$30. Tickets available at the church office or Lighthouse Books.

***From the Affirm and Accessibility Committee***

**Affirm Terminology for December... December 3<sup>rd</sup> is International Day of Persons with Disabilities.** This month we focus on equity for people with disabilities. Celebrated around the world, this day mobilizes support for critical issues relating to the inclusion of persons with disabilities, promotes awareness-raising about disability issues and draws attention to the benefits of an inclusive and accessible society for all.

One example of change that is happening to help society embrace the energy and capabilities of disabled people is the **Accessible Icon Project**. Started in 2016, the Accessible Icon Project designed a new wheelchair icon that shows action and forward movement. One disabled person noted about the new icon "the chair is part of the person, the person isn't part of the chair!" For more information and free downloadable versions of this new icon, visit [accessibleicon.org](http://accessibleicon.org).

Recently, the East Central Ontario Regional Council hosted a book study related to people living with disabilities. The book that we discussed is titled **My Body is Not a Prayer Request** by Amy Kenny. It is an eye-opening and informative read about the challenges and discrimination that disabled people face every day, written by a woman who has lived with a disability since a young age. We highly recommend this book if you want to better understand the lived experience of disabled people, especially as it relates to the oppression they face from organizations such as churches.

**LGBTQ+ Family Support Group.** This group is for parents, grandparents, friends and loved ones of LGBTQ+ family members who would like to join a group of the same to share their experiences and learn how to support their loved ones in healthy and meaningful ways. Join us the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Quiet Room at the church. Next meeting is Tuesday, Nov 5,

2024. Please enter via double doors of the church hall. For more information, contact Jeanette Cournoyer or email: [brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com](mailto:brightonlgbtqgroup@gmail.com).

**Hate Crimes Against 2SLGBTQIA+ Community Surge**

An alarming trend of escalating hate crimes targeting the 2SLGBTQIA+ community has been brought to light in a recent Statistics Canada report. The data shows a staggering 225% increase in hate crimes based on sexual orientation over the past five years. The United Church of Canada has also seen a concerning rise in hate-related incidents directed at its affirming communities. These senseless acts, including vandalism, harassment, and online abuse, highlight the urgent need for increased awareness and support. Read the [full news story](#) and be an ally for LGBTQIA+ people in your community!

**Vandalism of church steps and doors.** As you may be already aware, the church's rainbow steps and doors were vandalized last Sunday night. The Affirm & Equity Committee has been highlighting in previous bulletins the fact that hate crimes against LGBTQ+ people and organizations has dramatically increased in recent years. This act of vandalism on our church property is a prime example of how much more work there is to be done here in Brighton (and beyond) to ensure that EVERYONE is safe and valued in this community. As an Affirming Congregation, we have made many positive strides in supporting LGBTQ+ people but, clearly, we need to continue our efforts!

**Please join us tonight, Sunday, December 1st, at 7:00 p.m. on the church steps for a candlelight vigil** and to sing songs of peace and love. Together, we will demonstrate our solidarity against hatred and violence. Together, we will make a difference in creating a better world for everyone!

	<b>YTD October 2024</b>	<b>YTD October 2023</b>
TOTAL INCOME	\$194,784.04	\$159,212.55
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$207,891.62	\$194,097.89
VARIANCE	(\$13,107.58)	(\$32,885.34)
General Fund BALANCE	\$41,006.38	
CONTINGENCY FUND BALANCE	\$44,094.51	

***From the Property Committee***

A new tap has been installed in the kitchen making it easier to fill coffee pots with no overflow of spraying water.

**The church office is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10am – 12:30pm  
Pamela works from home on Mondays and Tuesdays.**

**Brighton Christmas Hamper Program**

All applicants must apply in person.

Please call Evangel Pentecostal Church, 30 Butler Street, 613-475-2444 to make an appointment. (see the poster on the bulletin board, for more information)



**Brighton All Stars  
Showband**

**Brighton your  
Christmas**

**Thursday, December 5th**

**@ 7pm**

**Trinity St Andrew's Church Brighton  
Special Guest Ian Roy**

**FREE WILL OFFERINGS**





TRINITY-ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH  
56 PRINCE EDWARD STREET, BRIGHTON

# Harm Reduction & Naloxone Workshop

**JANUARY 26, 2025, 12:00 PM**

12:00 - 12:20 PM  
Pizza lunch

12:20 - 2:00 PM  
Learn about:  
Drug use, stigma & harm  
reduction strategies.  
Hear insights from  
someone who lived with  
an opiate addiction.



Presented by Nichola Davies,  
Harm Reduction Specialist from  
the Peterborough AIDS Resource  
Network (PARN).

**This is a free presentation, open  
to all in an accessible venue.**

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For more information contact:  
admin@trinitystandrews.ca  
or call 613-475-1311