

DEC 1ST, 2019 **HOPE UNITED CHURCH** 10:30 AM

First Sunday of Advent

WELCOME

(▲ Please rise in body or in spirit)

Prelude

Welcome and Life & Work of the Church

Birthday Coins for the Birthday Church!

Happy Birthday to you. To Jesus be true.

May God's richest blessings abide over you.

FIRST SUNDAY – *The Gift of Hope*

Advent Candle Lighting – Light of Hope

Choral Introit

Responsive Litany

We begin the season of Advent with expectant and believing hearts.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the darkness
that so often exists around us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the doubt that so often resides within us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

During Advent we confront the division
that so often occurs between us.

We wait upon the Lord and place our hope in God's word.

Candle Lighting (Simmons family)

This morning we light the first candle which reminds us of the ultimate hope that comes through our Saviour's birth.

In a world where we often get overwhelmed by circumstances, Advent comes as a gentle whisper offering us hope to heal the broken, befriend the lonely, and share the good news of the Gospel. This morning let us begin this Advent season with expectant and believing hearts.

Sung Response

***Light of life, Maker of day,
Gather our shadows and cast them away,
Beacon of truth, gleaming and bright,
Shine in our hearts, shatter our night.***

Prayer (*together*)

Gracious God, as we embark upon another Advent journey, we pray that we would be encouraged by hope, strengthened in unity, and inspired through faith. May our ears be open and our hearts ready to receive the gift of hope embodied in the Word made flesh. We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

▲ Hymn **VU 8 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

Scripture Sparks Bible Micah 5: 2-5

Growing in Faith

We Hear the Word of God

Scripture

Isaiah 2: 1-4

For the word in scripture among us & within us...

Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music *O Come to Us, Emmanuel*

Video Presentation *"A City Destroyed: The Halifax Explosion"*

Reflection Rev. Sean Handcock

Prayers of the People and **The Lord's Prayer**

▲ Hymn **MV 154 Deep in Our Hearts**

We Offer Our Gifts

The Presentation of Our Offering ~ *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*

▲ Sung Response **VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter (v.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.***

▲ Prayer of Dedication

We Journey Forth

▲ Sending Hymn **VU 36 Angels, from the Realms of Glory**

▲ Commissioning & Benediction

▲ Song of Dismissal **VU 7 Hope is a Star
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.**

Postlude



Today's bulletin is dedicated by the Pineo family
in loving memory of Joan Testa, a loving sister and aunt.



A warm welcome is extended to all.
Visitors are invited to sign the guest book in the church entry.
Newcomers, please fill out a WELCOME card and place it
on the offering plate so we can get to know you.
There is a Social Time in the Lower Hall following worship.

Thanks to Today's Participants:

Greeters: Margaret Murray & Phyllis Smith
Announcer: Geoff Lewis
Elevator: Parker Verboom
Audio/Visual: Jared Oxner/Paul Verboom
Social Time: Logie/Beeler/Hale families

Mission Statement

Hope United is a welcoming, inclusive family of faith,
committed to a life of love and serving God
in the community and throughout the world.

THROUGH THE WEEK Dec 2nd – 8th

Mon	7-9 pm	4 Way Harmony	Hoyt Room
Tues	11:00 am	Chair Yoga	Parlour
	6:00 pm	Dinner	Lower Level
	7:00 pm	Board meeting	Hoyt Room
Wed	10-11:30 am	Seniors Meet & Greet	Hall
	5-9 pm	Special Olympics	Lower Level
	7:00 pm	Choir practice	Hoyt Room
Thu	11:00 am	Chair Yoga	Parlour
	7-8 pm	Hfx Hawks	Hall
Fri	9:30-noon	Quilters	Parlour
Sat	1-4 pm	Berhan Education	Parlour/Hall
Sun	10:30 am	Christmas Choral Celebration	
		with the choirs of Hope & Port Wallis	
	7:00 pm	Youth Group	Hall

Condolences are extended to those who remember
Rev. Dr. Joseph Burke, who preached the final message
at Oxford Street United Church.
Rev. Dr. Burke passed away in Ottawa in September.

Announcements for December 1st

FINAL WEEK! Broadview magazine – Time to Renew! It is time to
renew subscriptions for the **United Church of Canada's national
magazine**. Hope United has a group subscription – the cost for each
person is **\$25/year – delivery is direct to your home**. Payment can be
submitted to the church office by cheque made out to Broadview. There
are envelopes provided on the Greeters tables. **Deadline is TODAY
December 1st**. Please let the office know if you are not renewing.

Considering a subscription? - there are samples of recent copies of
Broadview on the greeters tables if you want to check it out.

Thank-you to all who contributed to our mitten tree this year. We
had a generous amount of warm and cozy items donated. They were
divided up into four large bags and have been delivered to Cunard
Street Day Care Center, Phoenix House, Brunswick Street Mission
and Family Resource Center in Fairview. Our thanks to Dee Crawley
for making those deliveries.

Phoenix House is smiling! 47 toothbrushes and 15 tubes of
toothpaste were donated - Thank You for responding once again!

The stockings have been hung under the windows with care! The Mission and Outreach committee would like you to consider taking a stocking to fill for **Metro Turning Point** or **Stepping Stones**. They need to be returned by **December 15th**. If you have questions or need further explanation, please contact Janet Ward at 457-1607. Thanks in advance for supporting our Christmas outreach projects.

Advent Canned Christmas Tree: Once again throughout advent we will be building a Christmas tree of canned goods collected for Parker Street Food Bank. The tree will start on **Sunday Dec 1st** with 1.36 L juice cans and will continue upward each week until we reach the Star.

Advent 1, Dec 1: 1.36 litre - juice

Advent 2, Dec 8: 796ml or 28oz - soup, stewed tomatoes

Advent 3, Dec 15: 540ml or 19oz - chunky soup, beans, kidney beans

Advent 4, Dec 22: 284ml or 10oz - soup, canned vegetables

Homemade Jam & Pickles for sale TODAY with all proceeds going to support the refreshments we enjoy at Social Time each week. Pick up some jars for yourself or for gifts!

A New Year of Faithful Giving: The office will be preparing **2020 lists for offering envelopes and PAR** in the next few weeks. If you plan any changes to your giving in the new year, please contact Nancy in the Church office: 902-455-0261 or office@hopeunitedchurch.ca.

Have you considered switching to the convenience of Pre-Authorized Remittance? PAR brochures/forms are at the back of the sanctuary.

Donations needed for Sunday School Pageant Costumes by Sunday, December 1st during worship as a team will be getting together following worship to assemble them. Yes, the Sunday School is putting on a **Pageant again this year on Dec. 15th** during regular worship time. We have many of the costumes already thanks to donations & hard work of volunteers in years past. However, this year we will have a couple new “stars” so we need: yellow & white Bristol board, strong yarn, lights with battery packs, markers, glue sticks and white glue, tinsel or glitter. Donations can be given to Caitlin or Melissa on Sundays or brought into the office during office hours during the week. Thank you for all the support you have given us and are able to give!!

Haven't tried Fundscrip yet? This easy-to-use program allows our church to turn your everyday spending into ongoing fundraising. Simply buy gift cards from us or on-line for participating retailers and up to **15%** is donated back to the church. Many of these are retailers you already use - plus cards can be used as a great gift alternative on special occasions or as a donation. Use invitation code **3M3RWE** at **www.fundscrip.com/retailers** or contact Barb 457-1112 for info. Order day is the first Sunday of each month.

Help with Sunday School: We are looking for Sunday School teachers and helpers as well as Sunday morning youth class helpers. No experience is necessary. An easy-to-use curriculum is provided. If you are interested or want more details, please contact Shanna at shanna.trenaman@dal.ca or 902-446-5155.

Snack donations for Sunday School & Youth Group: We are looking for things like goldfish, granola bars, crackers (e.g. Ritz, Veggie Thins), frozen juice concentrate, veggie sticks... This will defray costs for this portion of our programming. Preferably low sugar and nut free.

The NEW “Gifts with Vision” order booklet is here! Please make yourselves acquainted with this "Giving Catalogue" designed to broaden knowledge and awareness of the work of the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. It is an opportunity for special family projects or to mark celebrations and honour special persons in our lives. Feel free to borrow a hard copy from the back of the sanctuary or access on line: **giftswithvision.ca**

Invitation from Jakar and family: TODAY!

Jakar and his family invite you to a "Thank You" event on **Sun Dec 1st from 1pm - 3pm** for them to express their sincere thanks for all your support and well wishes over the past years. Without your support both financially and spiritually their lives would have been very different.

Jakar now lives at **16 Bently Drive**, Fairview where he has rented a conference/party room to host this event. Dress is casual. You are welcome to bring any food or drink you would prefer but that is not necessary. Any questions, please call his uncle, Baran at 902 830 5609.

Hope to see everyone there!!

Rich Rhodes, Chair, United for Refugees Committee

Community Announcements for December 1st

Out Of The Cold Halifax, an emergency homeless winter shelter, will open again this season and is reaching out to Halifax congregations for volunteers who are open to working frontline evening, overnight, and morning shifts with guests, prepare meals, provide daytime assistance, or maybe ferry clothes to and from the laundromat. If interested, please contact Liam Power, Volunteer Coordinator, Out of the Cold 902-210-5426 volunteerotcs@gmail.com. There are sheets with further information on the sanctuary bulletin board.

Each summer for the past 50 years, **Camp Kidston** has brought hundreds of children and youth together to play, learn, and celebrate creation. We are **now welcoming new members to our Board and Committees** to help ensure the future of this very special part of the United Church. If you want to support youth in your community, if you enjoy team work, if you have skills in the areas of human resources, program development, faith education, leadership training, facility management, marketing, fundraising, environmental education, or other related fields, and if you can share a few hours a month of your time, we would love to hear from you.

Please email campkidston@campkidston.com for more information.

Nova Voce Men's Choir and Halifax Boy's Honour Choir present An Evening of Seasonal Music at **St. Andrew's United**, corner of Coburg and Robie **Friday December 6 at 7 pm**. Doors open at 6:30 pm. This year the choirs will be joined by the Sackville Community Band Brass Quintet. Tickets: \$20, \$10 children under 10; available from choristers & on line at www.novavoce.com Tickets sell fast! 902-457-0920

John Gracie Concert with Guest Performance by Dunnery Bond & Friends. **Sunday, December 1st at 4:00 pm**. Doors open at 3:15 Tickets \$25 **St. Margaret of Scotland**, 3751 Robie St. Seating: General Admission. Reserve tickets by calling 902-495-8883

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**Minister:** Rev. Sean Handcock      [sean@hopeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:sean@hopeunitedchurch.ca)  
**Children, Youth & Families:** Caitlin Smithers      [caitlin@hopeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:caitlin@hopeunitedchurch.ca)  
**Office:** Nancy Nelson      **Mon-Fri, 9am to noon** 902-455-0261  
**Organist:** Rafael Alcolado      **Music Director:** Barbara Pate  
**Percussion:** Brad Ruggles      **Webmaster:** Paul Verboom  
**Website:** [www.hopeunitedchurch.ca](http://www.hopeunitedchurch.ca)      **Email:** [office@hopeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@hopeunitedchurch.ca)  
**Facebook:** Jana Forgrave      [forgravejana@gmail.com](mailto:forgravejana@gmail.com)  
**Ministers Emeritus:** Rev. John Roberts, Rev. Diane MacVicar  
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