

Tsawwassen United Church

2nd Sunday of Advent

Dec. 9, 2007, 10:00 AM

During the season of Advent we wait expectantly to celebrate the arrival of the Christ child and the coming of God's realm of peace. The colour for Advent is blue.

*Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.
At the points marked "✱", those who are able are invited to stand.*

THE PEOPLE GATHER

PRELUDE: Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

~ George Blake

SCRIPTURE SENTENCE: *(Micah 7:7)*

But as for me, I keep watch for the Lord;
I wait in hope for God my Saviour;
my God will hear me.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(see back of bulletin)*

*OPENING HYMN: On Jordan's Bank

VU 20

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER:

**God of the unexpected and undreamt:
In this holy season, instill your hope in our hearts.
Prepare us;
prepare us so we can hear again the song of the angels
and see again the beckoning star. Amen.**

*HYMN: Peace is a Ribbon

VU 7, v. 2

JUNIOR CHOIR: What Gift Can I Bring? ~ Christi Cary Miller & Kathlyn Reynolds

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES: *(with Alex Robson)*

We light the second candle — the candle of PEACE.
As in the days of the prophets, we cry, "peace, peace," where there is
no peace.
We long for your kingdom to come fully in justice and love.
We are waiting Lord, waiting and watching.
Come to us we pray. Come as the dawn, radiant in splendid peace.
Shine upon us with your saving grace
Bring us your peace.

WE VISIT THE MANGER TOGETHER

(Children leave.)

*INVITATION TO CONFESSION: Prepare the Way of the Lord VU 10
(*Sung once by the Choir, then once by the congregation.*)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*see back of bulletin*)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

CHOIR'S ANTHEM: Christmas Is Coming ~ Joel Raney
(*Handbells: Michele McLaurin, Melanie Williams, Marcie Henry*)

READINGS: (*Reader: Marleen Soutar*)

Isaiah 11:1–10

pew Bible O.T. page 609

Matthew 3:1–12

pew Bible N.T. page 2

SERMON: "A Strange and Startling Message"

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*HYMN: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence VU 473

OFFERTORY — CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CONGREGATION'S LIFE & MINISTRY

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION (*please see insert*)

(*Reader: Katie Tuura*)

THE LAST WORD: Romans 15:4–13

pew Bible N.T. page 154

*CLOSING HYMN: People, Look East VU 9

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Flung Wide the Door

~ Henry Balcombe

Communion Prayers

May God be with us.

God is here among us.

Let us open our hearts to God.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Child: Why do we give thanks and praise at this table?

Presider: We give thanks because God is always with us.

We thank you, God, Creator of us all;

from the beginning you made the world and all its creatures.

You made people to live for you and for one another.

We praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

You created Adam and Eve and gave them a garden;

you showed Noah a rainbow;

you gave Moses strength to free your people

and taught Miriam to sing;

you gave courage to Esther

and loyalty to Ruth;

you gave David a harp to sing your praise,

and helped him defeat the giant.

We praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

Yet, even they turned away from you

and forgot about you, as we do too.

But you did not forget.

You sent Jesus to the world

to show how much you love us

and to bring us back to you again.

We praise you, O God.

We praise you, O God.

He came as one of us,

first an infant, then a child,

later a youth, then an adult.

He rejoiced with those who rejoiced,

and wept with those who wept.
To the despairing, he spoke a word of hope.
To the sick, he gave healing.
To the hurting, he was a friend.

Still, people turned away from you.
They betrayed Jesus and nailed him to a cross.
But he was lifted from the grave and restored to life,
that he might be with us and we with him,
alive for evermore!
Therefore with all the saints of every time and place,
we join the angels in their praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Child: Why do we eat bread at this table?

We gather at this table to remember that
on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his friends,
he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it,
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:
“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Each time you do this, remember me.”

Child: Why do we drink from the cup at this table?

That same night, Jesus also took a cup, and after giving thanks,
passed it to his friends, saying:
“Drink. This cup, poured out for you,
is the promise of God.
Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

Child: What do we remember at this table?

We remember Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection;
we await with hope his coming again
to bring peace and justice to the earth;
and we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Child: For whom do we pray at this table?

Presider: We pray for God's world

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here,
that we and these gifts, touched by your Spirit,
may be signs of life and love to one another,
and to the world.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory is yours, God most holy,
now and forever.

Amen.

The prayer continues with The Lord's Prayer (VU 921)

*Please return this insert to the basket on the table in the narthex
for use during a future communion service.*

Welcome to Tsawwassen United Church

www.tsawwassenunited.org

693 53rd Street, Delta, BC ☎ 604-943-2911 ☎ E-mail: info@tsawwassenunited.org
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday to Friday

MISSION STATEMENT:

*Reaching in, we strive to grow in Christ.
Reaching out, we nurture God's world.*

- Newcomers:** If you are a newcomer, please sign our guest book in the narthex. Feel free to take home a "Welcome to this Place" brochure available on the table in the narthex. Our website contains more detailed information and a listing of upcoming events.
- Nursery Room:** Parents of infants and toddlers are invited to use the nursery room. The service can be heard there. Please ask an usher for directions.
- Sunday School:** Children are invited to participate in the Sunday School program, as indicated in the service bulletin.
- Fragrance Free Policy:** Tsawwassen United Church is a "fragrance free" building with regards to the scents that people wear.
- Sign-Up Sheets:** The sign-up sheets for counting, scripture reading and greeting, are posted on the bulletin board to the left of the nametags board in the narthex for referral and further signing-up.
- Large Print Hymnals:** There are large print hymnals available on the table in the narthex for the vision impaired.
- Assisted Listening:** There are assisted listening devices available on the table in the narthex for the hearing impaired. Please ask an usher for directions on where to sit so it can be plugged in.
- Bulletin Deadline:** Please note that the deadline for the bulletin is Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. Announcements can be e-mailed to malmond@tsawwassenunited.org.
- E-Letters:** The minister sends weekly letters via e-mail to members of the congregation. Please make sure the minister has your e-mail address. The e-letters are also posted on the church website at www.tsawwassenunited.org/ministersletter.htm. For those without internet access a printed copy of the e-mail can be found on the table in the narthex.
- Minister's Hours:** The minister's work days are Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Days off are Monday and Friday. If you have pastoral concerns or would like a visit from the minister, Rose-Hannah, please notify the church office.

Contacts

Minister:	Rose-Hannah Gaskin	604-943-2911 rose-hannah@tsawwassenunited.org	
Director of Music:	Leona Prowse	604-943-2911 lprowse@tsawwassenunited.org	
Administrative Assistant:	Mary Almond	604-943-2911 malmond@tsawwassenunited.org	
Pastoral Care Contact:	Donna Mullan	604-943-5278 or Jean Ryan	604-948-9880
Prayer Requests:	Ethel	604-943-2949 or Rhoda	604-943-1674

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS December 9, 2007

*The flowers on the communion table are placed by
Bob and Carole Baturin in loving memory of their parents.*

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK AT T.U.C.

TODAY Communion Service (with Sunday School) – at 10:00 a.m.
Advent 2 — Candle of Peace. The Junior Choir will be singing.



Prayer Cycle for Vancouver South Presbytery and B.C. Conference – Today we pray for Knox – the Reverend Sally McShane and Staff Associate Melanie McDonald.

MON. Walking Group – meet at 9:15 a.m. at the school track across from the church and walk for your health and have fun and fellowship while walking.

TUE. Council Meeting – meet in the Lounge at 7:00 p.m.

WED. Junior Choir 4:00 p.m.

Yoga and Prayer – meet in the Lounge at 12:30 p.m.

Advent Bible Study – meet in the Lounge at 2:00 p.m.

THURS. Library Committee Meeting – 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Lounge.

Cherub Choir 4:30 p.m.

Handbells 6:15 p.m.

Choir 7:45 p.m.

SUN. Worship Service (with Sunday School) – at 10:00 a.m.

Advent 3 — Candle of Joy. The Senior Choir will be presenting the cantata, *Season of Wonders*, by Joseph M. Martin.

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 35:1–10; Psalm 146:5–10 (VU pg. 868); or Luke 1:47–55 (VU pg. 898-899); James 5:7–10; Matthew 11:2–11.

DIVISIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DECEMBER 2007

Coffee: Men's Club

Ushers: M&P

Communion: Congregational Enrichment
Council Devotions: Property
Head Usher: Lynne Meinert

UPCOMING EVENTS AT T.U.C.

- ▶ **ADVENT 4 — CANDLE OF LOVE, SUNDAY, DEC. 23**
Readings, carols, and activities for the children. The Handbell Choir will be playing.
- ▶ **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE, MONDAY, DEC. 24, AT 4:00 P.M.**
The service will be a tableau with readings and carols.
- ▶ **CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE, MONDAY, DEC. 24, AT 10:00 P.M.**
The Senior Choir and Trio will offer special anthems. The Sacrament of Communion will be celebrated. Join us as we celebrate Christ's birth in word and song, and enjoy some candlelight.
- ▶ **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30TH, AT 10:00 A.M.**
We continue to celebrate Christ's birth with carols and readings.
- ▶ **"CELEBRATE THE SEASON" EPIPHANY EVENT — SATURDAY, JAN. 5, 11:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.**
More details soon!
- ▶ **EPIPHANY — SUNDAY, JANUARY 6TH, AT 10:00 A.M.**
We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

▶ YOUTH ENCOUNTERING THE SPIRIT

Introducing the new Youth Group *Youth Encountering the Spirit!* (Y.E.S.). The number of Youth has doubled with the partnership between Tsawwassen United and Ladner United's Youth Groups. We are looking forward to encountering the Spirit at activities hosted by both churches.

Throughout the year we will be inviting the congregations to "Encounter" the Senior Youth and Spirit. Our first invitation is to knitters... Are you a knitter? Would you like to encounter the Senior Youth and Spirit at work? The youth wish to help the homeless keep warm and need some knitting mentors. If you can assist the youth in this outreach project in January, please contact Darlene Rainbow at 604-946-0349 or rrainbow@telus.net.

In gratitude to: Debbie Mitchell for the creative "Youth Encountering the Spirit!" name, which the youth have unanimously adopted for their new Senior Youth Group; Josephine Waymark for providing and preparing (with love!) waffles & strawberries for the CAP AIDS Breakfast on SonDay; Darlene Rainbow and Glen Stanger for hosting the CAP AIDS Breakfast on SonDay; Glen Stanger for volunteering to be the ongoing Tsawwassen United Senior Youth contact; and Nicole Stefanelli for ongoing financial support for "nourishment" of the youth.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: **Dec. 9**, 4:30 – approx 9:00 p.m. **Advent Event and Video with Popcorn** at Ladner United; **Dec. 16**, 7:00–9:00 p.m. **JC's Religious Rap (with Pizza!)** — discussion about the birth of Jesus at Ladner United.

► **CAROL SINGING**

St. David's Anglican Church has invited all those at TUC interested in a carol singing on December 20 to join in for an evening of seasonal celebration. Song sheets will be provided and the group will visit designated homes in Tsawwassen by car. If you are interested in joining along, or know of someone that would appreciate a visit, please contact Monica Robson at robsons@canada.com or 604-943-8990. The meeting time will be 7:30 p.m. at St. David's and carpooling can be arranged.

► **CHURCH CALENDARS**

The 2008 church calendars have arrived. If you have ordered one please pick it up from the church office immediately following today's service, or Mon. to Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost: \$8.00.

► **SOCKS AND UNDIES TREE**

Christmas tradition at our church would not be complete without the tree that stands undecorated as you enter the doors. It is named for only one of the many decorations that attendees can use to decorate the tree. This year First United wish us to focus on NEW underwear and socks for their Give-a-Gift program, so officially it is the "Socks and Undies" tree. Though we can always find a home for toques, gloves, mittens, etc., at the Neighbourhood Hub (Oak Avenue in Whalley) or The Vivian home for women on Cordova Street. It's getting cold out there. Feel free to add what you like to the tree and Outreach will ensure delivery to the proper agency in time for Christmas.

► **SAFEMART CARDS**

First United is again asking for \$10 Safemart cards as part of their give-a-gift project. Details of the program as well as an introduction to the new leader at First Church, Ric Matthews, can be found in the newsletter posted on the Outreach Bulletin Board.

► **SANDWICHES FOR FIRST UNITED**

Would the ladies who make sandwiches each month for 1st United Church please note that we will NOT be making them this month as the Church is closed on Boxing Day which is the day we normally send them down.

Thank you from 1st United Church for continuing to support them in this way each month and from myself and Joan also for your support. Merry Christmas to you all!

~ *Pauline Mushens*

► **"CURBING CHRISTMAS CRAVINGS"**

A nutritional workshop with a difference. December 10, 2007. Time: 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Place: Ladner United Church Fellowship Room. Cost: \$2.00. Guest Speaker: Patti Bonisteel, Registered Nutritionist and Dietitian. Shamelessly enjoy a mini Christmas Tea while Patti presents in an unique and non-judgemental way. Bring your questions about portion sizes and appropriate products to enhance your joy of food during the Christmas Season. Please purchase tickets from Agnes Bauer (Volunteer Parish Nurse), 604-940-0548 or agnesb1@telus.net.

► **"HOPE DEFERRED"**

A healing service for those grieving a miscarriage or pregnancy loss will be held at Dunbar Heights United Church, 3525 West 24th Avenue, Vancouver, (corner of Collingwood Street), on Wed., Dec. 12th, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. Anyone who has been touched by pregnancy loss is welcome.