

# Tsawwassen United Church

2nd Sunday of Advent

Dec. 7, 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: The Coventry Carol / The First Nowell

~ arr. by Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP

\*OPENING HYMN: People, Look East

VU 9

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.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES: *(with Bonnie & Bob Tarlton)*

**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 God, 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. Amen.**

HYMN: Peace is a Ribbon

VU 7, vs. 2 only

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.  
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.**

CHILDREN'S TIME — WE VISIT THE MANGER TOGETHER

JUNIOR CHOIR PRESENTATION:

# Beneath a Shining Star

by Tom McBryde

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Psalm 85:1–2, 8–13 pew Bible O.T. page 522

ASSURANCE OF GRACE: Isaiah 40:1–11 pew Bible O.T. page 633

READING: (*Reader: Bob Tarlton*)

Mark 1:1–8 pew Bible N.T. page 33

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

One: This is the witness of God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

\*HYMN: On Jordan's Bank VU 20

SERMON: "God's Peace & Comfort"

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CHOIR'S ANTHEM: An Advent Gospel ~ Michael Barrett & Lloyd Larson

CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE:

- The Offering is Collected
- Announcements of the Congregation's Life & Ministry
- Doxology: In the Bleak Midwinter VU 55, vs. 4 only

**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.**

- Offering Prayer

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

THE LAST WORD: 2 Peter 3:8–15a pew Bible N.T. page 221

\*CLOSING HYMN: Tomorrow Christ is Coming VU 27

\*COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: The Bright Resounding Trumpet ~ Franklin Ritter

# Welcome to Tsawwassen United Church

www.tsawwassenunited.org

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

## Contacts

Minister:	Rose-Hannah Gaskin .....	604-943-2911
	.....	rose-hannah@tsawwassenunited.org
Minister of Children & Families	Brenda Miller .....	604-274-2864
	.....	brendammiller1@gmail.com
Director of Music:	Leona Prowse.....	604-943-2911
	.....	lprowse@tsawwassenunited.org
Administrative Assistant	Mary Almond.....	604-943-2911
	.....	malmond@tsawwassenunited.org
Pastoral Care Contact:	Jean Ryan .....	604-948-9880
Prayer Requests:	Ethel .....	604-943-2949
	or Rhoda.....	604-943-1674

---

---

## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### December 7, 2008

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

**TODAY**      **White Gift/Refugee Sunday Worship Service – at 10:00 a.m.**  
**Advent 2 — Candle of Peace**  
Junior Choir is presenting *Beneath a Shining Star*.



**Prayer Cycle for Vancouver South Presbytery and B.C. Conference** – Today we pray for Knox United Church — the Rev. 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 at **7:00 p.m.** at Mary Sambell's home, 4910 Stevens Drive.

**WED.**      **Junior Choir..... 3:30 p.m.**

**THURS.**    **Choir..... 7:45 p.m.**

**SAT.**      **Men's Club Breakfast Meeting**

*Time:* 8:30 a.m. (coffee will be available prior to the meeting)

*Location:* Tsawwassen Golf Club

*Speaker:* Rev. Jim Short, from Ladner United Church. He will be speaking on his experiences as a military (reserves) chaplain in Afghanistan from February 2008 to November 2008.

Any men in the congregation who are not members of the Men's Club who wish to attend this breakfast meeting are most welcome. I would ask, however, that you please let me know by the evening of Tue., Dec. 9, as the golf club needs to know how much food to prepare. The cost for breakfast is \$15.00. I have also extended an invitation to any men from Ladner United who may wish to attend.

~ Albert Knudsen, phone 604-943-6748

**NEXT SUN. Kinsmen Service – at 9:30 a.m.**

**Intergenerational Worship Service – at 10:00 a.m.**

**Advent 3 — Candle of Joy.**

Scripture Readings: Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11; Psalm 126 (VU pg. 850); Luke 1:47–55 (VU pgs. 898–899); 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; John 1:6–8, 19–28.

**Advent Candlelight Gathering – from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at TUC**

*“The hush of heaven holds my heart . . .”*

We invite you to nurture your soul, and take time for stillness during this sacred season. Join us for inspirational readings, meditation, joyful stillness, community connection and to sing along to original songs and chants. Led by Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin. Original music by Sandra Dawn and Nathen Aswell. By donation.



## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT T.U.C.**

- **ADVENT 4 — CANDLE OF LOVE, SUNDAY, DEC. 21**  
*And Glory Shone Around*, cantata presented by the Senior Choir.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, AT 4:00 P.M.**  
Family service with readings and carols.
- **CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 24, AT 10:00 P.M.**  
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 28TH, AT 10:00 A.M.**  
A service of carols and readings for the first Sunday after Christmas, led by the Senior Choir.
- **EPIPHANY — SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH, AT 10:00 A.M.**  
YAYA, the Youth & Young Adult Ministries of the Vancouver South & Vancouver Burrard Presbyteries of the United Church, will be leading the worship service. We will share in worship through drama, music, storytelling, and scripture!

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FROM THE CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY**

**Thank You!**

Thank you to Courtenay Lord and Brianna Almond for lighting our first Advent Candle last week.

**Sunday, Dec. 14, Worship**

Please join us next Sunday, Dec 14, for an all-ages worship as we celebrate the wonder of The Jesse Tree.

- **NEW ARRIVAL!**

Congratulations to Sheri and Sunny Obera. Their little girl was born on Monday, weighing just over six pounds. She has been named “Josie”.

- **ADVENT CANDLES**

Make this a holiday tradition. Light your advent candle during the time of anticipation and waiting for the Christ Child’s birth. All proceeds will go to support the Sunday School foster child, Ablaye Mbaye, who lives in the community of Thiokhol, which is part of Dakar in Senegal. The candles will be available to purchase after worship today at a cost of \$4.00.

- **OUTREACH UPDATE**

**Narthex Christmas Tree**

Again we have set up a Christmas tree in the narthex on which you can place your gifts to First United: \$10 in Safeway gift certificates (to be stored in the office), new gloves, socks, and underwear. Children’s items may be donated and will be taken to the Oak Avenue Hub in time for Christmas.

**First Gift Envelopes**

Special First Gifts envelopes are included in this bulletin. As an alternative to donating to the narthex Christmas tree, they can be used to make a one time donation to First United.



**Birthday Bag Project — Early Warning**

For the past several years, the Outreach Division has coordinated preparation of bags of goodies that would allow a family to host a birthday party for a child. We have focused on ages 3 to 8 and the bags we produce are delivered to the Neighbourhood Hub in Whalley and the Ladner Food Bank for distribution. The Birthday Bag project starts up again in January. You can start bringing in your cake mixes, icings, candles, etc., any time now. Our contacts in both places have in-depth knowledge of the real need of the people who attend their organizations. Our aim is to assist the working poor in both locations.

- **T.U.C. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING OCT. 31/08**

	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>
Total Revenue	198,390.85	175,507.99	22,882.86
Total Expenses	199,076.97	185,464.69	(13,612.28)
<b>Net Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(686.12)</b>	<b>(9,956.70)</b>	<b>9,270.58</b>

- **INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER**

On **Saturday, January 24th**, Contemplative Outreach of Greater Vancouver is hosting an Introduction to Centering Prayer workshop. Christian monastics and mystics through the ages described and practiced a contemplative relationship with God that takes place in a silence deeper than words. Today, Centering Prayer offers a method of prayer that opens us to the gift of contemplation. It does not take the place of other prayer and devotions. Rather it may deepen the experience of other forms of worship by offering a way of quieting our faculties and preparing us to be more receptive to God’s presence.

The Introduction to Centering Prayer Program is instructional and experiential. It consists of a Saturday workshop, and the opportunity to participate in six weekly sessions of approximately 1 1/2 hours each. These sessions are an integrated

part of the introduction and support participants with further instruction and encouragement as they establish a Centering Prayer practice. Contemplative Outreach of Greater Vancouver will provide instruction by commissioned presenters and the continuing sessions by experienced facilitators.

For more information go to [www.cogv.org](http://www.cogv.org) or refer to the notice on the bulletin board in the narthex.

**TSAWWASSEN UNITED CHURCH 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.
- 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 and scripture reading are posted on the bulletin board to the left of the nametags board in the narthex for referral and further signing-up.
- Large Print Bulletins:** There are large print bulletins 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](mailto: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](http://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.