

Tsawwassen United Church

2nd Sunday of Advent

December 6, 2009, 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.

*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

HANDBELL CHOIR:

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

~ arr. by Cathy Moglebust

Coventry Carol

~ arr. by Michael Larkin

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

~ arr. by Anna Laura Page

CALL TO WORSHIP

*OPENING HYMN: People, Look East

VU 9

WELCOME

OPENING PRAYER:

God of the unexpected and undreamt:

In this holy season, instil 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.

CHILDREN'S TIME — WE VISIT THE MANGER TOGETHER

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES — PEACE:

Behold! It's the angel. The angels had a happy role, bringing tidings of great joy. They also brought words of peace for the world.

*HYMN: A Candle is Burning

VU 6, vs. 2

THE CHILDREN LEAVE FOR GODLY PLAY *(with Marilyn Merry)*

PRAYER FOR RESTORING LIFE

*HYMN: Prepare the Way of the Lord

VU 10 (sung 3x)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE

LISTENING FOR TRUTH

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

READINGS: *(Reader: Bob Tarlton)*

Luke 1:68–79

Pew Bible N.T. page 54

Luke 3:1–6

Pew Bible N.T. Page 56

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

CHORAL ANTHEM: Seek Ye First / Pachelbel's Canon

~ Karen Lafferty

(With handbells played by Marcie Henry and Michele McLaurin)

SERMON: "God's Peace & Comfort"

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

HANDBELL CHOIR: Advent Meditation

~ arr. by Douglas E. Wagner

SOLO: In the Silence

~ Bethani / Sandra Dawn

(With Sandra Dawn)

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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

THE LAST WORD: Philippians 1:3–11

Pew Bible N.T. Page 184

*CLOSING HYMN: All Earth is Waiting

VU 5

BENEDICTION

COMMISSIONING: Go Now in Peace

VU 964

(With handbells played by Marcie Henry and Michele McLaurin)

POSTLUDE

Welcome to Tsawwassen United Church

www.tsawwassenunited.org

693 53rd Street, Delta, BC ❖ 604-943-2911 ❖ E-mail: info@tsawwassenunited.org
Office Hours: 9:30 AM to 1:30 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays
9:30 AM to 2:30 PM on Wednesdays
(closed for lunch on Wednesdays from 11:45 to 12:45 PM)

Contacts

| | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------|
| Minister: | Rose-Hannah Gaskin | 604-943-2911 |
| | rose-hannah@tsawwassenunited.org | |
| Director of Music: | Sandra Dawn Nash | 778-240-4704 |
| | sandra@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 6, 2009

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

TODAY **Communion Service (with Godly Play) – at 10:00 a.m.**
Advent 2 — Candle of Peace
The handbell choir will be playing during the service.



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

WED. **Christmas Youth Choir Practice – 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.**

THURS. **Choir Practice – 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.**

NEXT SUN. **Worship Service (with Godly Play) – at 10:00 a.m.**
Advent 3 — Candle of Joy

Flutist Betty McBurney will be our musical guest.

Scripture readings: Zephaniah 3:14–20;

Isaiah 12:2–6 (VU p. 880); Philippians 4:4–7; Luke 3:7–18.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT T.U.C.

- **ADVENT 4 — CANDLE OF LOVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20**
Joining Sandra Dawn will be special musical guests Finn Mannicat (cellist) Miriam Davison (vocalist), and Lia Wolfe (pianist, vocalist, fustist).
- **CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE, THURSDAY, DEC. 24, AT 4:00 P.M.**
Family service with readings, carols and the Christmas Youth Choir.

- **CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION SERVICE, THURSDAY, 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. Special music by Sweet Charity, Sandra Dawn and a guest violinist.
- **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH, AT 10:00 A.M.**
A service of carols and readings for the first Sunday after Christmas, led by Lynne Meinert.
- **EPIPHANY — SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD, AT 10:00 A.M.**
The worship service will be led by the Reverend Wendy Bily. Jane Pallan will be our musical guest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **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. Candles can also be purchased from Mary Sambell.



- **IN GRATITUDE**

The Glover and Obrecht families would like to thank Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin and the congregation of Tsawwassen United Church for their prayers, cards, visits and loving support during Judy's long illness.

~ John Glover,
Alison, Curt and Kyle Obrecht

- **TUC FINANCIAL REPORT**

At the 2009 Annual General Meeting the congregation voted, with regret, to approve an \$8,971 deficit for this year. As of October 31, 2009, we have reduced this deficit to \$5,604. To further decrease the deficit please consider increasing your donations this month. Any deficit amount remaining at year-end will have to be paid for out of the church's savings.

- **CHRISTMAS YOUTH CHOIR**

Are you an elementary or high school student? Do you like to sing? Well now's your chance! TUC has formed a Christmas Youth Choir to sing for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. The first practice was on Wednesday, Dec. 2nd. Further practices will be on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 9, 16 and 23. On Christmas Eve there will be a 3:00 p.m. practice prior to the 4:00 p.m. service. To register, or if you have any questions, please e-mail Sandra Dawn at sandra@tsawwassenunited.org. *If you register please be prepared to commit to attending all of the rehearsals and the Christmas Eve service.*



- **REFUGEE HAMPERS**

Three refugee families we have helped sponsor in recent years continue to struggle to meet day to day needs. Outreach would like to send these people a Christmas hamper as a token of our ongoing care for them. A collection area near the First United tree in the lobby has been set up. Speak to Floyd

Wartnow about the kind of food or other gifts that may be suitable.

- **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Happy Birthday to Josephine Obera, daughter of Sunny and Sheri Obera, who turned one-year-old on Tuesday, December 1st.



- **THE UNITED CHURCH OBSERVER**

The November issue of *The United Church Observer* is available for borrowing from the black file box on the table under the bulletin board in the narthex. Of particular note is the article on page 18, *The Fence-Sitters: How Real is the Hope?*

- **FIRST UNITED CHURCH MISSION GIVE-A-GIFT PROJECT**

The importance of acknowledging each individual in a special way at Christmas continues at First United. As in the past the Give-a-Gift Project will be part of Christmas at First and this project relies totally on the support of the wider community and church. First United is hoping our congregation will help by providing new socks and underwear as well as \$10.00 Safeway Cards or money donations made out to First United Church "Give-a-Gift" Project.

One day during the week of Christmas they hope to be able to give a new pair of socks and an orange to each of the men and women involved in that community. In February everyone will be given new underwear.

The Safeway cards are given out at Christmas and throughout the year to help singles and families. The cash donations will be used to purchase food items for the surprise hot breakfasts during the cold, wet months of Jan. and Feb. and to purchase the much needed extra socks and underwear.

First United would appreciate our congregation's support in providing any of the above items or funds designated "Give-a-Gift". The goal for receipt of these items was Dec. 1st, 2009, *but all gifts up to December 21st will be delivered in time for Christmas.* All packages should be clearly marked "Give-a-Gift Project". Safeway cards or money donations made can be placed in the collection plate. All other items can be placed on or under the Christmas tree in the narthex.



As always there is an ongoing need at First for toiletries (razors, deodorant, tooth paste and tooth brushes, shampoo and combs) as well.

- **DELTA COMMUNITY CHOIR**

The Delta Community Choir and Tapestry invite you to celebrate their 25th season with *Christmas Through the Ages*. Hear Delta's premier choral organization as they take you on a musical journey through Christmas traditions old and new. You'll recognize favourites like "Winter Wonderland" and "I Saw Three Ships", be touched by the history behind "A Carol for to Sing" and inspired by the haunting beauty of "In the Bleak Midwinter". Join the Delta Community Choir and Tapestry under the leadership of their new Musical Director, Danielle Hamilton for a performance that's sure to put your heart and soul into the spirit of the season. Enjoy audience sing-a-longs, refreshments and door prizes! Where: Tsawwassen Alliance Church, 4951 12th Avenue. When: **Saturday, December 12th, 2009, 7:30 p.m.** and **Sunday, December 13th, 2009, 3:00 p.m.** Admission: Adult \$12.00; Student/Senior \$10.00; Child (12 & under) \$5.00. *Tickets are available for purchase in the narthex after today's service.*

• **GIFT OF CALM**

Give yourself a “Gift of Calm” in this busy season. Relax with an hour of quiet music, candlelight and meditation in the Ladner United Church sanctuary on **Tuesday, Dec. 15th, 7 - 8 pm**. A gift for you from the Parish Health Ministry of Ladner United Church, 4960 – 48th Avenue, Ladner, 604-946-6254.

MINUTES FOR MISSION 2009

M&S and Microloans

You have no doubt heard of Muhammad Yunus, the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, who gave millions of Bangladeshis microloans to begin their own businesses. The United Church of Canada has also supported many people through microloans thanks to the Mission and Service Fund.

The United Church sends funds through the Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF). It was established in 1946 to help rebuild churches in Europe after the war. In the 1960s and 1970s, the mandate for ECLOF was broadened to alleviate poverty, help provide self-reliance, and promote social and economic justice throughout the world.

Some projects are small in dollars, but huge in impact. Veronica Nkensen received \$222 to support her own baking business, which has grown so successfully that it now provides for her family of five children. Can you imagine it? The cost of one hotel night provided the funding to establish a successful business.

Afera Bago lives in the Central Region of Ghana. She processes Alata Samena, a type of local soap. Her microloan of \$333 allowed her to support her business without relying on the high cost of suppliers’ credit. She feeds and clothes two daughters and two sons, all in school, through her thriving business.

We seek to raise \$32.5 million this year through the Mission and Service Fund for the work of the church in Canada and around the world. We use that money carefully and wisely to get the most out of your gifts. Your donations to the Mission and Service Fund help make projects like these happen.



Minutes for Mission 2009 is published by the Financial Stewardship Unit as a resource for the Mission and Service Fund.



We recycle our bulletins. If you are not taking your bulletin home, please leave it in the basket on the narthex table.