

# Tsawwassen United Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13, 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. 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: Piano/Flute (*with flutist Betty McBurney*)

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Today we worship in the season of Advent. Advent is a time of waiting, a time of hoping and preparing for God to come and live among us once again.

\*OPENING HYMN: There's a Voice in the Wilderness VU 18

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 — MARY & JOSEPH:

*(with Terri, Jordan and Carson Kupillas)*

This is Mary, mother of the precious child we celebrate at Christmas.

Mary belongs in the heart of the Nativity.

Brave Mary, who allowed God to work through her.

Strong Mary, who travelled to Bethlehem so late in her pregnancy.

Joyful Mary, whose heart was beating fast as a new, proud mother.

This is Joseph, earthly father of the precious child we celebrate at Christmas.

Joseph belongs with Mary in the heart of the Nativity.

Brave Joseph, who accepted God's role for him.

Strong Joseph, who led his pregnant wife to Bethlehem.

Joyful Joseph, who announced the baby's name.

\*HYMN: A Candle is Burning VU 6, vs. 3

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

CHORAL ANTHEM: Emmanuel Soon Will Appear  
(with flutist Betty McBurney)

~ Nancy Besig & Don Price

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION

READINGS: (Reader: Floyd Wartnow)

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Pew Bible O.T. page 830

Luke 3:7–18

Pew Bible N.T. Page 57

### CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE:

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

\*HYMN: O Ancient Love

VU 17

SERMON: "Joy Shall Come"

### SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

CHORAL ANTHEM: Emmanuel is Coming

~ Nancy Besig & Don Price

### 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: Arioso (with flutist Betty McBurney) ~ J.S. Bach

THE LAST WORD: Philippians 4:4–7

Pew Bible N.T. Page 187

\*CLOSING HYMN: Hope is a Star

VU 7

### \*COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

### POSTLUDE

*We thank Betty McBurney for sharing  
her musical gifts with us this morning.*

# 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: 9:30 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 13, 2009

*Rick & Marleen Soutar, Megan & David offer the flowers on the communion table in memory of their parents and grandparents who served all their lives in the United Church and Rick's sister, Peggy, who passed away this fall.*

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

**TODAY**      **Kinsmen Service – at 9:30 a.m.**

**Worship Service (with Godly Play) – at 10:00 a.m.**

**Advent 3 — Candle of Joy**

Flutist Betty McBurney will be our musical guest.



**Prayer Cycle for Vancouver South Presbytery and B.C.**

**Conference** – Today we pray for the members of Vancouver South Presbytery and the Chair, the Reverend Rose-Hannah Gaskin.

**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 4 — Candle of Love**

Joining Sandra Dawn will be special musical guests Finn Mannicat (cellist), Miriam Davison (vocalist), and Lia Wolfe (pianist, vocalist, fustist). Scripture readings: Micah 5:2–5a; Luke 1:47–

55 (VU p. 898–899) or Psalm 80:1–7 (VU p. 794 Part One); Hebrews 10:5–10; Luke 1:39–45, (46–55).



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT T.U.C.

- **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

- **CONDOLENCES**  
Condolences to the family and friends of Sheila Lee who passed away on December 8th. A memorial service is planned for **Saturday, December 19th, at 2:00 p.m.**
- **FELLOWSHIP TIME**  
Your prayers have been answered! We now serve decaffeinated coffee during our fellowship time following Sunday worship. Come, join us! 
- **THANK YOU!**  
Thank you to Rick Soutar and Bob Tarlton for painting our new 'Quiet Room' (the old Sunday School Room). It looks wonderful!
- **CHRISTMAS EVE SCRIPTURE READERS**  
We're in need of scripture readers for the Christmas Eve services — seven for the 4PM family service and six for the 10PM candlelight communion service. If you'd like to be one of the readers please sign up on the clipboard on the table in the narthex.
- **T.U.C. ENTRANCE**  
The potted winter shrubs beside the bench outside of our front doors were placed by Joan MacDonald Morris in memory of Murray MacDonald and her parents, Bessie and Bill Smith.
- **CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE WATERFORD RESIDENCE**  
A group of long time TUC members and their friends living in The Waterford have been busy knitting toques, mitts, scarves, etc., to donate to First United Church. Early in December, Mary Wight, spokesperson for the group who call themselves the KNIT-WITS, came on the Outreach regular delivery trip downtown with four large boxes of newly knitted clothing. She was given a tour at the church and also visited The Vivian. There is a good chance there will be more givings from the NIT-WITS so keep these people in your prayers. We are grateful for all of their support for our Missions. 

- **DONATION ENVELOPES**

Donation envelopes for 2010 are available for pick-up in the narthex. Some envelope holders have been assigned new numbers, so **please do not use 2009 envelopes in 2010.**



- **TAX RECEIPTS**

If you want a donation included in your 2009 tax receipt please ensure the office receives it by Sunday, December 27th.

- **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.

- **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.

- **OUTREACH UPDATE**

- 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.



- Narthex Christmas Tree**

A decision has been made to defer delivery of tree items until December 21st. So members have until that date to donate socks, underwear, Safeway cards or cash gifts in the envelopes. 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.

- **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.

- **CHRISTMAS IN THE ROUND**

A festive evening of chants and sacred songs with Mantra Vani Orchestra, Jerry DesVoignes, Elio Rota, Sandra Dawn, Nathen Aswell and Shawn Soucy on **Sunday, December 20th, at 7:30 p.m.** at Trinity St. Mark's, 1805 Larch & West 2nd Avenue. Advance tickets \$25 / \$20 for seniors at Banyen Books, Utopia Gifts, Hilife Records (\$30 at door). Visit [www.healingvoices.net](http://www.healingvoices.net) for more information.

- **DELTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Delta Christian School, in Ladner, is currently accepting applications for Grade 8 students for the 2010/2011 school year. School office: 604-946-2514.

# MINUTES FOR MISSION 2009

## *From the Heart*

Gary MacDonald is a teacher from the United Church who works in China teaching English. He is paid for his work with our gifts to the Mission and Service Fund. Here is an Advent story from Gary about giving.

Every year Gary's school puts on a concert. Students practise all kinds of acts for this important event. Four young men were going to dance in the concert and on the first day of rehearsals they came on the stage ready to work. Three of them wore shiny new "city shoes" bought just for the occasion. The fourth stood shyly in his cloth village slippers. He had no other shoes to wear.

Rehearsals went well and soon all four knew their steps. On the big night—the night of the concert—they stood in front of Gary behind the curtains with huge smiles. As they walked onto the stage he knew why they were grinning. All four were wearing "city shoes" and they were ready to dance!

Weeks later, Gary was marking English compositions after class and read one called "City Shoes" written by the boy with the village slippers. All the students in the concert had put their money together to buy the fourth pair of shoes.

When they put their money together, they gave a gift from the heart that brought hope, joy, and love. When we put our money together in the Mission and Service Fund right across the whole church, we can do more than any of us can do alone. Our M&S gifts can bring hope, joy, and love and huge smiles to many faces!



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

## **Stewardship Seconds**

Now is the time to prepare the way of the Lord,  
with overflowing love for those around us.



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