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**Claremont United Church**

[www.claremontunitedchurch.com](http://www.claremontunitedchurch.com)

Phone: 905 649 1363

Minister: Rev. Lionel Ketola

Minister of Music: Gabrielle Untermann

**Sunday December 5, 2021, 11:00 am**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**GATHERING**

*Words of Welcome*

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

During this season of Advent, we begin our worship by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land where we are gathered for worship today. These lands remain home to a number of Indigenous nations and people. Their relationship with the land remains central to their lives.

Claremont United Church lies within the area covered by the Williams Treaties of 1923, between Canada, Ontario, and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog Island First Nations.

**God of Advent hope, awaken us to new opportunities to walk in justice and econciliation with the First People of this land. Amen.**

**Greeting**

The prophet Malachi proclaimed: “See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way!”

**May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

Peace doesn’t always mean being quiet.

**We seek to be a people of peace, living from a place of justice, joining our voices with others who want to give birth to new ways of being.**

Peace calls out to us, so that we may help it become a reality.

**God is our peace.**

May we be partners with God, bringing reconciliation to places of conflict, creating bridges where divisions have grown, sewing all of creation into a new tapestry.

**May peace be found in a manger and throughout the world.**

*The first and second candles are lit.*

**Song response: VU # 7, Hope is a Star, v 1, 2.**

Opening Prayer (in unison)

**God of the wilderness way,**

**whose word scours our smooth evasions:**

**take us on the unbending road**

**to the raw centre of our world**

**with a cry of invitation**

**and the call of sudden grace;**

**through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come.**

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn: VU # 9 People Look East**

**Prayer of Confession**

As the streets of our neighbourhoods

Light up with holiday decorations,  
and stores broadcast their tempting offers,  
You lead us along a different path  
To a desert river and a Prophetic voice  
A call to repentance  
A call to service

A call to reorient our lives toward your Kingdom.

*Let us pause for silent confession.*

God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer**

**Words of Assurance**

Hear the good news: God forgives all our sins,

heals our brokenness, and renews our lives.

God invites us to continue the journey filled with hope. Thanks be to God!

**WORD**

Time for the child in all of us: “Peace!”

**Song: VU 577 I’ve Got Peace Like a River**

1. I’ve Got peace like a river …
2. I’ve got joy like a fountain …
3. I’ve got love like a ocean …
4. I’ve got peace like a river …

Scriptures: Malachi 3: 1-4

**Responsive Reading VU page 900**

Luke 3: 1-6

Sermon: Rev. Lionel

**Hymn of the Day: VU 18 There’s A Voice in the Wilderness**

Minute for Mission

Invitation to the Offering

Reception of the Offering: VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter, verse 4

***What shall 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 can give him - give my heart.***

Prayer of Dedication

**Loving God, By your coming to dwell among us, as Emmanuel, You help us see and experience the sacred and the holy in everyday life.**

**Bless these ordinary gifts of our lives,**

**May they be used to make your love manifest.**

**We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

Prayers of the People / Prayer Candles / **VU 959** **Lord’s prayer**

**Closing Hymn: VU # 44 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

**SENDING**

Blessing and Commissioning

*Announcements, Joys and Celebrations*

**Sung Blessing: MV # 214 May God’s Sheltering Wings**

May God’s Sheltering Wings

Her gathering wings protect you,

May God’s nurturing arms,

Her cradling arms sustain you,

And hold you in her love.

And hold you in her love.