

NOVEMBER 30, 2025
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOPE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

Ministers: All of God's People

Leader: Liz Church

Pianist Pam Newton

✠ indicates when those who are able will please stand

Welcome, Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Territorial Acknowledgment (together)

This land where we live has been home to countless Indigenous people before us. We acknowledge this truth and reaffirm our responsibility for improving relationships between nations.

Bells: Away in a Manger

(arranged by Jason W. Krug)

✠ **Gathering Song – MV # 158 – ‘Dream a Dream’**

Call To Worship

Reader: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might

All: Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.

Reader: Hosanna in the highest!

**All: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

✠ **Hymn – Christ Be Our Light**

Lighting of the Advent Candle

✠ **Opening Hymn – VU # 1 ‘O Come, O Come, Emmanuel’**

An Advent Prayer

O God, the hope of this world, you have called us together to reflect on your Word and to share in fellowship. As we sing, and pray and rejoice together may we hear Your voice and understand your presence in our own lives. This we pray in your Holy name. Amen

Lighting of the Christ Candle

We reflect on the Light of the World as we light this candle. As we reach out to others, may we glow with the radiance of Christ.

✠ **Illumination Hymn – VU # 82 – ‘A Light Is Gleaming’**

Prayer of Illumination

O Holy One, help us to receive your Word. This we pray in the Name of Jesus, source of light and hope. Amen.

Scripture:

Reader: Open your hearts and minds to God's Word.

All: We listen with hope as the Scripture is read this day.

Isaiah 2:1-5 New Life Version

Matthew 24: 36-44 Modern English Version

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God. Amen

Ministry of Music

Reflection: When All Seems Lost - HOPE

Prayers of the People - VU #11 (together)

God of all wisdom, our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love, and our minds search for the light of your word. Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour. Strengthen us to grow in love. At the dawn of His coming may we rejoice in His presence and welcome the light of his truth. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer – A Paraphrase – VU - Page # 916

Eternal Spirit, Earth-Maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be. Father and Mother of us all, loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come to earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen
(Copyright 1988 – Jim Cotter)

✦ Offertory Hymn: VU # 538 'For the Gift of Creation'

Offertory Prayer

Holy One, this Advent season we wait in hope. We give in hope. We live in hope because of Your presence with us. Receive these generous offerings. Use them for Your work of healing and hope in our world. *Amen.*

Communion (insert)

VU # 466 – Eat this bread

✦ Closing Hymn: VU # 2 – 'Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus'

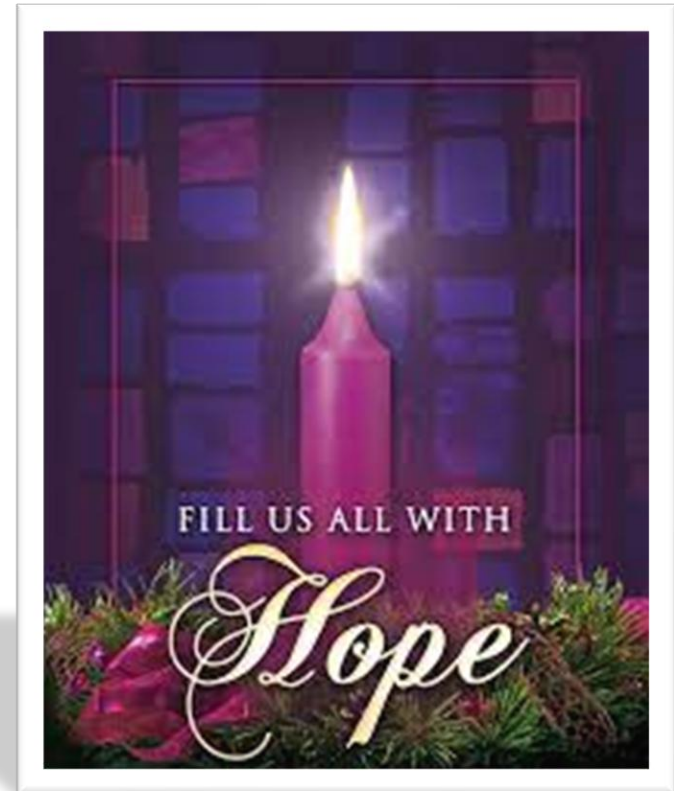
Commissioning & Benediction

Be people of hope. Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet. And may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen

Choral Blessing - MV # 218 – 'May the Love of the Lord'

OUR CHURCHES UNITED

ELGIN-PORTLAND PASTORAL CHARGE



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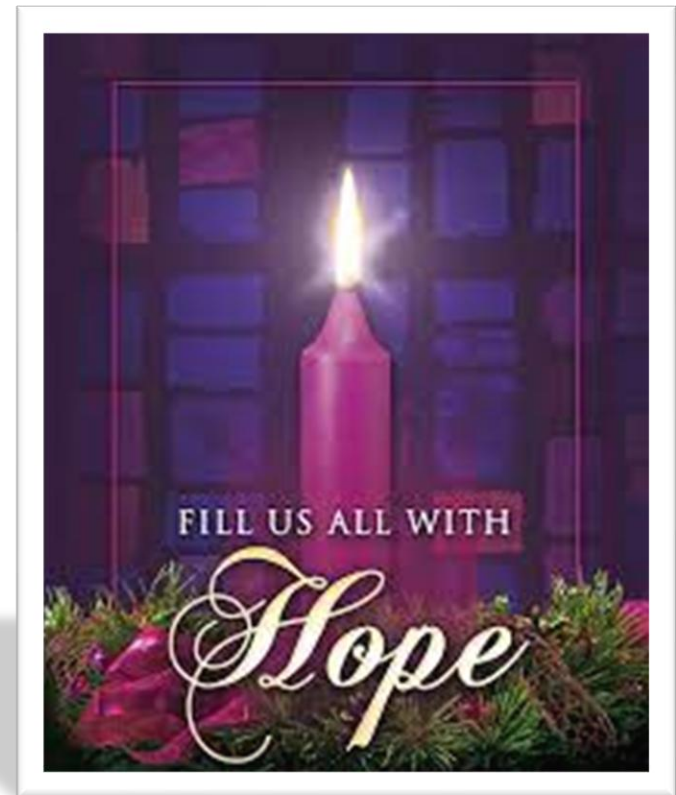
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