

Stairs Memorial United Church

Faith that Matters

Love that Matters

Community that Matters



Worship Leader:

Music Director:

Student Minister:

Reader:

PowerPoint:

Zoom/Livestream:

Rev. Catherine MacDonald

Byron Hermann

Jessie Crabtree

Lynda Sitland

Paul Ingram

Nellie Clyke

November 28, 2021 @ 10:30 AM

[www.stairsmemorialunitedchurch.ca](http://www.stairsmemorialunitedchurch.ca)

(▲ Rise in body or in spirit)  
(Responses in bold)

## THE PRESENCE OF HOPE

Welcome, Introductions and Acknowledging the Territory

### CROSSING THE THRESHOLD OF ADVENT

Presents or Presence?

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Candle Light, Sacred Light – Tune *Silent Night*

**Candle light, sacred light.  
Mystery flames, burning bright  
We are waiting for Jesus' new birth.  
Shine his hope over all of the earth.  
Thanks for the gift of hope, thanks for the gift of hope.**

Opening Prayer (Together)

**God of the present and of presence, once again we start our  
Advent journey. We are not the same people we were a year ago.  
We have experienced joy, loss, grief, confusion and transition.  
On this Sunday when we lift up hope, remind us that hope is  
grounded in you and your promises to always be present with us.**

*Silent prayer...*

**We turn to you,  
knowing that you understand us,  
forgive us, and love us like a Mother,  
and so we pray with confidence and faith:  
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name  
Your kingdom come, your will be done  
On earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory.  
Forever and ever, amen.**

▲ Hymn - All Earth Is Waiting VU # 5

## LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

An Ancient Word – Luke 2: 5-24

Reflection

Reflective Music

Ministry of Music – When Will We See the Little One?

### WE RESPOND TO GOD

▲ Litany of Hope

We see the signs  
**but cannot always divine their meanings.**

You call us to move forward  
**not always knowing**

whether what we grasp in our hands  
**will prove to be a seed of hope or a thorn in our flesh.**

Train our fingers, that what brings life  
**we may with persistence hold,**

and that which wastes our souls  
**we may with grace release.**

Offering

Prayers of the People

**Meet us in the stillness, Lord  
Be the air we breathe  
Meet us in the stillness, Lord  
Free us to receive.**

### THRESHOLD INTO THE WORLD

The Life and Work of the Faith Community

▲ Closing Hymn – Open My Eyes VU # 371

▲ Blessing

**Blessing of Hope**

▲ Song of Dismissal – We're Seeking Your Presence  
Tune *Away in a Manger*

**We're seeking your presence.  
Help us find it today.  
We wonder and ponder.  
In so many ways.**

**Hope stirs deep within us.  
We actively pray.  
As we await Jesus  
Please show us the way.**

*Presents or Presence – Words and Music by Byron Hermann*

*Opening Prayer – Catherine MacDonald*

*Litany of Hope – Jan Richardson*

*We're Seeking Your Presence – Words by Catherine MacDonald and Byron Herman*

*Please join us downstairs after the service for a meal and fellowship.  
Proof of full COVID-19 vaccination is required to attend.*

\*\*\*\*\*

For those not attending in-person, here are  
other ways to access our worship services:

**Live Services on Zoom:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81050922922>

**Live Services on Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Stairsmemorialunited/>

**Archived Services on YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StairsMemorialUnitedChurch>

**Archived Services on Sermons by Phone:**

Call 902-435-8972 and listen to the service.