



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

CLOVERDALE
UNITED CHURCH



*"Behold a Virgin Shall Conceive..."
stained glass by Joseph Nuttgens, 1952
in St. Etheldreda's Church, London, England*

The 4th Sunday of Advent
A Service of the Word

21 December 2025 • 10:30 AM

The 4th Sunday of Advent

“There is a time in our lives when we try to give shape to the mysteries, give them a precise or symbolic conceptual form. We make an effort to understand them, we read about them. As life goes on the shapes blur. Not because we understand less, but on the contrary, because we understand more. ... [W]e glimpsed that the hidden face of the mystery, the depth beneath its surface, was much greater than what shows. We understood how little we understood. Not with a sense of frustration, but with the joy of knowing that we stand on the shore of a wide and mighty sea and can only hear its waves breaking on the beach.”

— Luis Alonso Schökel sj (1920-1998), Spanish Jesuit priest and biblical scholar

GATHERING 모임

The Spirit gathers us in unity on the first day, the day of Christ's resurrection

Prelude 전주

Dianne Nichols, accompanist

Prepare the Way: Advent Candle Lighting 찬송 Ross Shearer, diaconal min. stud.

Soloist: ♪ A candle of love to light our way,
with longing hearts, we watch and pray.
Creator of the stars of night; your people's everlasting light.
Come, O come, Emmanuel.



Many: Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Make way for the Prince of



Peace, King of kings, Lord of lords, Je-sus, Em-man-u -



el. Pre-prepare the way, pre-prepare the way.

One: Today we light 4 candles. The first three remind us of the hope, peace, and joy we have in Christ. This fourth candle represents love.
the candles are lighted

As we watch and wait, we are called to prepare our hearts with the love of Christ, who is coming to us anew.

***Many:* Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

One: In a world often torn by division, we remember that Christ's love has the power to hear, to reconcile, and to bring peace.

***Many:* Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

One: Loves calls us to action—may our hands and hearts be ready to serve, to care, and to share the love of Christ with those in need.

***Many:* Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

In the ways we are able—in body or in spirit—we rise for those parts marked with an asterisk “”*

One: In moments of difficulty and despair, let the love of Christ be our anchor, reminding us that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Many: **Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

One: May the love of Christ fill our home, our communities, and our world, bringing light to the darkness and hope to the hopeless.

Many: **Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

One: O God of love, help us to embody your love in our daily lives, sharing it freely and generously with all whom we encounter. As we wait the coming of the Prince of Peace, fill our hearts with love, and make us ready to embrace Christ in every moment.

Many: **Prepare the way of the Lord with love.**

Soloist: ♪ Come, O come, Emmanuel.

Many: ♪ **Prepare the way of the Lord. Make way for the Prince of Peace, King of Kings, Lord of lords, Jesus, Emmanuel. Prepare the way, prepare the way.**

Centring Quiet 집중을 위한 조용한 순간

We together hold an intentional period of quiet, during which worshippers are invited to centre themselves and prepare for the worship of God.

Greeting 인사

The Rev. Matthew Emery

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Many: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day 오늘의 기도

Rev. Matt

One: Let us pray.

Many: **Covenant God,
you hear your people yearning for a Saviour.
Thank you for coming to us in Jesus, your Son, so long ago.
We now rehearse your promise
that Christ will come again,
that death and suffering will end
and every tear will be wiped away.
Come, Lord Jesus, come.
As you fulfilled your people's hopes long ago,
so we cry out to you now,
for you to come in glory to fulfil all your promises forevermore.
Amen.**

*** Hymn 찬송 — “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

Voices United #1

Confession and Forgiveness 죄의 고백과 용서

Ross Shearer

CALL TO CONFESSION 고백으로의 초청

PRAYER OF CONFESSION 죄의 고백

Many: Merciful God, always with us, always coming:
We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent.
We have forgotten how to hope in miracles;
we have ignored the promise of your kingdom;
we get distracted by all the busyness of this season.
Forgive us, God.
Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds,
the intelligent courage of the Magi,
and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph,
that we may journey with them once more to Bethlehem,
discovering the good news in the child born for us.

Quiet is kept for personal confession and reflection.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS 용서의 선언

One: ... Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:

Many: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

THE PEACE 평화의 인사

Rev. Matt

One: 그리스도의 평화가 당신과 함께 하시기를.

The peace of Christ be with you all.

Many: And also with you.

All are invited to share signs of Christ's peace with those around them.

Words of Welcome & News from Our Life Together 교회 소식

Rev. Matt

WORD 말씀

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song

The Early Word 어린이 설교

Pastor Youngsun

ending with **The Lord's Prayer** 회중기도와 주기도

Many: Our Father, who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지여,
이름이 거룩히 여김을 받으시오며,
나라이 임하옵시며, 뜻이 하늘에서
이룬 것같이 땅에서도
이루어지이다. 오늘날 우리에게
일용할 양식을 주옵시고, 우리가
우리에게 죄 지은 자를 사하여 준
것같이 우리 죄를 사하여
주옵시고, 우리를 시험에 들게
하지 마옵시고, 다만 악에서
구하옵소서. 대개 나라와 권세와
영광이 아버지께 영원히
있사옵나이다. 아멘.

At the end of the following hymn, children grades 5 and younger are welcome to go with the leader(s) to Children's Church, in the Lounge on the lower level.



- 1 Soon and ver - y soon
- 2 No more cry - in' there: we are goin' to see the King.
- 3 No more dy - in' there:
- 4 Soon and ver - y soon



Soon and ver - y soon
 No more cry - in' there: we are goin' to see the King.
 No more dy - in' there:
 Soon and ver - y soon



Soon and ver - y soon
 No more cry - in' there: we are goin' to see the King.
 No more dy - in' there:
 Soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!



First Reading 성경봉독 — Matthew 1:18-25

pew bibles NT p. 1

Matthew’s story of Jesus’ birth focuses on the role of Joseph, who adopts the divinely-begotten child into the family of David and obediently gives him the name Jesus, which means “God saves.”

after the reading:

One: Word of God, Word of Life.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading 성경봉독 — Isaiah 7:10-16

pew bibles OT p. 636

An Israelite and Aramean military coalition presented a serious threat to King Ahaz of Judah. In response, Ahaz decided to secure his throne and kingdom by seeking Assyrian help. Isaiah reminds Ahaz that human attempts to establish security will fail. The prophet gives the sign that is the only source of true safety: Immanuel, God is with us!

IN ENGLISH

after the reading:

One: Word of God, Word of Life.

Many: Thanks be to God.

IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE

after the reading:

One: Amen.

Many: Amen.

Sermon 설교 — “Somewhere Between Heaven and Hell”

Rev. Matt

a brief moment of quiet follows the sermon

*** Hymn** 찬송 — “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”

REJOICE, REJOICE



1 A - wake! A- wake, and greet the new morn, for an - gels
2 To us, to all in sor- row and fear, Em - man - u -
3 In dark - est night his com- ing shall be, when all the
4 Re - joice, re- joice, take heart in the night. Though dark the



her- ald its dawn- ing. Sing out your joy, for soon he is
el comes a - sing - ing; his hum- ble song is qui - et and
world is de - spair - ing, as morn- ing light so qui - et and
win- ter and cheer- less, the ris - ing sun shall crown you with



born, be - hold! the Child of our long- ing. Come as a ba - by
near, yet fills the earth with its ring- ing; mu - sic to heal the
free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing. Then shall the mute break
light; be strong and lov - ing and fear- less. Love be our song and



weak and poor, to bring all hearts to - geth - er, he o - pens
bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing - kind - ness. The thun - der
forth in song, the lame shall leap in won - der, the weak be
love our prayer and love our end - less sto - ry; may God fill



wide the heav'n-ly door and lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
of his an - thems rolls to shat - ter all ha - tred and vio - lence.
raised a - bove the strong, and weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
ev - 'ry day we share and bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

RESPONSE 응답

We begin our lives of responding to the gospel, in prayer and offering

Responding with our Gifts 봉헌

Pastor Youngsun

OFFERTORY MUSIC — “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” by R. S. Willis

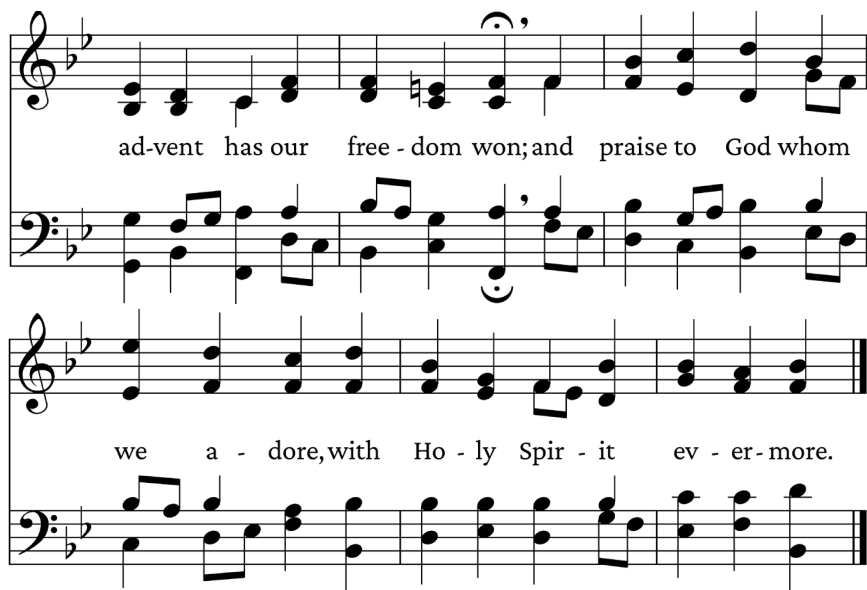
Dianne Nichols

PRAYER REQUESTS — As the morning offering is collected:

- in-person worshippers can share prayer petitions (thanksgivings and intercessions, joys and concerns) on the **purple-topped prayer request cards** found in the pew racks and place them the offering plates as they are passed.
- live-via-Zoom online worshippers are welcome to submit prayer petitions (thanksgivings and intercessions, joys and concerns) in the Zoom “chat” feature.

*** PRESENTING OUR GIFTS 경배 찬양** — fr. “On Jordan’s Banks” **Voices United #20**





ad-vent has our free - dom won; and praise to God whom

we a - dore, with Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more.

*** PRAYER OF DEDICATION** 감사기도

Many: Holy God, you bless us with many gifts,
 you retrieve us from despair and fear,
 you visit us with surprising proclamations,
 and you intend for us good things.
 We thank you for your steadfast love,
 for sending signs of assurance,
 and for the gift of faith itself.
 Use our gifts and our lives
 to bring comfort and justice to those in need,
 reforming the ways of our world for the sake of new life. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Pastor Youngsun

SENDING 파송

God blesses us and sends us forth in mission for the world

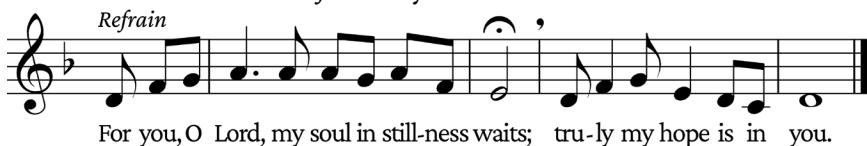
*** Hymn** 찬송 — “People, Look East”

Voices United #9

*** Charge and Benediction** 파송과 축도

Rev. Matt

*** RESPONSE** 파송 찬양 — from “My Soul in Stillness Waits”



Refrain

For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits; tru-ly my hope is in you.

*** Dismissal** 예배로 부름

Pastor Youngsun

One: Go in peace. Keep awake.

Many: Thanks be to God.

*** Postlude** 후주 — “Feliz Navidad” by José Feliciano

Dianne Nichols

Be Our Guest! Come on down to the Lower Hall for coffee or tea or another beverage, a bite to eat, and a chat! Access to the Lower Hall is down the stairs outside the door at the front right of the sanctuary or via the elevator at the front left of the sanctuary. Follow the crowds on down, or ask an usher to guide you... We look forward to seeing you!

Life at Cloverdale United Church

Worship

Many thanks to today's ...

readers: Margaret Rose

ushers/greeters: Carole Teather, Jo-Ann Brown and Maureen Franklin

digital ushers: Daniel Ariss, Taewon Joh

fellowship time hosts: Doug and Lorri Sowerby

Many ways to give! We welcome your offering in the way that works for you: by cash or cheque in the offering plates, through automatic monthly gifts via Pre-Authorized Remittance (contact the office to enrol), by free eTransfer from your bank (to cloverdalepastoralcharge@gmail.com), or by credit card via CanadaHelps (service fees apply). Want to give now but don't have cash or cheque? Scan the QR → to be taken to CanadaHelps.



Children are welcome at all services! It is important for families to worship together. Don't feel your child must be absolutely quiet or still, for we are glad to have children—and all their wiggles, giggles, and squiggles—as part of our community and worship life! After all... as an old saying goes, “faith is caught, not taught!” Children are encouraged to stand and sing with the songs, partake in communion, read and pray along when they can, and join in for the “Early Word”—a time at the front with conversation just for them near the beginning of the service. Most Sundays September through June, we have “**Children's Church**” activities during the latter two-thirds of the service in the Lounge on the lower level, to which any pre-school through grade 5 aged child is welcome! For those accompanying infants or toddlers who need a spot to ‘escape’ to during the worship service, feel free to make use of the “**Quiet Room**” off the side of the sanctuary, near the piano, where there you will find comfortable seating, toys, and a changing table all while being able to hear and see the worship service.



Recording and streaming in use: Please note that video cameras and microphones are capturing our worship services, and that the resulting content may be transmitted over Zoom, YouTube, or other platforms.

Likewise, from time to time still photography of our worship services may be taken and used for church communications, websites, and other uses. By your presence within the sanctuary, you are indicating your consent to the possibility that your likeness may be captured and used in any of these ways. While video capture of congregants in the pews is relatively minimal, if you wish to guarantee you will not ever be depicted on video, the area at the rear centre of the pew seating area is unable to be picked up on camera.



Washrooms can be found just outside the sanctuary through the door at the front right of the space (the northeast corner of the room).



Thank you for **silencing cell phones** and other devices, and for refraining from flash photography.

Acknowledgements:

- Cover art from *Art in the Christian Tradition*, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tennessee; <https://digilib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56229>; used by permission.
- Advent Candle Lighting rite – “Prepare the Way: A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent”: Words and music by Joel Raney, ©2025 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved; used under OneLicense.net #A-606025.
- Prayer of the Day from *The Worship Sourcebook*, 2nd ed., pub. 2013 Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Faith Alive Christian Resources, and Baker Books; © admin. Faith Alive Chr. Res.
- Prayer of Confession adapted by Matthew Emery from a prayer by Janet Cawley appearing in *Celebrate God's Presence: A Book of Services for The United Church of Canada*, ©2000 The United Church Publishing House.
- Hymn – “Soon and Very Soon”: Words and music by Andraé Crouch, 1976. ©1976 Crouch Music and Bud John Songs, admin. EMICMG Publishing.com. Reproduced from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press.
- Scripture introductions from *Sundays and Seasons*, Year C 2025, ©2024 Augsburg Fortress.
- Hymn – “Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn”: Words and music by Marty Haugen, 1983; ©1983 GIA Publications Inc; all rights reserved; used under OneLicense.net #A-606025. Reproduced from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #107.
- Presentation of our gifts – from “On Jordan’s Bank”: Words by Charles Coffin, 1763; trans. John Chandler, 1837; public domain; alt’d. Music from *Musikalisches Handbuch*, Hamburg, 1690; arr. W. H. Havergal, 1864; public domain. Reproduced from *Voices United: The Hymn and Worship Book of The United Church of Canada*, ©1996 The United Church Publishing House, #20.
- Offertory Prayer of Dedication from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*, ed. Kimberly Bracken Long, Year A, vol. 1, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press; alt’d.
- Benediction response – refrain from “For You, O Lord, My Soul in Stillness Waits” (MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS): Words and music by Marty Haugen, 1982; ©1982 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved; reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-606025. Reproduced from *Glory to God: Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs*, ©2013 Westminster John Knox Press, #89.



Worship for The Birth of Our Lord: Christmas

Wednesday, December 24th (Christmas Eve), 7:00 pm

In-person and Online

Plan to take part in celebrating the birth of God-with-us in Jesus at our heart-warming and joyful worship experience for Christmas Eve! Interactive and kid-friendly elements, reflections from Rev. Matt, music from our Choir, candlelight, lots of carols old and new, and the Communion Feast at Christ's Table.

Also coming up for the remainder of the Season of Christmas:

- **Sunday, December 28, 10:30 am:** A Service of Lessons & Carols for Christmas, led by Pastor Youngsun and members of the CUC choir
- **Sunday, January 4, 10:30 am:** Worship for the Feast of the Epiphany, led by Rev. Matt and including Holy Communion

Poinsettia Dedications

In Memory of Robert Grossman
Given by Muriel Grossman

In Memory of Ross & Marnee
Connal, Cliff & Bea Hull, Peter &
Taylor Connal
Given by Christine Connal

In Memory of Fred MacPherson
Given by Sydney MacPherson

In Memory of Presunka Family,
Gorrell Family
Given by Lori Presunka

In Memory of Margaret Grant
Given by Carole Teather

In Memory of Ted & Cora Adams
Don & Frances Franklin
Given by Maureen Franklin

In Memory of Peter and Teresa
Cousins
Given by Elenore & Melissa Sturko

In Memory of husband, Bill;
sons, Billy and Kevin;
and great-grandson, Henry
Given by Trixie Martyn

In Memory of Trevor John Files
Given by Mary Files

In Memory of Art & Shirley Penn,
Andy Higginson
Given by Debbie Penn

In Memory of Michael Cook,
Jack & Cath Jolleys
Given by Judy Cook

In Memory of Jorgen Johansen
Given by Judith Johansen

In Memory of Rick McBain, Ryan,
Ed, Shirley, Ralph Menzies,
Thelma Smidt
Given by Sharon McBain

In Memory of Douglas Alexander
Given by Daniel Ariss

In Memory of May Graham,
Fergus Graham
Given by May Taylor

In Memory of Rick Jonasson
Given by Sharlene Jonasson

In Memory of Boulton & Dora
Rogers, and Gwen & Jim Nichols
Given by Dianne Nichols

In Memory of Rev. Murray
Henderson, and Margaret
Given by Glenys McFarlane

In Memory of Mom Wood, Dad
Wood, Mom Cryer, Dad Cryer
In Honour of Marguerite Cryer
Given by Marguerite Cryer

In Memory of Muckl and Christel
Given by Christine Stueckl

In Honour of Doris Cameron's
100th Birthday
Given by Bev Siggs

Meet

Prayer Circle: Ross Shearer invites you to participate in the Prayer Circle in the coming New Year, beginning January 6, meeting every Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. in the Lounge.

This gathering offers a quiet and reflective space for mindfulness, prayer, and the study of scripture, with an opportunity to thoughtfully explore its meaning and relevance in our lives. This Prayer Circle is part of Ross Shearer's field placement project, and all are warmly encouraged to attend.



Serve

You Serve with your Stewardship: *"An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'"* (Matthew 1:20b) The story of Joseph's dream reminds us that God's plans sometimes require us to depart from what we know and expect. As followers of Jesus, may we be able to find the courage and flexibility to be good stewards of all God's amazing gifts.

Learn

Broadview Subscription: *"Broadview is more than a magazine. It reflects what people of faith can offer Canadians today. Its podcast, Some Women, has already reached over 16,400 downloads—an amazing response. Broadview has a rare capacity to speak to the spiritual, social, and intergenerational needs of both church goers and those with no church connection. People seeking hope, courage, and reconciliation can find it here. Broadview holds treasure."* – Mardi Tindal (former moderator)

Broadview is a monthly magazine covering faith, current events, and news from the United Church.

If you are a current subscriber through the CUC group discount and wish to renew, please contact Lily at office@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca

If you would like to start a new subscription, please also contact Lily.

A yearly subscription is \$30. Payment can be made by e-transfer, cheque, or cash. For questions or assistance, please call 604-574-5813.



Pray

New this week...

- God of life and hope, console all who are mourning in the wake of the hate-motivated **shootings at Bondi Beach** in Sydney, Australia, comforting them with your presence and strengthening them to face the journey of grief still in front of them. For those overwhelmed by fear, grant your peace and the assurance of community solidarity, we pray, and help all of us resist the forces that exploit, dehumanize, and marginalize, as we seek to combat hate and overcome violence through your fierce love.
- Thank you, God of all good gifts, for the gift of all the people around our wider community who have worked and continue to work, especially in this holiday season, to **bring assistance, generosity, and joy among those in need**.
- Pour out, dear Lord, your strength and healing on **Sue**, a friend of Laurel recently diagnosed with bladder and kidney cancer and preparing for surgery in January to remove one kidney.
- We give you thanks, O God, for the witness to Christ made through the peoples and ministries of **Trinity** United Church in Prince George, **Oakridge** United Church in Vancouver, **Okanagan Falls** United Church, **Okanagan Japanese** United Church in Kelowna, and **Oliver** United Church (*from The United Church's regional council prayer cycles*).
- For the nations and peoples of **Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan**, and the Mainland of **China**. *We give you thanks, O God, for:* the long and complex history of China, with its many artefacts, cultures and traditions that have developed over millennia; those who established missions and churches in the past, and the determination of Chinese Christians to contextualize the church here and now; those who boldly live out their faith, challenging injustices even when they fear persecution; the economic growth and development that have lifted many out of poverty; the steps China is taking to counter huge environmental challenges. *And we pray to you, O God, for:* those left behind and further marginalized by rising economic growth, especially women and peasants in rural areas; peace, understanding, and cooperation between the mainland of China, Hong Kong, and the global community; a growth in prophetic witness of the Chinese church in society; for greater understanding and cooperation between Taiwan and the Mainland of China; spiritual meaning and freedom from captivity to economic growth and consumerism. (*from the World Council of Churches' prayer cycle*)

Ongoing...

- We lift into your light, O God, **Priscilla**, who has just had surgery for breast cancer, and for her family journeying alongside her, including mother Dorothy; heal her body, guard her spirit, and give all of them strength, courage, and patience, we pray.
- God of grace and courage, we lift up to you **all those facing the scourge of addiction**, in all its forms. Pour out your power and help them join with you in breaking the bonds that keep them captive.

- Bring help and hope, O God, to all **those facing food insecurity**.
- Hold in your heart, O God, all **those journeying with dementia, Alzheimer's, and other forms of cognitive decline**, and pour strength into those who find themselves as caregivers.
- Lift up, defend, protect, and comfort the people of **Gaza**, good Lord, as they continue facing the violence, starvation, and devastation that has been wrought upon them.
- For those of our congregation who are homebound, incarcerated, in long-term nursing care, or otherwise unable to be with us regularly, including: **Roger, Lorraine, Pauline, Eileen, Joyce, Gerrit, Brenda Steele, and Roy**.

Additions to the prayer list are always welcome! Submissions received in the office by 9:00 am Thursday morning will appear in the bulletin. Petitions regarding specific individuals or circumstances will only be retained on the prayer list for 3 weeks at a time (but can be renewed if changes in the situation warrant).

Other news and notes

How One House in Korea Transformed The United Church of Canada: As part of The United Church of Canada's 100th anniversary, we are [reflecting on a moment that reshaped us and our global partnerships](#). In 1974, the

United Church transferred a mission house in Seoul to the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK). What began as a difficult conversation about ownership and power became a courageous act of decolonizing mission.

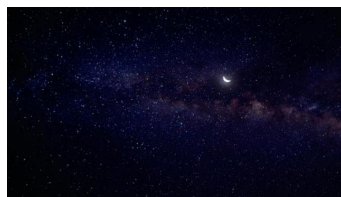
The house soon became an underground seminary during dictatorship and a centre for Minjung theology—a Korean liberation theology rooted in the struggle for democracy and human rights. PROK still cherishes the building, now a protected historic site.

Watch the new centennial video to learn how this act of generosity transformed both churches: “How One House in Korea Transformed The United Church of Canada.” <https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/seodaemun-house-seoul-and-defining-moment-our-100-year-story>

New Blog! Advent and Urgency: Rev. Tori Mullin, Growth Animator for Eastern Ontario and Quebec, reflects on how vast the universe is and how urgency calls us to love:

Reflecting under the stars, Tori Mullin shares how a mentor's radical compassion during a time of personal grief led them back to a thoughtful faith. This experience underscores the urgency needed in the church: a pressing call to love others the way Jesus loved.

The United Church is at a critical moment. If we hope for a future presence, they argue we **MUST** risk changing our priorities, choosing accessibility and neighbours over comfort and familiarity. The decline is painful, but it is an



invitation to engage in the courageous, vulnerable work of self-reflection and transformation for God's dream.

Read the full reflection here: <https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/advent-and-urgency>

God's Mission, Our Gifts

An Advent Lesson from Children: Last year, a small gift reminded us just how powerful generosity can be.

We received a cheque for \$125 from a longtime Mission and Service donor. But the money didn't come from her... it came from her three grandchildren. They had gathered loose change from around their house, rolling loonies, quarters, and dimes. They were told they could spend it on anything they wanted. Instead, they chose to send it all to help children in Ukraine.

Their letter said simply, "They decided to send it to help children in need." That story was a reminder of something that already lives within us. We don't need to be taught how to care. God created us for compassion, and sometimes it takes the perspective of children to remind us of that.

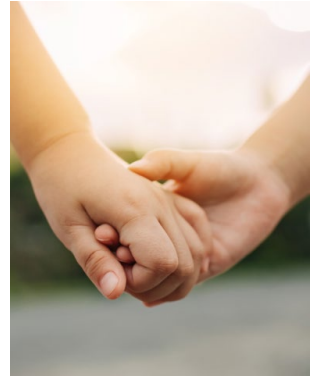
That same spirit of generosity was powerfully echoed at General Council 45, where youth delegates from across the country shared their hopes for the church. They spoke of a church that is more than buildings, one that adapts boldly to God's call. They imagined a church that cares deeply about the world beyond its walls and is committed to real change. They envisioned a community that places the needs of the vulnerable first and uses its resources to serve others.

Their voices reflected the heart of Mission and Service: meeting people with compassion, supporting partners who respond to crises, and working for justice and healing in Canada and around the world.

The dreams of these young leaders, and the generosity of children who share what little they have, show the kind of future the church can build when people join their sparks together.

This Advent, Mission and Service invites the church to share sparks of compassion that can ignite fires of change. When generosity is passed from one person to another, it grows into comfort, hope, and lasting impact for those who need it most.

Thank you for supporting [Mission and Service](#) and helping that spark shine brightly this season.



WELCOME TO CLOVERDALE UNITED CHURCH!

As we say at nearly every worship service, “No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s journey God welcomes you... and so do we.” We take these words seriously. We strive to be a community as diverse and hospitable as God’s kingdom. We don’t all look or act alike; God knows we don’t all think alike. We don’t all read the Bible the same way. We come from different religious backgrounds, we bring different questions, and we carry different burdens. But every Sunday, we gather and worship God together as one.



In this lovely old church, we do Sunday morning in some fairly traditional ways. We study the teachings and the actions of Jesus. We gather around the waters of grace and the feast table of Christ, just as Christians have done for nearly two thousand years. Some of the songs we sing (certainly not *all* of them, though) are ones our grandparents might also have sung in their day. And yet, amidst rituals and rites rooting us in a deep heritage, we wrestle with the challenges of the modern world and we listen for God’s Spirit still speaking into our lives today. We hope your heart will hear something personal and relevant this morning—a word of comfort, a spur to action, a call to a deeper relationship with God.

After the service, please stick around. Have a cup of coffee or a bite to eat with us. Introduce yourself to other worshippers or our pastor. There are plenty of opportunities here to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. You never know—you just might be home!

We are a welcoming, historic, and progressive Christian community, reaching out from the historic heart of Surrey at Cloverdale since 1875. We seek to thrive in faith through relationship with God, one another, and the community.... to serve others as Jesus would.

Cloverdale United Church recognizes that we worship, live, work, and play in traditional and unceded territories of Coast Salish peoples: primarily the Katzie, the Kwantlen, the Semiahmoo, the Snokomish, the Stolo, the Tsawwassen, and the Wsanec. We give our thanks to them and for them; we offer our respect to those ancestors who may be interred in this land. We seek to live with respect in this piece of Creation; we seek peace and justice among all who have called this land home.

CLOVERDALE UNITED CHURCH

17575 58A Ave., Surrey, BC V3S 1N1 | 604.574.5813 | cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca

<i>Ministers</i>	All of the Congregation
<i>Lead Minister</i>	Rev. Matthew Emery – matt@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
<i>Associate Minister</i>	Youngsun Cheon – youngsun@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
<i>Director of Music Ministries</i>	Tim Bailey – tim@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
<i>Office Administrator</i>	Lily Lee – office@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
<i>Children & Youth Ministries Leader</i>	Ross Shearer – ross@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
<i>Director of Music Ministries</i>	Dr. Emma Rui-Xuan Shi (<i>on maternity leave</i>)
<i>Intercultural Ministry Coordinator</i>	Chohee Won – chohee@cloverdaleunitedchurch.ca
<i>Church Council Chair</i>	Daniel Ariss – arissd135@gmail.com