



November 30, 2025

The First Sunday of Advent: HOPE

We Gather Together Seeking Hope

Prelude

Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Valerie Oden

A Place at the Table for You The United Church of Canada Advent Outreach

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Hope

Music: "Gesu Bambino" by Peitro Yon; words and arrangement by Joel Raney

Sung: **O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And end this gloom of night.
Bring hope to the world, bring peace to the earth,
And fill us with love's pure light.**

Litany:

In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of Advent, we search for God's truth.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of Advent, we seek God's guidance.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

In this season of Advent, we remember God's promise.

Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

An Advent Prayer (In Unison)

Loving God, as we journey through this season of Advent, may we stay awake and alert, watching for the signs of your presence in our lives.

May we not be consumed by the distractions of the world, but remain steadfast in hope, trusting in you.

Fill our hearts with the light of Christ, so we may shine brightly in the darkness. May hope anchor us, reminding us that your love never fails. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

O Come O Come Emmanuel
(vss. 1-2, 6-7)

VU 1

Children's Time

Alec Gallant

*Children's Hymn

Hope is a Star (vs. 1)

VU 7

After this song, children and youth are invited downstairs. There is a "Family Room" behind the piano for little ones, where a volunteer will assist you and the service can be seen and heard.

We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 2: 1-5; Matthew 24: 36-44

John Barrington-Leigh

Anthem

We Are Waiting

RUC Choir

Words: S. Albrecht; Music: J. Althouse

Reflection

"The Revelation of Hope"

Rev. V. Oden

Solo

Hope (Brown)

Sherry Steele

Prayers of the People (Sharing our Joys and Concerns)

Prayer Hymn

Hope Shines as a Solitary Star

MV 220

Words: Catherine Faith MacLean; Music: Janet Bauman Tissandier

The Lord's Prayer: A Paraphrase

VU 916

We Go Gorth to Serve

Offering our Gifts

Offering plates are in the narthex (foyer.) E-transfers are also welcome to:
contactus@riverbendunited.org. We give in gratitude for God's grace.

*Closing Hymn

People Look East

VU 9

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction

An Advent Blessing (M. Faith & J. Paige)

Postlude

Sherry Steele

**denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined*

*"VU" refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United**

*"MV" refers to the spiral bound songbook *More Voices**

Welcome to Riverbend United Church!

We're glad you're here. Please feel free to introduce yourself,
and fill out a Welcome Card in the narthex if you'd like to
receive our weekly e-mail newsletter.

Today: Children's Christmas Program **dress rehearsal** follows
worship, with parents meeting in the Chapel

Upcoming Events:

- **New Members Sunday** – Next Sunday, December 7
(Let Valerie know if you would like to join the church.)
- **Advent Café** – Next Sunday, December 7, after worship.
Join us in the Chapel for festive goodies and warm
Christmas conversation.
- **Children's Christmas Program** – Next Sunday,
December 14, during 10:30 a.m. worship
- **Community Carol Sing** Sunday, December 14, 4:00 p.m.
held at RUC, led by RUC musicians

HOPE



Advent Events 2025

See the reverse side for invitations ongoing throughout Advent.

- Sunday, Nov. 30 Advent 1 – HOPE
- **Young Family Advent Gathering** and Children's Program dress rehearsal after worship, 11:30 - 12:30.
- Sunday, Dec. 7 Advent 2 – PEACE
- **New members and Baptism.**
 - **Christmas Café** after worship - Come to the Chapel for festive goodies and warm Christmas conversation.
- Sunday, Dec. 14 Advent 3 – JOY
- **Children's Christmas Program** in worship.
 - **Community Carol Sing** at 4:00 pm with RUC musicians, the Choir and Handbells.
- Sunday, Dec. 21 Advent 4 – LOVE
- Wed., Dec. 24 **Christmas Eve**
- 5:00** Worship with Choir and Handbells
Flame-free service
- 6:30** Worship with Choir and John Tessier, Soloist
(See john.tessier.com for more info.)
Candlelight service with individual candles
- 8:00** Worship with Communion
Candlelight service with individual candles

Advent: The Coming



How will *you* prepare this year, for the birth of the one who brings light to the dark? We are invited to set aside time each day to read, reflect, pray. We're invited to create room in our hearts—to let the light find its way, to believe that the world might move a step toward peace, and to follow the star to the manger.

Throughout Advent

*Details for each of these offerings can be found in the Front Pew Newsletter, coming soon. They are provided by the RUC Spiritual Formation Committee.
It all begins November 30th.*

- Unwrap the gifts of the digital **Daily Advent Calendar** created specifically for Riverbend United Church by member Carolyn Miller. Go to riverbendunited.org to follow it and be amazed!
- Look for the **Christmas Story Trail** found on posters around the church. Scan the QR Codes on the posters to reveal Lego videos of the Christmas Story.
- See the **Advent Prayer Tree** in the narthex – take a prayer, leave a prayer.
- Traditional printed weekly Advent devotionals will also be available in the narthex: *Heaven's Earthly Life: Wendell Berry and the Poetry of Advent.*