

**Woodslee United Church
Sunday, November 30, 2025
First Sunday of Advent – HOPE
Matthew 1:18-25
Minister: The Rev. Carl Emke
Musician for Today:**



PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP – PRELUDE

PRE-WORSHIP SINGING – (Starting at 9:50 a.m.)

THE WORSHIP SERVICE

QUIET TIME REFLECTIONS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE:

We light the Christ candle to remind us that we want the light of Christ to shine on our time of worship; and that the words that the Pastor shares would point us to that light. This is the understanding of the symbolism of the lighted candle in front of the pulpit.

Jesus said in John 8:12, **“I am the Light of the World: the one who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”**

We have begun the season of Advent and this is good news! There is a general crescendo of emotions as Christmas Day approaches. We are once again reminded that the light of Christ

has come into the world. As we greet many people with the phrase '~~Merry~~ **Christmas**', we are wishing them the blessings of Christ at this holy time of year.

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: Lead Us On (Words were written by Carl Emke. It can be sung to the tune of "O Little Town of Bethlehem.")

O Lord our God, please lead us on
As You prepare our hearts;
We want to worship and adore,
And at the manger start.
So, as we look toward Christmas
With all its special fuss;
Our hearts are calmed as we behold
Emmanuel – God with us!

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (Unison)

Heavenly Father, we approach the season of Advent with a sense of anticipation and hope. We are excited about what Christmas means, and about all of the upcoming activities. With the activities here at church and the ones in the community, help us not to lose sight of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Our hope is based on You. Thank You, O God for raising our trust in waiting for what You have for us to do. We wait with excitement and anticipation. We wait with the sure and certain knowledge that You will guide us. We come to You and we place ourselves in Your hands, for we come in Jesus' name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 1:18-25 (p. 783 in the Bible in the pew.)

CHRISTMAS CAROL: # 1 “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: Today, the presenters are Roni Pinkney and her grand-daughter Preslee.

VU # 6 (first verse only) “A Candle Is Burning”

A TIME FOR CHILDREN - led by Gayle and Roni

THE LORD’S PRAYER: 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 them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

POEM ON HOPE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH – A NEW CREED: We are not alone, we live in God’s world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PREPARATION FOR PRAYER: Please remain seated as the pianist plays # 400
“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (sung twice)

PASTORAL PRAYER

MINISTRY OF MUSIC Today, we are pleased to present The Boys of Rhythm who will minister to us as we mark this service when we pack the church with family and friends. May God bless us all.

CHRISTMAS CAROL: # 36 Angels From the Realms of Glory

SERMON: “When Hope Meets Reality!”

OUR GIFTS IN SUPPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH:

The Bible tells us: “Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul and forget not all His benefits.”

We read in Deuteronomy, “No one shall come into the presence of the Lord empty-handed. Each of you shall bring such a gift as he can in proportion to the blessing which the Lord your God has given you.” The ushers will now receive the offering.

HYMN OF DEDICATION: MV #191 “What Can I Do?” (2 X)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CHRISTMAS CAROL: # 44 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

COMMISSIONING: “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” (VU # 288)

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: “Go Now In Peace

Right after the service, please stay for lasagna and a pot luck of side dishes! Everyone is invited to share in this time of friendship and fellowship in the Hall. The friendships are a blessing, and the time together is a treat. TREAT YOURSELF!!!

The season of Advent has come,
When we honour the birth of God's Son.
With a shout and a cheer, We sing, "Jesus is here!"
With Him now among us, we've won!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please keep in your prayers all those who are listed on our prayer list and those living in care homes. Please also pray for family members of individuals who are facing the challenges of depression and the struggles that come with that. Pray for all of the people who are trying to understand their own feelings of loneliness and discouragement – that they may allow God to surround them with His love.

The ANTLER RIVER WATERSHED REGION has a prayer cycle that includes the churches in the Antler River Watershed area. On November 30, we are remembering **Walpole Island United Church**, located on the border between Ontario and Michigan. It is a First Nations Community that has connections to the United Church. Pray that the church will be faithful to the work that God has called them to do for Him.

Normal part-time weekday working hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. When involved in visiting, counseling, funeral, course, or taping, you may leave a message at the church (519-975-2252) or home (226-275-2118). Hours may change for meetings or appointments to a later time or another day. ~ Rev. Carl.

CAN YOU SMELL THE COFFEE?? Every Thursday at 10:00 a.m., the coffee is brewing and **YOU** are invited to join in as we munch, mingle and mindfully mull over whatever topics the conversation will unearth. **The only agenda is to appreciate one another's company.** We'd love to have you join us!!!

Socks For The Soul: the Sunday School will be collecting warm socks for the men and women at Street Help until December 15. All donations can be put into the wrapped box in the hall. Be sure and fill out a draw ticket with your name and phone number each time you donate. A draw for a \$25 Tim Horton's gift card or a \$25 Iron Kettle gift card will take place on the 15th of December. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The Sunday School Children

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE – about what is going on in the wider United Church as a denomination, please check out the United Church of Canada website. You will be able to find out what mission causes are supported and what our official response is to various issues that arise in different parts of the globe.

December 4, 2025 - **Christmas Carolling through town.** Starts at 5 pm at the Church. Refreshments at the church following the carolling.

Thought for the Day: A diamond is really a lump of coal that did well under pressure. - unknown

Woodslee United Church - Service Time: 10:00 am

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