

**Balzac Pastoral Charge  
Airdrie Pastoral Charge  
Advent 1 December 1, 2024  
Balzac United Church - 10:00 AM  
Ministers: Rev. Kelly Grittner, Rev. Eva Biederman  
Music Ministry : Lee Dowan, Beth Harrison, Dr Alex Shawn**

**Prelude :** “The Father's Love Blooming”, arr. by Ruth Elaine Schram

**Welcoming and Announcements**

**The Christmas Wreath**

**Land Acknowledgement**

“As we gather together, we acknowledge that we are meeting on the unceded territories of the nations of Treaty 7. May we live with respect on this land, and in peace and friendship with its people.”

**Invocation**

*Though I May Speak*

*VU 372*

**Introduction and Recognition of the Season**

**Hymn**

*In The Bleak Mid Winter” (verse 1 – remain seated)*

*VU 55*

**Ceremony of Commemoration**

We light a candle in memory of those who gave us birth,  
who nurtured us, offered love, and cherished us.

**We remember mothers and fathers,  
guardians and grandparents,  
and all our family through the ages (a candle is lit)**

We light a candle in memory of those  
who have been joined to us in the great circle of family.

**We remember sisters and brothers,  
aunts, uncles, and cousins,  
those near to us and far away. (a candle is lit)**

We light a candle in memory of those who have left us  
before we expected, those we hold dear,  
and with whom we still walk in our dreams.

**We remember children and grandchildren,  
those who leaped within the womb  
and who danced upon the earth. (a candle is lit)**

We light a candle in memory of those whom we came to know through  
the eyes of love. We hold sacred the faces and memories of years past,

of those who brightened our days and lit up our lives.

**We remember husbands and wives,  
dearest loves and closest friends,  
who changed our lives forever. (a candle is lit)**

We light a candle in memory of those who shared in our lives  
in many ways, who worked with us  
and made our lives more enjoyable.

**We remember friends and neighbours. (a candle is lit)**

We light a candle for those we do not know, O God,  
who, like us, have suffered loss, who live with grief,  
who long for peace and justice,  
who long for friendship and healing.

**We remember your people, of every time and place.**  
(a candle is lit)

Finally, we leave one candle unlit,  
mindful of the great truth of this life,  
that in the fullness of time we, too,  
will join our loved ones in a realm without sorrow and pain,  
in the company of Unending Love.

**For these and all your children, we give thanks  
for life, hope and courage. Amen.**

**Hymn** *In the Quiet Curve of Evening (verse 1 – remain seated)*  
VU 278

**Prayer of Hope** (Kate McIlhagga, *Encompassing Presence: Prayer  
Handbook 1993*)

### **Lighting the Advent Candle of Hope**

*The candle of Hope is lit.*

Hope, in the midst of fear. Hope in the midst of sorrow.  
Hope when it seems hopeless. God offers hope.

**We come seeking that hope. We come seeking a new dream.**

**We come from the four winds seeking God-with-Us.**

Let us pray for Emmanuel, let us pray for that promised hope.

**Hymn** *Hope is a Star* VU 7

**Scripture Reading Jeremiah 23: 1-6 “New Shepherds, God’s  
Flock”**

**Reflection “Where Are the Shepherds?”**

**Special Music** *A Great Light* L. Larson *The Choir*

### **Invitation to Giving**

As we worship through the Advent season, we receive the Good News that Christ comes to bring peace on earth and goodwill to all people.

**Let us share of ourselves and of what God has so graciously given.**

**Offertory**                    *In the Bleak Mid Winter (Verse 4)*                    *VU 55*

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.**

### **Offertory Prayer**

**Loving God, we present these gifts  
as well as the gifts we cannot put  
on an offering plate:  
our hearts and lives.**

**Bless all our gifts, bless all our moments of giving. Amen**

### **Prayers Of The People & The Lords 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 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**                    *We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song)*                    *VU 595*

**Commissioning**        *(Whitney Bruno, Gathering Magazine Pentecost  
2, adapted)*

**Choral Benediction**                    *Go Now in Peace*                    *VU 964*

**Postlude**        "Once In Royal David's City", arr. M. Hayes

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Advent/Christmas Worship Services** - Airdrie United Church will be joining the BUC congregation for worship starting on Nov 24, 2024 at 10:00 am. Both church boards have agreed to have one service each Sunday from November 24<sup>th</sup> to December 29<sup>th</sup> to give us all time to settle into our new arrangements and to work on building community and connections. We will share coffee time after the service. – Ruth Unser, Board Chair, 403-289-2715
- **Name Tags:** Please wear your name tags regularly so we all have the chance to get to know each other better. If you don't have a name tag, please request one by emailing [balzacunitedchurch@gmail.com](mailto:balzacunitedchurch@gmail.com) or check with Ruth Unser.
- **Adopt a family** - Thank you for supporting our adopt a family program through Airdrie 1st. We have adopted 2 families, a family of 5 and a family of 3. All of the tags for the family of 5 were picked up and need to be returned to Sheryl at the church by December 1st (this Sunday!!). It was requested for family 2 that we just give Walmart gift cards to a value of \$350 so any amount would be helpful. This also needs to be in to me by December 1st. If this date does not work for you, please feel free to call or text Sheryl at 403-861-6005. She will need time to get everything together before delivering to the donation centre. Also if you have any questions feel free to contact her. Thank you, Sheryl Page
- **Cookie Bakers Needed!** 🎄🍪 If you are interested in baking some cookies for a cookie sale, we need you! Just think of a delicious recipe and let Victoria know! *Cookies will be available for sale December 8, come by for tasty homemade treats* ❤️🎄
- **Only 3 Wreaths Left!!!** 🎄 Beautiful wreaths from Bluegrass nursery are available. They would be a lovely addition to your home this Christmas season. Only \$44.99 for a 12" wreath. Please see Victoria or Joyce .
- **Firewood for sale!** - Dry Pine \$150 or Dry Birch \$250 for a truckload. All proceeds go to the Balzac United Church. Wood would be delivered to you. See Paul Arnott for details 403-801-3136
- **Church Activity Calendar** – A reminder to put your requests to use the building for activities on the calendar in the front lobby of the church.
- **New Rental Tenant** - We will be renting our minister office space on Mondays, starting after November 15<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 8 pm to Dennis Esayenko, from Midwest Trinity Counselling. If you need to access the building during this time, please be quiet and respect the privacy of the people using the office. Also, don't be concerned if there are extra people parking at the church. If you have questions or concerns, please check with Gary Astle (780-970-3645) or Ruth Unser (403-289-2715).
- **Card Requests** – If you know of someone who you feel would appreciate a card sent to them, for a celebration, a get well card or any other occasion, please contact Joyce Covey, email at [samaluyk@gmail.com](mailto:samaluyk@gmail.com) or call 403-390-1925.
- **E-Transfer Funds to BUC** - If you would like to send an E-transfers to Balzac United Church please send it to this email: [treasurer@balzacunitedchurch.com](mailto:treasurer@balzacunitedchurch.com). Also if you would like to change your PAR donation Hannah has forms you can fill out to do so, please see her at church.
- **Minister Contact Information** - If you want to talk to Kelly Grittner, call him at 403-219-3535.
- **First Third Ministry Corner:** Everything for our kids, youth & young adults. Leader: Angela Wigglesworth, Email: [BUCfirstthirdministry@gmail.com](mailto:BUCfirstthirdministry@gmail.com). Phone: (587)229-3878.