



Worship with Airdrie and Balzac United Churches
December 8th, 2024 - 10a.m. - Advent 2
Ministers: Rev. Eva Biederman & Rev. Kelly Grittner
Music Ministry: Lee Dowan, Beth Harrison, Dr Alex Shawn

Prelude: *In the Bleak Midwinter, arr. M. Hayes*

Welcome and Announcements

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.”

The Christmas Wreath

Lighting the Candle of Peace (the candle is lit)

Peace, in the midst of war. Peace, in the midst of conflict. Peace, when everything is going wrong. God offers peace.

**We come seeking God’s peace. We come seeking to be made whole.
We come seeking to be reconciled. We come from the four winds
seeking God-with-Us.**

Let us pray for Emmanuel, let us pray for the courage to be peaceful, let us pray for that peace that makes no sense to the world.

-Whitney Bruno, Little Current and Sheguiandah U.C., Little Current, Ont.

Opening Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VU 1

Call to Worship

In a world that is lonely,

we will save a seat for you.

In a world that is anxious,

we will light candles against the gloom.

In a world that is weary,

we will sing songs of joy and truth.

I am not alone.

We are not alone.

For here in this place, God is weaving us together.

Light the candles! Sing with joy!

We are a three-cord strand, not easily broken.

-Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.

Candles of Joy, Concern, & Sorrow

Opening Prayer

Holy and loving God, as we wait for your son, Jesus, to be born into our world again, help us get ready.

Helps us get ready to receive true hope, true peace, true joy, and true love.

Then with these filling our hearts and souls, may your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

-Sandra Jenkinson, Sundridge P.C. and Trout Creek P.C., Sundridge, Ont.

Hymn

All Earth is Waiting

VU 5

Time for Young and Young at Heart

Children's Song

I've Got Peace like a River

VU 577

Prayer of Confession & Assurance

I have tried to make my own way.

I have tried to lace my own shoes, to build my own house, to kindle my own faith. I have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if I am fine on my own. But the days are long and I am forgetful. I need your help. Can you remind me?

We will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

Thanks be to God! I remember. I believe.

Now we need your help.

We, too, have tried to make our own way.

We have tried to lace our own shoes, to build our own houses, to kindle our own faiths.

We have said a thousand times, "turn back," as if we are fine on our own. But the days are long and we are forgetful.

We need your help. Can you remind us?

I will remind you of this everlasting truth:

You are not alone.

Where you go, God goes.

You are held in grace.

Trust in this good news.

Thanks be to God! We remember. We believe.

Alleluia! Amen.

-Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.

Scripture Reading

Ruth 1

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

One: This is a part of our story

ALL: Thanks be to God!

Message

Hymn

Wherever You May Go

VU 216

Offering

Special Music: *Never Been a Night Like This!* arrangement by *L. Larson*
- BUC Choir Anthem

Offering Prayer

**Through these gifts, may we be agents of Peace in your world;
Lifting people up in love so that they can experience an abundant
future. Amen.**

-Karen Boivin, City View U.C., Nepean, Ont.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer...Our Father/Mother/Creator...

Commissioning and Benediction

Closing Hymn *I Am Walking a Path of Peace* VU 221

Postlude: *Wachet Auf, arr. L. Smith*

IMPORTANT DATES:

December 8 & 15, 2024 – Advent Services - Joint services with BUC & AUC – 10:00 am at BUC

December 22, 2024 – Choir Christmas Cantata – part of worship service – 10:00 am at BUC

December 24, 2024 – Christmas Eve Service – 5:00 pm

December 29, 2024 – 10:00 am – Carol service – Joint service with BUC, AUC & IUC – 10:00 am at BUC

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please note the start time at 10:00AM

- **Cookies have arrived!** Yummy assorted cookie plates will be available for purchase this Sunday. They will be by donation. Those who are bringing the treats please meet at the church at 9:00 before service 🍪🎄
- **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.
- **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 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. 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. Phone: (587)229-3878.