

Balzac United Church
November 30, 2025, 10:00am
Guest Minister: Rev. Linda Hunter
Music Ministry: Lee Dowan, Dr. Alex Shawn

Theme: Wake Up!

In our scripture passage today, Paul calls us to “wake from sleep.” The call to wake up issued by Paul invites us to be alert to what God is up to in this world. Being alert does not allow us to be apathetic or anxious. Waking from sleep reminds us to wake into each new day with a sense of renewed hope and commitment to awaken the world to the wonder of this season of preparing for the birth of Jesus.

Prelude Carol Medley arr. M. Hayes

The Introit Oh God We Call x2 VU 411

Welcome and Announcements

Land Acknowledgement

“Twas in the Moon of Wintertime” or “The Huron Carol” is Canada’s oldest Christmas carol, written in 1642 by Jean de Brebeuf, a Jesuit missionary living among the Huron First Nations people. The lyrics adapt the Christmas story into the context of First Nations people and reflects the attempt of missionaries to convert First Nations people to Christianity. First Nations people have mixed feelings about the “Huron Carol” due to its complex history of colonization, with some finding the traditional English lyrics problematic, while others have embraced the song.

In this time of Advent, we take this moment to remind ourselves of our complicated relationship with the Indigenous peoples of this land, committing ourselves to learning more about our shared, troubled history. Our Land Acknowledgement today is one small step in walking the path of truth and reconciliation in this Advent Season. We acknowledge that we reside on Treaty 7 territory and the Metis Nation, Districts 5 and 6.

Lighting The Candle Of Hope

The Season of Advent is upon us! During the Season of Advent, we prepare ourselves for the arrival of Jesus. We journey with Mary and Joseph as they travel the arduous trek from their home in Nazareth to the tiny village of Bethlehem, just outside of Jerusalem. We mark this journey by lighting candles along the way. Today we light the Candle of Hope on our Advent wreath. In the midst of dark and troubled times, we remind ourselves that

hope can never be extinguished, that hope resides within every human heart, that hope refuses to give way to the darkness.
(the Candle of Hope is lit)

Sung Refrain *Hope is a Star* VU 7 verse 1

The Call To Worship

Come, people of God,
let us await the coming of Jesus,
let us prepare ourselves for his birth.

**We have come to listen to the whisper of angel wings
opening ourselves to the wonder of this Advent Season.**

Come, then, let us worship God, in this season of waiting.

Opening Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VU 1
verses 1&2

Candles Of Joy, Concern And Sorrow

Opening Prayer (in unison)

**Come, Emmanuel, God with us. Come Emmanuel, find us in our
longing and desire for serenity and peace. Come, Emmanuel, dance
with us. Come, Emmanuel, use us to prepare the way for a new day
of hope dawning. In the name of the One soon to be born among us.
AMEN**

Communion Hymn *Let Us Break Bread Together* VU 480

The Sacrament Of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer

Lift up your hearts.

We lift up our hearts to God.

It is right and good to praise God.

We come with joy and thanksgiving.

Holy God, we come to this table with joy and thanksgiving.

From the beginning, you brought all of creation into being.

You created a people to bear witness to love.

You brought them out of enslavement.

You brought them through waters to a place of bounty.

In time, Jesus, whom you called Beloved,

Came to invite all humankind

to a table of reconciliation and hope.

We give thanks today for people everywhere
Who continue to live their faith in hope and in love.

Consecration Of The Elements

Sharing The Broken Bread And Poured Cup

(musical accompaniment *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*, arr. M. Hayes)

Post-Communion Prayer

Holy One, you have fed us and you have blessed us. You have named us as your people, a people seeking to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. We give you grateful thanks for the nourishment we have received at this banquet of life today. AMEN

Choir Anthem *How Great Our Joy* arr. L. Larson

Scripture Reading Romans 13:11-14

Reflection *What Does it Mean to be "Woke?"*

Hymn *Dream a Dream* MV158

Offering Invitation

Waken our hearts to know the power we have to make a difference. Give us wisdom to trust your voice, prompting us to act, to risk reaching out in love. Our offerings are a sign of our willingness to risk. Our morning offering will now be received.

Offertory *Let All Flesh Keep Silence* arr. M. Hayes

Prayer Of Dedication

**We never know, O God, whether what we offer is enough. Still, we present these gifts for your work in the world, trusting that you will bless them—and us—for your purpose. May these gifts seed new life and hope in the world.
AMEN**

Prayers Of The People

The Prayer Of Jesus

Closing Hymn *I Am the Dream* MV 106

The Blessing And Sending Forth

The word we have been given this day is HOPE.

May we carry hope on our journey throughout this week,
the hope we have encountered and experienced in this place.

May we offer the vision of hope to all we meet, this day and always. **AMEN**

Musical Postlude *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*

arr. T. Birchwood