

Montague Pastoral Charge

Hillcrest United Church

Ministers: All of Us

Guest Preacher: Ellen Locke

Director of Music: Anne White

Website: www.hillcrestunitedchurch.ca

Facebook Group: Hillcrest United Church, PE

902-838-2698

November 28, 2021 – Advent I

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus



***Today's Bulletins are placed
In Loving Memory of***

Alan Coffin

by

***Joan and Steve Clarkson
and Family***

Sunday, November 28, 2021

*(*please stand)*

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude Pastoral Symphony from "The Messiah" G. F. Handel
Three Songs of Christmas – arranged by Lani Smith
Christmas Medley

***Introit** *Based on VU #1 (text by Juanita Austin)*

**O come and let a righteous branch arise,
Its holy limbs up, reaching to the skies.
In you, when we are rooted, we are strong.
Together we are blest and we belong.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Greeting & Welcome

As we gather in worship, we acknowledge that we are on the unceded territory of the Indigenous peoples.

Life and Work of the Church

Lighting of the First Advent Candle

Hope admits that we're not quite there yet.

Hope means that something good is within reach.

Hope calls out to us, so that we come to see the good that awaits.

God is our hope.

Let us taste, see, hear, feel, smell, and anticipate this hope.

May hope be found in a manger and throughout the world.

Please join in singing vs 1 of VU #6 "A Candle Is Burning"

Call to Worship

It is Advent,

Jesus is coming, be alert.

In times of joy and abundance,

We are ready.

In the midst of difficulty and danger,

We are ready.

In times of uncertainty and fear,

We are ready.

In times of apathy and despair,

We are ready.

With anticipation and with hope,
We look for God's long-promised one.

We will not be disappointed.

We will not be disheartened.

Jesus is coming and we are ready.

Opening Prayer

Holy Mystery, we begin this season of Advent with great anticipation of Your coming to live among us. This has been a year like no other we have experienced. So much has been outside of our control. And so, we approach this season prayerfully, setting aside the distractions. Protector God, we know You will guide us through the shadows and provide blessed moments that will delight and comfort us. We value this time together when we can focus on Your word and its relevance for our lives, while we journey with hope into this season of miracles. Amen.

***Opening Hymn VU #2**

"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"

Good News

We celebrate you in all that you do,

We love you; God bless you. We celebrate you!

***Children's Hymn VU #43 "Go, Tell It On The Mountain"**

Children's Story "The Holy Family"

Children's Prayer (*repeat after leader*)

Thank You for the humble birth in the stable. Thank You for the hope and excitement of the Advent season. Thank You for travelling to Bethlehem with us. Thank You for loving us so much that You came to live among us. We love You, God! Amen.

(Children may go to Sunday School)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God always with us, always coming: we confess that we do not know how to prepare for Your Advent. We have forgotten how to hope in miracles; we have ignored the promise of Your Kingdom; we get distracted by all the busyness of this season. Forgive us, God. Grant us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the patient faith of Mary and Joseph, that we may journey with them to Bethlehem, and find the Good

News of a child born for us. Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask
You to make us ready for his coming. **Amen**
. . .silent prayer

Assurance of Pardon

The past is behind us,
the future is before us,
the moment of new beginnings is now!
As forgiven people we are filled with hope.
Thanks be to God!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture Readings

Jeremiah 33:14-16 Reader: Beryl Palmer
Psalm 25: 1-10 (VU p. 752)
1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13
Luke 21: 25-36

The Gloria Patri (Music by Alan Coffin)

Musical Offering by Senior Choir

“Bring Us Hope” by Ruth Elaine Schram

Reflection “*Hope*”

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

***Hymn**: More Voices #221 “I Am Walking a Path of Peace”
1) peace 2) hope

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Minute for Mission

Invitation to Offering

***Offering Dedication** VU # 55 – verse 4
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.

***Offering Prayer**

Accept, O God, this money offered, these gifts given,
the goodwill of our hearts, that disappointment may be turned to
hope, and worry may be turned to anticipation,
As we await with wonder the birth of Christ.
Amen.

***Closing Hymn VU #29 “Hark the Glad Sound”**

***Commissioning and Benediction**

***Closing Response MV # 220 verse 1**

**Hope shines as the solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
And illumine the pathway home.**

Postlude “Antiphon in F Major” Georg Muffat

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

***We extend a warm welcome to guests
visiting with us today. Please sign one of
our guest books at the back of the sanctuary.***

Sunday Sign-In – It is strongly recommended that you phone/e-mail
the office to **register for Christmas Eve** 7:00 pm service as well as
Sunday services. (838-2698). By pre-registering, it helps the Safety
Team and congregation, by not having to wait to have names and
phone numbers written on our Contact Tracing Lists at the door. (Cold
weather is approaching.) **You can register ahead for any service
you wish to attend.**

Office Hours this week are Mon. through Thurs. 9 a.m. to noon. (Office
902-838-2698)

Clergy Visiting - Please let the office know if anyone in hospital, long-
term care or at home requires a visit. If you are requiring Pastoral Care,
call the office or Rev. Doreen at 940-1863.

Lights of Remembrance for Advent forms are on the back page of
the bulletin. You are invited to remember a loved one to ‘light up’ our
outdoor tree. Suggested donation is \$10/person remembered.

Wednesday

4 p.m. – Hillcrest Bridge Group. All welcome.
Senior Choir. New singers most welcome.

**2-
7-8 p.m. –**

Friday

10:00 a.m. – Frank’s Free Computer College

10:00 a.m. – Hillcrest Knitting Group meets in the
Valleyfield Room. Everyone welcome.

Sunday

a.m. Youth Choir.

10:00

UPCOMING AT HILLCREST

Upcoming Guest Speakers/Ministers

Dec. 5 – Advent 2 – Communion – Rev. Melaney Matheson

Dec. 12 – Advent 3 - Youth Choir, Sunday School, White Gift

Dec. 19 – Advent 4 - Senior Choir Cantata

Dec. 24 – 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship with Senior and Youth
Choirs

Dec. 26 – Presented by friends at Hillcrest

Jan. 2 – Ellen Locke

AED Training – we will be hosting a ‘short version’ of the AED training
in the very near future. Please contact the office if you wish to attend
this session. (It is the hope that at least one person in each of the
committees and groups using Hillcrest United will be trained in how to
use the AED.)

THANK-YOU!

-Ellen Locke for being with us again this Sunday. What a treat to have
you back.

-for all your donations to the Food Bank and to John for delivering
these items.

-to our ‘church decorators’ for doing such a beautiful job of decorating
the church on Friday morning.

-to all who participated in the Christmas carolling on Friday evening at
Three Rivers Town Hall.

-To Tanya Sibbick who continues to co-ordinate Sunday School
lessons each week for our Youth. What a gift you are to Hillcrest.

DID YOU KNOW

Hillcrest Community Garden is used by members of our church family as well as many others from the community. It is the only community garden on PEI which is free to anyone who wishes to use it. What a great outreach it provides to the wider community. Thanks to those who tend and care for it.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Nominating Committee is seeking volunteers for the upcoming year in the following areas:

- ~ One position on the Board of Stewards & Trustees and
- ~ One position on the Nominating Committee. These positions are a three year term. Please contact Sherren at 902-838-5159 or sjmack@pei.sympatico.ca if you are able to fill one of these.

Also, if anyone is free to join the Sunday Counters (counting and recording the weekly offerings for a month), please contact Clara at 902 838-4555 or claravanderaa@hotmail.com

In this time of transition it takes many volunteers to "keep the ship afloat". Please give prayerful consideration to sharing your time and talents to help.

WIDER CHURCH

Drive-Through Living Nativity – The 11th Annual drive-through Living Nativity will be taking place on December 3-5 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the home of Chrys and Doreen Jenkins at 6452 Route 19 in Canoe Cove. There will be live animals, lights, shepherds, kings, angels, and Mary and Joseph. Freewill donations will be accepted for the Lennon Recovery House.

REMINDERS

MPC COVID-19 Protocol – Face masks are required in all indoor public spaces on PEI; however, it is not mandatory to wear a mask while seated at indoor events (such as church services and indoor seated concerts) provided there is 6 feet of physical distance between individuals of different households or social groups. Masks must be worn when standing, singing, and moving around in the church. Double vaccinations must be shown for all meetings and gatherings held in the church (except worship). Thank-you for working together to keep us safe, and always remember: **'Be Kind, Be Patient'**.

Worship LIVE on the Facebook page, Hillcrest United Church PEI, or on MIXLR on website www.hillcrestunitedchurch.ca Should you have questions, please e-mail or phone the office.

Furnace Fund & Technology Fund – Please consider making a donation to help install the new furnace/technical equipment. Special donation envelopes are available at the entrance doors.

Bulletin Dedications are a great way to remember loved ones or to mark a special occasion. Please contact the office to book a Sunday. Suggested offering \$25. (available: Dec. 19)

Little Library is at the front of the church. It has both children and adult books for the taking. Take one and/or leave one.

Magazine Rack has numerous magazines to share.

“Kitchen Comforts” – church cookbooks are available in the office. Cost is \$10 or 2 for \$15.

Memorial Christmas Tree Lights Form

(Please cut off this form and submit it to the office, drop it in the offering plate, or phone or e-mail your information)

In loving memory of _____

From _____

Phone Number _____