



Salisbury United Church
December 1, 2024
First Sunday in Advent



Welcome & Announcements

Acknowledgement of Territory

Hymn Medley:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel; #1VU, vv. 1, 2, & 6

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
 and ransom captive Israel
 that mourns in lowly exile here
 until the Son of God appear.

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 shall come to thee, O Israel.*

O come, O Wisdom from on high,
 who orders all things mightily;
 to us the path of knowledge show,
 and teach us in her ways to go. (R)

O come, O Dayspring, from on high,
 and cheer us by your drawing nigh;
 disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
 and death's dark shadows put to flight. (R)

Come, Come Emmanuel; #11MV, chorus only (several times)
Come, come Emmanuel. Come, Emmanuel.

Once in Royal David's City; #62VU

Once in royal David's city, stood a lowly cattle shed,
 where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for his bed.
 Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.

He came down to earth from heaven who, with God, is over all,
 and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall:
 There among the poor and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.

(Continued...)



For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew;
 he was tempted, scorned, rejected tears and smiles, like us he knew.
 Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
 for that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above;
 and he leads his children on, to the place where he is gone.

Scripture Sentences: Romans 13:11-12

The time is at hand, as you well know!

Let us be awake, ready to recognize what is going on right in front of us.

Night is dissolving and dawn's light draws near.

The day of salvation is closer to us than ever before.

Let us get up, walk out of the shadows and clothe ourselves with the light of faith.

Welcoming Each Other In:

(We greet each other with open hands of hospitality before sitting down)

Advent Candle Lighting & Opening Prayer:

These Advent candles remind us of the four directions:
 East, South, West and North.

In each direction the weary world is aching for an uprising of hope.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we look to the East.

The rising sun in the East heralds the gathering light of a new birth.

(The first blue Advent Candle is lit.)

We light this first candle because Christ, our Morning Star, will soon rise among us.

We offer our overburdened hearts to the waiting time of Advent.

We breathe in the Spirit of Hope.

(Pause in silence)

And now let us pray:

Living God, you invite us in from every corner of the world and no one is shut out, though some who are now first shall be last and some who are last shall be first. But, the quiet knowledge of your widening welcome enables us to move along the far edge of darkness, toward the glimmer of hope that shines on us from afar.



As hope increases, we even dare to pray:

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come swiftly into our world,

Come into our lives.

Come and stay.

Amen.

Hymn: Light One Candle for Hope (*repeat several times*)

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.
Christ brings hope to every heart. He comes! He comes!

Discovery Time: Favorite Advent Traditions

Hymn: Come and Fill Our Hearts; #16MV (*Note word changed in verse*)

Come and fill our hearts with your *hope*.
You alone, O Lord, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your *hope*, alleluia!

Scripture Reading: Luke 21: 5-9, 25-28 

Salisbury Singers: "O How I Long to See"

*O, how I long to see the day of glory dawning,
when you will wash away every tear.*

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NIV) 

Sermon: "When Strange Things Happen"

Hymn: All Earth Is Waiting; #5VU

All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.

Thus says the prophet to those of Israel:
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,
one whose name is 'God with us' our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.

Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

Acknowledgement of Offering:

Spirited God, your gift of hope comes to us
through the advent of the Christ child.

**We offer these gifts back to you as signs of
hope: hope that trusts in your promise of
transformation, hope that opens us to strangers,
to neighbours, to enemies, and to friends.**

Bless our journey on the Way of Jesus. Amen.



*(Source: Written by Gord Dunbar. Gathering, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany
2024/2025, page 33. Used with permission.)*

Sacrament of Communion with The Lord's Prayer:

Invitation:

This is the table of the heavenly feast, the joyful celebration of the
people of God.

We gather now from east and west, south and north.

We are each invited to find our place around the table.

All are invited, all are welcome:

**the broken and whole, the nourished and hungry,
the loved and loving, the sinners and saints.**

Yet we make one circle in Christ,
knowing, believing, rejoicing, hoping
until the day when God lights and rests among us.

Prayer Before Sharing: Thanksgiving Prayer

God of time and space, we are glad you welcome us at your table.

It is right and good to be here.

We belong in your company and this is a great mystery.

We offer our praise and thanks.

Over the centuries of human life you have reached out to us over
and over again.

**You have opened your arms to us in every time and place,
through every culture and people.**

Yet, we have not always recognized your voice speaking to us
through patterns and accents different from our own.

**We have rejected you and refused our place at your table of
abundant life.**



Still, you have continued to offer us a place of belonging at your side.

You have given us repeated opportunities to break your bread and share your cup.

We simply have no other choice but to sing a song of deep gladness because of your persistent love.

 **Sing: Holy, Holy, Holy; #203MV (Tune: #44VU)**

**O holy, holy, holy, God,
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above
bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always!**



As we come to your table, we remember the many kinds of meals that Jesus himself ate with saints and sinners alike.

We remember a joyful wedding banquet where he turned water into the richest of wine.

We remember a noon meal when he broke bread with despised tax collectors.

We remember a fine dinner with religious authorities where they cast doubt on his motives.

We remember a plate of fish and bread shared out to feed a crowd of hungry thousands.

And we remember especially the family meal Jesus shared with friends and followers in an upper room.

On that occasion, Jesus' last meal while he was with us, he took bread, broke it and said:

"This bread you break shall be as my body, broken for you. Take, eat, remember."

He also passed a cup of wine around, saying:

"This cup shall be the sign of a new covenant in the one life poured out for the many. Take, drink, remember."

 **Sing: Memorial Acclamation; #204MV (Tune: #44VU)**

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!**

Whenever we gather at this table, we take our place in Jesus' company once again.

Whenever we break bread together, we celebrate his presence and proclaim his peace.

Whenever we share the cup, we proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

We will continue to gather at your table, O God, until our world changes.

We will continue to break bread until all our yearning for hope, peace, joy and love is fulfilled among us.

We will continue to share the cup until time itself runs out and all creation is made new.

So come now, O God, with the presence of your Holy Spirit.


Bless our place at your table.

Bless our sharing of the bread and cup.

Bless our living on afterwards in faith.

Help us, through this meal, to resolve to live more openly, more generously, more courageously, in your name.

**In Christ, with Christ and through Christ,
and in companionship with you and the Holy Spirit,
we pray, world without end, Amen.**

 **Sing: Great Amen; #205MV (Tune: #44VU)**

**Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!**

Sharing of Bread & Cup:

"The gifts of God, for the people of God."

Prayer After Sharing & Extinguishing the Candle of Hope:

I give myself to the Christ of the four directions.

I give myself to Christ as I face east

And to the rising of the sun.

I give myself to Christ as I face south

And the fullness of this day.

I give myself to Christ as I face west

And the evening of my life.

I give myself to Christ as I face north

And the darkness before me.



I look up to the God above me,
I look down to the everlasting arms.
I have hope, for God is within me,
This day and for ever more,
This day and for ever more.

(Source: *The Open Gate* by David Adam, page 105)

Hymn: I am Walking a Path; #221MV (note word changes in verses)

I am walking a path of *hope*, I am walking a path of *hope*,
I am walking a path of *hope*, lead me home, lead me home.

I am walking a path *with Christ*, I am walking a path *with Christ*,
I am walking a path *with Christ*, lead me home, I am home.

Blessing:

May the God of Hope, Maker, Healer and Holy Spirit,
be with you and keep watch with you
during the coming weeks of Advent expectation.
Amen.



Sung Blessing: African Amen

Copyright Permissions

Music:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel; Public Domain
Come, Come Emmanuel; GIA Publications, 1995
Once in Royal David's City; Public Domain
Come and Fill Our Hearts; GIA Publications, 1982
All Earth Is Waiting; United Methodist Publishing House/Abingdon Press, 1988
Kingsfold Communion Set; William S. Kervin and Paul Stott, 2005
I am Walking a Path of Joy; Janet Bauman Tissandier, 2007

Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-620863. All rights reserved.

BAKE SALE SUCCESS - THANK YOU!



This year's bake sale was a great success and we hope you got your hands on some delicious treats! An early tally of the bake sale proceeds has been calculated at over \$2,800! Compared to last year's Bake Sale, this year's sale raised over \$500 more! Congratulations and many thanks to all our generous volunteers, donors and bakers!

MEMORIAL TREE SERVICE - SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21st at 7pm



We will be holding our annual Christmas Memorial Tree Service on Saturday, December 21st at 7pm. If you are interested in honoring the memory of a friend or relative on this occasion, please complete the "Christmas Memorial Tree Lighting" form, available in the Narthex, and deposit it into the collection plate, along with a monetary donation of your choice, on any Sunday between December 1st and December 15th.

ADVENT FUNDRAISER - "SOCKS FROM SALISBURY"

This year's Advent Giving Project at Salisbury involves the collection of new socks, to be donated to the Inner City Pastoral Ministry (Bissell Centre). This fundraiser project will aim to collect and donate NEW socks in sizes for children and adults, helping to supply families and individuals in need of a basic clothing item. Beginning December 1st, we will be accepting donations of new socks, which can be hung in the Sanctuary.



TRUEARTH FUNDRAISER & CURRENT PROMOTION

From now until December 3rd our ongoing fundraiser with TruEarth is having a **Black Friday "Bundle and Save Big"** event with all Bundles 40% off! TruEarth is a Canadian company which sells environmentally friendly cleaning products for your laundry, kitchen, and bathroom. To place an order, please go to our [unique fundraising link](#). Orders must be placed by December 3rd to get this special Holiday Bundle discount. As always, Salisbury UC earns 20% on every sale!



CHRISTMAS EVE AT SALISBURY

Christmas Eve falls on a Tuesday this year. We hope you'll join us on Sunday, December 22nd for our 4th Advent service with The Story of Christmas. Then, we will be hosting our Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7 pm on December 24th, which will include a candlelight service, carols and Communion.



Wishing a blessed Advent Season to all!

MEDITATION CIRCLE - WEDNESDAYS @ 10am

Meditation Circle has resumed in-person on Wednesdays at 10am. Join us in the Church's Meditation Room each Wednesday.



LOOKING FOR HELP SUNDAY MORNINGS

If you're able to help Sundays at 10:00am, to set up a few tables & chairs in the auditorium, it would be greatly appreciated.



STRATHCONA COUNTY FOOD BANK DONATIONS



Please continue to bring non-perishable items for the Strathcona Food Bank. There is a yellow bin in the Narthex for donations along with a list of most-needed items.



Finance Corner

Update for October 2024

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Income:	\$221,988.61	\$162,666.64
Expense:	\$208,257.35	\$205,281.26
	\$13,731.26	(\$42,614.62)

Year to date net income was approximately \$13,700, compared to a budgeted loss of about \$42,600 - over \$56,000 better than planned! Special donations of more than \$31,000 made it possible along with rental income at almost \$10,000 more than budgeted. Our fundraisers have also raised more than double what we planned for. Expenses were nearly \$3,000 over budget, with most expense categories coming in under budget.

Every person's contribution of time and finances helps maintain and grow Salisbury United Church. Thank you for your ongoing support.

If you need any help with giving envelopes – new supply, pick-up, etc. – or other giving options (monthly giving through PAR, e-transfer or donating online through Canada Helps on the Salisbury Website), please contact: Brittany at the Church Office.

Phone: 780-467-7310

