

## BETHESDA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8:30 a.m. Sunday 14 December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

### ENTRANCE

Prelude and Lighting of Candles

Announcements (*To help us connect, please sign the address pad in your pew*)

Selected Carols

Greeting\*\*: Tell the timid to take heart.

**The Lord our God will come.**

*(Traditional Monastic Liturgy)*

\*Opening Hymn: 221 “In the Bleak Midwinter”

\*Opening Prayer\*\*: The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

In the advent seasons, when the past has fled, unasked, away  
and there is nothing to do but wait,

**God, shelter us.**

Be our surrounding darkness;

**Be the fertile soil out of which hope springs in due time.**

In uncertain times, help us to greet the dawn and labor on, love on,  
**in faith awaiting your purpose hid in you**  
**awaiting to be born in due time. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath\*\*: (Isaiah 35:10)

We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our joy.

May the joyful promise of your presence, O God,  
Make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Response: 2090 “Light the Advent Candle” Verse 3

### PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

(2)

Psalter: Page 199 Canticle of Mary Luke 1:47-55 (*Magnificat*)

Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

\*Hymn of Preparation: 1960 “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 11:2-11

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith: 884 “A Statement of Faith  
of the United Church of Canada”

Joys, Concerns, Prayers

\*The Peace: Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation  
and love. The peace of Christ be with you  
**And also with you.**

### THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION (Page 15 ff) All Are Welcome

#### SENDING FORTH

\*Closing Hymn: 2098 “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

\*Dismissal\*\*: Serve your God with patience and passion;  
Be deliberate in enacting your faith.  
Be steadfast in celebrating the Spirit’s power,  
and may peace be your way in the world.  
**Amen.**

*Glen E. Rainsley, 20<sup>th</sup> century-*

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\*Indicates the people standing, if able and willing

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