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November 29, 2009

More than Enough

“Something is better than nothing,” I say to myself.
Still, another voice persists:
“Will my gift, which appears so meagre,
count amidst this sea of other offerings?”
I ache with doubt.
And yet I saw how my leaking faucet filled a bucket last night.
One drop at a time.
More isn't always the most, and less isn't always the least.
Approachability. Availability. Dependability.
Listening ears, understanding heart.
Words of encouragement, being present when it matters most.
Selflessness and the gift of self.
If the smallest act to even one life becomes significant enough,
it might just make a world of difference.
The endless possibilities lie with the One
who can use the whole of what we think is merely a mite, a part.
Here and now, if we simply present
whatever we are, whatever we can, and whatever we have,
somehow it would be more than enough, more than worthwhile.
Something is better than nothing.
And nothing is worse than nothing at all.

Sudha Kbristmukti

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH

November 29, 2009 10:30 a.m.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

*The congregation is invited to join in responses which are **bold**.*

OPENING DOORS

PRELUDE Now come, Redeemer of the nations *J.S. Bach*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING *(The congregation stands as able.)*

It's Advent! The journey to Christmas begins once more.
 We come with hearts and minds open to discover God's gifts in our midst.
 Watch for signs of the One born to be the "Hope of all the earth".
 We watch. We wait. We worship our God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 2 Come, thou long-expected Jesus *Hyfrydol (333)*

OPENING PRAYER & BLESSING OF ADVENT WREATH

God be with you.
 And also with you.
 Let us pray: *(The congregation may be seated.)*
 Loving God, as we begin our Advent journey,
 we thank you for the gift of Jesus:
 He is Emmanuel,
 our hope, our peace, our joy, our love.
 May your blessing be upon us
 and this Advent wreath
 as we light the candles,
 and wait and wonder.
 May its light be a sign of Christ's promise of a new day. Amen.

Participating in today's service are: Christine Gillespie (coordinating greeter); Erin Brown, Jackie Dorsch, Barbara MacGowan, Bruce MacGowan, John McKellar (greeters); Connie Capes-Leslie (liturgist); Sarah, Brian, Corinne, Jacqueline Hisey (advent candlelighting); Bromwyn Best, Gord Brookes, Matthew Walker (reader); Deborah Hart (preacher); MaryAnne Borden, Paul Colman, Kathy Fletcher, Pat Fraser, Ian Fraser, Pam Henderson, Barb Lemmon, David Lemmon, Roberta McWhirter, Doug McWhirter, Al Puskas, Fran Puskas, Gord Thompson, Patti Thompson, (communion servers); Lee Lockwood, Gloria van Geilsnyk, Doug Reid, Ken Bagnell (anointing); Mark Ball (sound); Peter Merrick and the Choir.

The flowers in the Sanctuary this morning are
 given by Carolyn Woodland in loving memory
 of her mother, Mildred Woodland and sister, Janice Woodland Sartor.

The flowers in the Narthex, given by the Lewarne family,
 are in loving memory of Diane Lewarne Partin.

Celebrate God's Presence during Advent and Christmas at Eglinton St. George's United Church

December 6	10:30 a.m.	<i>Advent Gift Sunday</i> <i>Please bring unwrapped gifts of Food, Fabric and Fun</i>
December 13	10:30 a.m.	<i>Christmas Nativity Pageant</i> <i>Blessing of the Tree</i>
	3:00 p.m.	<i>Sing-Along Messiah</i>
December 20	10:30 a.m.	<i>Advent IV Communion Service</i>
	7:30 p.m.	<i>A Longest Night Service</i>
December 24	5:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas in Story and Song for All Ages</i>
	8:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Candlelight Choral Service</i>
	10:00 p.m.	<i>Christmas Candlelight Choral Service</i>
	11:15 p.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Communion Service - small and intimate in the South Studio</i>
December 27	10:30 a.m.	<i>First Sunday after Christmas Service</i>
January 3	10:30 a.m.	<i>Epiphany Communion Service</i>

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

Come, for all things are now ready.

(An usher will direct you to the appropriate station. Please return to your seats by the side aisles.

Front section: *please proceed up the centre aisle to the two stations at the front of the Church.*

Back section: *please proceed down the centre aisle to the two stations at the rear of the Church.*

Transepts: *please follow the front section up the centre aisle to the two stations at the front.*

Balcony: *please remain seated as communion will be served to you.*

Healing stations *are available in the four corners of the Sanctuary. If you wish, you may go there for prayer and anointing with oil, after having received the elements.)*

MOTET Let all mortal flesh keep silence

Stephen Cleobury

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand. Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our Lord to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away. At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the Presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord most high!"

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

**We give thanks, loving God,
that you have refreshed us at your table
by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ.
Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another,
and send us forth into the world united in courage and peace,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;
through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

OPENING DOORS

HYMN 29 Hark the glad sound!

Richmond

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE Sleepers, wake!

J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

We come with anticipation, for the birth of the Promised One is near.

Lead us, God, into your future.

We come with commitment, prepared to share a faith that is vital and vibrant.

Show us, God, the way to serve others.

Today, we light the candle of hope, a sign that God is with us, encouraging us along our way.

We are filled with God's hope this day.

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."

The world which has walked in darkness will see a great light.

Come, Lord Jesus, as we wait for you in hope.

(The first candle is lit.)

Let us pray:

**Loving God, as we begin this season of waiting,
let us watch for signs of your presence in our midst,
and live out of the hope that your presence offers us. Amen.**

ADVENT SONG

Advent Gifts

There's a song of hope in my heart; hope is a gift from
Je - sus. There's a song of hope in my heart;
hope is a gift from God. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Hope in my heart is sing - ing prais - es. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Hope is a gift from God.

Words: Handt Hanson
Music: Peter Merrick

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(The children will go to Church School.)

OPENING MINDS ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST READING Genesis 3: 8-15 *The sin of Adam is overturned in the birth of the Christ*

Adam lay ybounden Boris Ord

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond; four thousand winter thought he not too long. Deo gratias! (Thanks be to God!) And all was for an apple, an apple that he took, as clerkes finden written in their book. Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been, ne had never our Lady abeen heavene queen. Blessed be the time that apple taken was; therefore we moun (must) singen Deo gratias!

SECOND READING Isaiah 11: 1-9 *The prophets bear witness to the coming Realm*

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen Michael Praetorius and Donald Cashmore

A rose there is a-springing from tender roots on earth; as ancient seers were singing, from Jesse came its birth; and now this little flower appears in coldest winter at this, the midnight hour. This rose, the stem of Jesse, by prophets once foretold; Mary alone has brought us the Child promised of old. By God's eternal power the Maid has borne the infant at this, the midnight hour. The flower so small and slender shines through with radiance bright; to us so sweet and tender, dispels the darkest night. True man with God's true power, helps us from all our suffering, saves us from death's dark hour.

THIRD READING Mark 1: 1-8 *John the Baptizer: a voice, crying in the wilderness*

On Jordan's bank arr. Malcolm Archer

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings from the King of kings! Then cleansed be every Christian breast, and furnished for so great a guest! Yea, let us each our heart prepare for Christ to come and enter there. For thou

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was ended, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, and gave it to his disciples and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” In Jesus’ death you have destroyed the power of death, and by raising Christ to new life you have given us life forevermore. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move over us, and upon these earthly gifts of bread and wine, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people. Let your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes again.

**Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory is yours,
God most holy, now and forever. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

p. 914

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND FILLING OF THE CUP

God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us.
Happy are those who are called to your feast.
God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.
The gifts of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

(Those serving communion come forward.)

LITANY AT THE BREAKING OF BREAD

Richard Proulx

Jesus, wisdom and mighty Lord: you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Jesus, true branch of Jesse's tree: you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Key of David and Day-spring from on high: you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. Desire of nations, our Emmanuel: grant us peace.

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

HYMN 1 (verses 1, 3-6) O come, O come, Emmanuel *Veni Emmanuel*

(The congregation remains seated for the singing of this hymn while the offering is being collected and then stands as it is presented.)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth.

We give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ,

who, in the fullness of time, came among us and opened to us the way of salvation.

Now we watch for the day when he will come again in great love,

that we, without shame or fear, may rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven who forever sing this hymn

to proclaim the glory of your name:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS *Richard Proulx*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory: Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

(The congregation may be seated.)

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ,

whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.

Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, God with us.

In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners;

he opened the eyes of the blind,

and proclaimed the good news of your new age to the poor and to those in need.

On the night before his death, Jesus came to the table with those he loved.

He took bread and gave thanks to you, broke the bread,

gave it to his disciples, and said,

art our salvation, Lord, our refuge, and our great reward; without thy grace we waste away, like flowers that wither and decay. All praise, eternal One, to thee, whose advent sets thy people free, whom with the Maker, we adore, and Holy Spirit evermore.

FOURTH READING Luke 1: 26-38 *A young woman hears a visitor's disturbing message*

Bogoroditsye Dyevo (from *Vespers*)

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

FIFTH READING Revelation 21:22 - 22:5, 12, 13 *God's people look toward a second Advent*

Ev'n so, Lord Jesus, quickly come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins, who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be. Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord, Almighty God, who was and is and is to come; sing holy, holy, Lord! Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, rejoice on earth, ye saints below: for Christ is coming, is coming soon! E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more; they need no light, nor lamp, nor sun, for Christ will be their All!

(Text: adapted by Ruth Manz from Revelation 22)

SIXTH READING 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11 *Instructions for the common life of an Advent people*

Keep your lamps

Spiritual, arr. André Thomas

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning: the time is drawing nigh. Children, don't get weary till your work is done. Christian journey soon be over: the time is drawing nigh.

MEDITATION Hopeful Waiting

HYMN 5 All earth is waiting

Taulé

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

OPENING HEARTS

INVITATION

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to share the Peace with a neighbour - it is suggested that, at this time, we refrain from shaking hands.)