

Quiet  
Accord  
Contentment  
Untroubled Reconciliation  
Friendship  
Relaxation  
Rest  
Silence  
Stillness  
Hush  
Repose  
Harmony  
Love  
Unity  
Calm  
Tranquility

**Peace**

# Covenant

*The United Church of Canada*

a safe place for all people to worship

Ministers: the people  
and Rev. Cindy Désilets

10 December 2017, Advent 2B. (Blue).

## Worth Pondering during Advent

Two mature trees provide enough oxygen for a family of four

**Acknowledgement of Land**  
*(An act towards reconciliation)*

## Gathering

*The gong is sounded three times*

## ENTRY INTO THE CELEBRATION

Advent is about the birth of something sacred.  
For something sacred needs to be born:  
born from the mating of what is,  
and what might be.  
It needs a manger.  
So let us prepare a manger in our hearts  
for the birth of the sacred. *(Davidson Loehr/First UU Church of Austin).*

## LIGHTING OF THE COMMUNITY CANDLE The candle is lit

In this special season, let us continue to celebrate  
the richness and diversity of life.

**HYMN: O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL**

**VU 1**

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

JESUS CAME BRINGING US PEACE

**MV 33**



## OPENING SENTENCES

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
“Prepare the way of our God.”

**We hear God’s voice and so we come  
to proclaim God’s justice for all.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
“Prepare the way of our God.”

**We hear God’s voice and so we come  
to announce peace to all our neighbours.**

A voice cries out in the wilderness,  
“Prepare the way of our God.”

**We hear God’s voice and so we come  
to live out God’s unconditional love.**

You cry out to us, O God,  
calling us to come to you.

**Open our ears to hear your voice of love  
that we might experience your unending grace  
as we are gathered here today.  
Open our ears to hear your voice of justice  
that we might boldly work to realize your peace  
throughout all creation.** *(Adapt. Jessica Perersen/ct)*

## ACT OF AWARENESS

The thought manifests as the word.  
The word manifests as the deed.  
The deed develops into habit.  
And habit harden into character.  
So watch the thought and its ways with care.  
And let it spring from love  
born out of concern for all beings *(The Buddha/lp)*.

## *Centering*

Silence and Music of Reflection

## *Exploring*

### READINGS FROM OUR BROAD RELIGIOUS TRADITION

Gospel: Mark 1:2-3 *(Inclusive Text)*

From the World around us: "Apocalyptic Awakening"  
By Bruce Sanguin. **If Darwin Prayed/11.**

Gospel: Mark 1:4-8 *(Inclusive Text, adapted)*

### CONTEMPORARY EXPLORATION

**HYMN: PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD!** VU 10

## *Affirming & Celebrating*

### PRAYERS

**SPIRIT OF LIFE** VU 381  
**A PARAPHRASE** VU 916

### OUR OFFERINGS

Let us bring our offerings as a symbol of our decision  
to be co-creators with God in a safer and more inclusive world.

**PRESENTATION** YOU ARE HOLY MV 45

**Blessed are you, Holy Wisdom,  
inweave the fabric of our common life  
that the many-coloured beauty of your love  
may find expression in all that we do and give.  
AMEN.**

## *Scattering*

**HYMN: PUT PEACE INTO EACH OTHER'S HANDS** MV 173

## WORDS OF MISSION

Let us embrace the wonder of this week  
with expectation and imagination...

*The Community Candle is extinguished*

Gathered together

**We wait for the light.**

Standing together

**We trust in the light.**

Praying together

**We hope for the light.**

Seeking together

**We step out with the light.**

Singing together

**We are blessed by the light.** *(Trisha Watts/s)*

## BLESSING WORDS

Go now in joy, building, living in, and enjoying  
a community full of welcome and equality.

**Amen. May it be so.** *(Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer/wsj)*

**RESPONSE: I AM WALKING A PATH OF PEACE**

**MV 221**

*Bulletin covers in memory of*  
**Mark and Jean Ferrier**  
*from the Ferrier Family*