

**Nov 27, 2022 – Advent 1**

*(\* Stand as you are able)*

**The Church gathers – we come together as people of the Spirit**

Welcome and Announcements

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

**Call to Worship**

In the midst of frenzied activity and end-of-year weariness,

**We are called by the light of a star**

**to a place of peace and hope, joy and love.**

We will spread out a cloth, read again the ancient stories,

**And light a candle in the darkness**

**as we await a wondrous birth.**

Gathered here, we declare our intention to live as if the greatest gift in the world were about to be placed into our hands,

**As if the Giver has understood**

**our deepest needs, our most heartfelt prayers.**

There is a presence in our world that asks to be seen...

**Who will stay awake and watch?**

There is a coming to our world that seeks a welcome...

**Who will make ready and offer hospitality?**

**Let us prepare the way of the Lord.**

*(Inspired by Ann Siddall, Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community).*

**\*Hymn: VU 9, People Look East**

**Gathering Prayer and the Lord's Prayer (Sung, VU 959)**

**Loving God, in this season of waiting, of longing,**

**Of looking for you to come into our world,**

**We are seeking light... and peace.**

**In our own lives, in our families, in our neighbourhoods.**

**We are seeking your light... and your peace**

**In our government, in our nation, in our world,**

**We are yearning for your light... and your peace;**

**And you answer us with a star in the night,**

**And a baby in a hay filled manger.**

**May we prepare our hearts and our homes for you,**

**Just as here we adorn our church home with greenery,**

**Filling them with light and colour and ancient traditions to**

**welcome your wonderful gift of coming to us in your birth.**

**This we pray in your name, who came to us as a small child, who taught the words we now sing, "Our Father...**

**To Hear the Story – we listen for the wisdom of God's spirit**

**Reflection: "Follow the Star: Preparing Peace"**

*Liz Brownlee*

**Candle Lighting liturgy**

Look! In the dark night sky, a single star calls us, moving slowly, urging us to journey forward. Arise, take courage, travel towards a glimpse of peace!

**Let the warm glow of the Divine and the light of a guiding star fill our hearts.**

**Candle lighting verse (VU 6, A Candle is Burning)**

**A candle is burning, a candle of peace,**

**A candle to signal that conflicts must cease:**

**For Jesus is coming to show us the way;**

**A message of hope humbly laid in the hay.**

**God-of-peace-and-possibility, kindle in the hearts of all, compassion and love so that goodness, just deeds, the common good, and trust may flourish. Bless and gift all with hope for a future of peace built on justice for all. In the name of the coming Child, the peaceful one, Amen.**

**Sung Refrain: MV 220, Hope shines as the Solitary Star (2x)**

**Hope shines as the solitary star, Faith is the inner light.**

**You and I together mirror the light of God**

**And illumine the pathway home.**

**Music for Reflection: Do You Hear What I Hear?**

**To Be the Story – we respond with spirit-filled faith and service**

**Sharing our Gifts – Invitation and Dedication**

**\* Offertory verse** (tune VU 81, Verse 3)

As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger crude and bear,  
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heav'nly King.

**Prayers of the People** *Jo Carter and Becca Gravelle*

**To Tell the Story – the sending forth**

**\* Hymn: Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly**

1) Deck the halls with boughs of holly, Fa la la la la, la la la la!  
'Tis the season to be jolly, Fa la la la la, la la la la!  
Don we now our gay apparel, Fa la la la la, la la la la!  
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

2) See the blazing yule before us, Fa la la la la, la la la la!  
Strike the harp and join the chorus, Fa la la la la, la la la la!  
Follow me in merry measure, Fa la la la la, la la la la!  
While I tell of Yuletide treasure, Fa la la la la, la la la la!

*(Repeat Verse 1)*

**\*Sending Forth**

The garlands are hung, our hearts are ready. May we  
all go forth into this good week, humming the good news  
that Love, the guest is on the way. Amen.

**\*Choral Response**

As our path wanders onward to the rising of the sun,  
may the wind that moves among us, help us travel through  
all harm, 'til the evening of life shines forth into dawn, may  
God be with us as we go, as we go, in peace.

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# Worship at St. Andrew's "Follow the Star: Preparing Peace"



## Sunday, Nov 27, 2022 Advent 1

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