



St. Thomas United Church  
Open Hands – Open Hearts – Open Minds

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**Sunday, December 3, 2017, 10:00am**  
**Theme: Hope and Peace Sunday**

† Indicates stand as you are able  
**Bold** indicates participation by the people

**MV** = More Voices  
**VU** = Voices United

**We Gather With**

PRE-SERVICE CAROLS – *The Maple Leaf Brass (Projected)*

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

**VU#44**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

**VU#48**

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

**VU#43**

PRELUDE: *The Maple Leaf Brass – “The Sussex Carol” –  
Traditional English Carol – arr. R. Langlo*

WELCOME to our Livestream Worship Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 7 LAND

GREETING ONE ANOTHER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*A wicker prayer basket will be sent around. If you have a prayer request, please print clearly on a prayer slip, place it in the wicker basket, and pass the basket along.*

INTROIT: *A Candle Is Burning (vv. 1&2)*

**VU#6**

Advent 1 & 2: (Candles of Hope & Peace)

*Candle Lighter – Mia Kim-Fine*

As people of faith we light candles to remind us of the presence of the Holy & the Divine.

God in all creation calls to each of us; in this time of year let us pause to reflect on that call in our lives.

This morning we pause to hear God's call of hope being born into a broken world; a hope that overcomes darkness and shines in our lives. Listen and you can hear the wonders of God's presence approaching.

For truly God's hope is in this place.

This morning we pause to hear God's call of peace being born once more in the world; the promise of lasting peace for all God's people.

For truly God's peace is in this place.

Through God's light in the world, we hear the voice of Advent possibilities. Amen.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: (*Responsive*)**

In every season of life,

**God is always with us, even when we believe otherwise.**

In this season of waiting,

**Jesus reminds us that Bethlehem is the beginning of our discipleship, not the end of the journey.**

In this season of Advent anticipation,

**the Spirit opens our ears to the songs of the angels.**

You come to us, Shepherd of God's people, feeding us with your peace,

**so we might go out and offer the bread of hope to all the lost.**

Come, let us worship.

**OPENING PRAYER: (*Leader*)**

Hope and Peace-filled God, while others are making lists of things we have enough of, you come to offer us unconditional love, the one gift we cannot purchase. As the world prepares to entice us with more and more, you come to fill our hearts with all the hopes you have dreamed for us forever. In this season when our rush to Bethlehem keeps us from seeing you in everyone we push past, come to us and our hearts with peace. Amen.

†HYMN: *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (vv. 1, 2, & 7)

**VU#1**

**SCRIPTURE: *Isaiah 40:1-11***

*Reader: Barb Cousens*

One: This is the witness of The Church,

**Many: thanks be to God!**

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Maple Leaf Brass- "My Spirit Be Joyful"*  
- by Johann Sebastian Bach

CHILDREN'S TIME

*(Children and Youth are invited to join with their leaders at one of the entrances to the Sanctuary.)*

THE MESSAGE

†HYMN: *O Ancient Love (vv. 1, 3, & 4)*

**VU#17**

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *Microcredit Funds Hope*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Offerings & Prayers.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Maple Leaf Brass - "Ashokan Farewell"*  
- by Jay Ungar

†OFFERTORY: *In the Bleak Midwinter (v.4)*

**VU#55**

†OFFERTORY PRAYER: ***(Unison)***

**May we be alert enough to watch for the opportunities we will have to serve others in this season of holiness. May the gifts we offer smooth the way for those who struggle, and bring grace and comfort to all your people, we pray. Amen.**

CALL TO PRAYER: *Of the Father's Love Begotten (v. 1)*

**VU#61**

PASTORAL PRAYERS (Leader) & PRAYER OF JESUS

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION: ***(Responsive)***

As your hope is always present with us, O God:

**may we represent hope to all those we encounter.**

As you feed us with your peace:

**may we grace others with that peace, this day and all the days to come.**

†HYMN: *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**VU#2**

POSTLUDE: *The Maple Leaf Brass – “Parade of the Wooden Soldiers” – Leon Jessel; arr. Sherman Montgomery*

We give great thanks to all who participated in making today's  
worship service a reality.