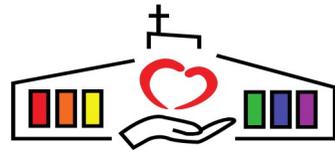


## Winter in all of Our Lives

There is a winter in all of our lives,  
a chill and darkness that makes us yearn  
for days that have gone  
or put our hope in days yet to be.  
Dear God, you created seasons for a purpose.  
Spring is full of expectation  
buds breaking  
frosts abating and an awakening  
of creation before the first days of summer.  
Now the sun gives warmth  
and comfort to our lives  
reviving aching joints  
bringing colour, new life  
and crops to fruiting.  
Autumn gives nature space  
to lean back, relax and enjoy the fruits  
of its labour  
mellow colours in sky and landscape  
as the earth prepares to rest.  
Then winter, cold and bare as nature takes stock  
rests, unwinds, sleeps until the time is right.  
An endless cycle  
and yet a perfect model.  
We need a winter in our lives  
a time of rest, a time to stand still  
a time to reacquaint ourselves  
with the faith in which we live.  
It is only then that we can draw strength  
from the one in whom we are rooted  
take time to grow and rise through the darkness  
into the warm glow of your springtime  
to blossom and flourish  
bring colour and vitality into this world  
your garden.  
Thank you God  
for the seasons of our lives.

- Author Unknown



## St. Thomas United Church

Open Hands – Open Hearts – Open Minds

Sunday, November 29, 2020

Theme: Advent 1: HOPE

Online VU = Voices United      MV = More Voice

Worship link can be found here:

<https://stthomasunited.ca/>

**Prelude:** Kari Orosz: *Christmas Is Coming* by Vince Guaraldi

**Welcome to our Online Worship Service**

**Acknowledgement of Treaty 7, Métis Region 3 Land**

**Candle Lighting & Silence**

**Introit:** Hope is A Star (verse 1)

**VU#7**

**Call to Worship**

**Opening Prayer:** *Holy God, as we gather we share in a dream made known. We dream of a world made whole, lives restored, and faith enlivened. In our time of worship help us to dream anew. With eyes wide open and love alive, help us to live out the dream of your presence in your world. In worship expressed and lives lived out, may we be your dream this Advent season. Amen.*

**Hymn 1:** *There Was a Child in Galilee*

**MV#134**

**Scripture:** Mark 13: 24-37, Reader: Gloria Moffatt

Ministry of Music: Maple Leaf Brass: *Wake, Awake for Night is Flying*

**The Message:** *Those Who Dream Keep Awake and Pay Attention*

**Invitation to Open Hands**

**Ministry of Music:** Maple Leaf Brass: *O Little Town*

**Offertory Prayer:** *Holy One, when we sleep we set our imaginations free to dream dreams bigger than before. Dreams of lives changed for good, tables overflowing, enough for all, and more to go around. Help us now to make those dreams a reality by what we do and what we offer. Help us to act on dreams for your world and your people in this place and in our lives. Amen.*

**Hymn 2:** *A Candle is Burning* (verse 1)

**VU#6**

**Pastoral Prayers & Prayer of Jesus**

**Hymn:** *On Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

**VU#1**

**Commissioning & Benediction**

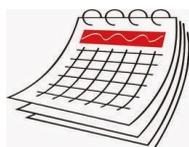
**Postlude:** Kari Orosz: *Christmastime is Here* by Vince Guaraldi

## UPDATES



**Coffee Chat Sunday Mornings!** Join us Sunday mornings as we gather via Zoom for a time to watch the online worship service together as community starting around 9:45 am with the service starting at 10 am. Then stay after the service for a time of checking in and conversation. To register and receive the Zoom invite, send us an email at [coffee-chat@stthomasunited.ca](mailto:coffee-chat@stthomasunited.ca) and we'll email the info on Friday afternoons.

I am not getting many calls about **Birthdays and Celebrations**, folks. And I know each of you is having a birthday this year. I've even resorted to looking at the past year's Birthday Sunday pictures. PLEASE rat on your neighbour, tattle on your spouse. We'd LOVE to celebrate with you. -Wanda Veer



The 2021 UCC calendars are now available at \$7.00 each. Please contact the office to arrange purchase, pick up or delivery.

**Youth Group (grades 7-10)** meets weekly for social events with a mix of in-person, physically distanced and virtual meetings. If you would like to join us, please email the youth leaders at [youth@stthomasunited.ca](mailto:youth@stthomasunited.ca).

**Junior Youth Group (grades 4-6)** meets virtually through ZOOM every second week. Upcoming meetings are Nov 20, Dec 4 & 18. If interested, please email [junioryouth@stthomasunited.ca](mailto:junioryouth@stthomasunited.ca).

**Grocery Gift Card Sales** are available for Safeway/Sobeys, Co-op and Superstore in \$50's and \$100's. Email [fundraising@stthomasunited.ca](mailto:fundraising@stthomasunited.ca) with your order and we can arrange pickup/delivery. Thank you. -Richard Taylor-Kerr

## UPDATES



**WANTED:** Drivers/delivery folks needed for delivering Christmas bags in early to mid December. No interaction, just drop at door, ring bell, and leave. We will make area routes so the deliveries won't take you all over the city. If you can help, please contact Wanda Veer at 403-239-5964, wanda-veer47@gmail.com or the church office. Thank you!

**Fair Trade Coffee:** Have you been thinking about what to get someone at Christmas and do not want to go out and shop? Why not buy them some coffee! I am taking orders and arranging home deliveries courtesy of Ron & Diane French! As well as our regular line up, three new coffees are available: Rift Valley (Dark Roast), Andes Mountain (Medium Roast) and Bright Roast (light roast). The seasonal Winter Blend (Medium-Dark Roast) is also available. They come in 300 g and 5 lb. sizes. Please place your orders by contacting me via email at [jaboath@telusplanet.net](mailto:jaboath@telusplanet.net) or phone 403 547 8988. I will be taking orders until end of day Sunday, Nov 29th. Thank you for your support. -Judy Booth



As you may have read in our latest newsletter, we are encouraging families to do a **Reverse Advent Calendar** and collect food and items to donate to a family in need. You will find the link to the printable list on our website and in our weekly emails.

## BEYOND ST THOMAS



***My Bear Clan Patrol Experience:*** I have gone out with the Bear Clan Patrol four times now and last Friday night was the most moving experience I have ever had. We gathered in a parking lot to load our wagons full of supplies and 20 of us headed out for a patrol: 4 people in 2 vans and 2 groups of 8 pulling the wagons and carrying backpacks of supplies. The vans carried warm clothes and blankets. One van carried a box of coffee and hot water

for tea. The other van carried an enormous pot of hot venison soup and bannock that one of the Indigenous families had made. We walked along the back streets of Forest Lawn and along 17 Ave SE and everywhere we went we would meet people in need of warmth. Some were walking the street and many were hunkered down for the night trying to stay warm. We woke up any that were sleeping to make sure they were ok and offer them warm soup and supplies to help them through the night.

This experience broke my heart, on such a deep level, to see that people have to live this way in a city where we have entire heated office buildings that are vacant. The evening also warmed my heart profoundly, to see that we could be the arms of God, hugging these people with warm soup, warm clothing and letting them know someone cares. We were thanked over and over again for the little bit we were able to do.

You can be a part of providing these people with the love of God by donating new socks, underwear, warm hats and gloves or gently used backpacks, winter clothing and blankets. If you provide receipts over \$50 to the office your donation will be added to your St. Thomas giving's. Please ensure the receipts are only for donated items and write Bear Clan and your name and address on them. If you are able to drop off donations at the church during office hours, there is a Bear Clan Patrol bin in the Narthex. If that is not possible, I will happily pick up donations from you, if you contact me at 403-286-8073 or [karenkavanagh80@gmail.com](mailto:karenkavanagh80@gmail.com).

## BEYOND ST THOMAS



**Adopt A Family is online:** This year, due to us not having in-church services, we offer an opportunity to sign up online for the gift you would like to give our 'Adopt A Family'. We will adopt 3 families again this year, two we have been supporting for years; the Yalda's, our refugee family from Iraq, our All Roads Lead Home family and a third family that comes to us from BowWest. To donate a Christmas gift, sign up at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ky4CQsXuFnYnKlscJ\\_Vm8gMhNxzJRykj/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ky4CQsXuFnYnKlscJ_Vm8gMhNxzJRykj/view).

**If you have a Gmail or Google account:** Sign in. Place cursor at top of the page and click on 'open with' at the top centre and choose Google docs. Fill in your name and contact information in the appropriate line. Exit the page to save text.

**If you do not have a Google account:** Place cursor on the plus sign (+) in the upper right corner. Highlight the gift you wish to donate and another plus sign (+) will appear on the right side of the page. Click on the new plus sign and add your name and contact information in the text box that appears. Click on the word "comment" to save that text. Exit the page to post your comment.

If you have any issues, please contact me at [karenkavanagh80@gmail.com](mailto:karenkavanagh80@gmail.com) or 403-286-8073.

**Please drop off the gifts by December 14** to the appropriately numbered box or envelope in the Narthex during office hours. If you are not able to go to the church during office hours, contact me and I will arrange pickup. The grocery store gift cards can be purchased through [fundraising@stthomasunited.ca](mailto:fundraising@stthomasunited.ca), please advise Richard they are for 'Adopt A Family' and I will pick them up from him. If you are unable to shop and still want to support the program you can send a cheque, by December 5<sup>st</sup>, to the church office: 100 Hawkwood Blvd NW, Calgary T3G 2S9.

This has been a difficult year for many people and this is a wonderful opportunity to bring some real Christmas cheer to these families that are struggling. Thank you for showing them God's love.—Karen Kavanagh

## BEYOND ST THOMAS



When you are out shopping, please consider the following wish list from the **Veteran's Food Bank**. All donations may be dropped off at #10, 820—28 St NE or at our church. Please call the church office to arrange your drop off time. Thank you.—Loree Irving

SHAMPOO/CONDITIONER  
BODY WASH  
LOTION  
SHAVING CREAM  
DISH SOAP  
HAND SANITIZER  
CLEANING SUPPLIES  
PAPER TOWEL  
COFFEE  
COOKIES  
CRACKERS

PEARS - CANNED  
MANDARIN ORANGES  
CREAM CORN  
MIXED VEGGIES  
SALAD DRESSING  
RELISHES  
HONEY  
HASHBROWNS – COSTCO  
CRANBERRIES  
PIE FILLING

KRAFT DINNER  
HAMBURGER HELPER  
BAGGED OATS  
PANCAKE MIX  
INSTANT RICE  
SARDINES & OYSTERS  
SALAD DRESSING  
BBQ SAUCE  
APPLE SAUCE  
CANNED TUNA & SALMON

The **Centre for Newcomers** is asking for winter wear such as jackets, scarfs, gloves, toques and winter boots for both women and men. If you have any items, new or gently used to donate, please contact Hope Cochran at [hopeco7@gmail.com](mailto:hopeco7@gmail.com). I can come pick it up or you can take it to Community Wise at 223 - 12 Ave SW. Thank you for your support for those less fortunate.

The COVID-19 outbreak has changed our daily routines and adjusting hasn't been easy. Not for anyone. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed and struggling to cope, help is available—24/7. Visit [alberta.ca/mentalhealth](https://alberta.ca/mentalhealth) to find resources.



## BEYOND ST THOMAS



**Elizabeth Fry Society** supports women, youth and marginalized populations who have been systemically criminalized with empowering new opportunities to improve their lives. After 55 years of service, we find ourselves in a dire situation as we experience drastic cuts due to the economic downturn and the impact of COVID-19 coronavirus.

As a result, a number of our court and legal advocacy programs in the Calgary and Lethbridge Court Centres, as well as our rural courts of Okotoks, Airdrie, Canmore, Cochrane, Didsbury, and Strathmore are at risk of being closed down in 2021 and 2022 respectfully. Our legal advocacy programs provide support to these same communities as well as direct support to the Treaty 7 First Nation communities including our satellite offices on Eden Valley and Morley (Stoney Nakoda First Nations).

To aid in the fundraising ***we will be hosting our online auction which is to be launched in early December 2020.*** Your investment into our program with an auction item would ensure further support to these programs to be able to continue serving those who would otherwise struggle within the legal system without supports and proper resources.

We are working towards the goal of **\$20,000** for a greater goal of securing up to **\$300,000** to address our short fall in 2021. This will assist those who live under the poverty line, individuals with barriers such as homelessness, intergenerational trauma, mental health concerns, and addiction. Additionally, your support would be focused on addressing the overrepresentation of Indigenous and immigrant populations involved in the system due to systemic barriers. For further information on our agency and services please visit [www.elizabethfrycalgary.ca](http://www.elizabethfrycalgary.ca). For those interested in our research and data please visit our publications page.

***If you have any questions, or would like to arrange a donation, please contact me at 403 891-5825 or [courtsupport@elizabethfrycalgary.ca](mailto:courtsupport@elizabethfrycalgary.ca).***

Sincerely, Bernice Olivares, South Regional Legal Advocate  
The Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary

# THIS WEEK AT ST. THOMAS

**Sunday, Nov 29**

10:00 am Online Worship

**Monday, Nov 30**

no events

**Tuesday, Dec 1**

4-10 pm Karate

**Wednesday, Dec 2**

7:00 pm Youth Choir

7:30 pm 12 Step Group

**Thursday, Dec 3**

9:00 am Worship Filming

4-10 pm Karate

6-7 pm Children's Choir

7-8:30 pm Virtual Adult Choir

**Friday, Dec 4**

1:30 pm Al Madinah Islamic Assembly

6:30 pm Virtual Junior Youth Group

7:00 pm Virtual Youth Group

**Saturday, Dec 5**

8:30 am-5:00 pm Karate

**Ministers:** Rev. Tracy Robertson

Rev. Justin McNeill

**Office Administrator:** Halyna Kinasevych

**Music Team:** Pam Bazinet, Barb Robertson,  
Dick Worton, Erin MacLean-Berko

**Accompanists:** Kari Orosz, Kloria Wen

**Youth Leaders:** Heather Robertson  
Caitlin Hornbeck  
Jacqueline Verwaayen

**Sunday School Coordinator:** Erin MacLean-Berko

## Upcoming Service Themes:

Nov 29: Advent 1—Hope

Dec 6: Advent 2—Peace

Dec 13: Advent 3—Joy

Dec 20: Advent 4—Love

Dec 21: Blue Christmas

Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services

Each Sunday we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 7 land, not out of guilt or shame, but in recognition of the land on which we gather. We give thanks for the traditional territories and oral practices that have lived on this land for thousands of years through the Indigenous Nations of the Siksika, Kanai, Piikani, Stoney-Nakota and Tsuut'ina and all people who make their homes in this, our Treaty 7 region of Alberta, and the Region 3 Métis Nation.



Through our gifts we commit ourselves to live out the mission and ministry of the church. Please give generously to the **Mission and Service Fund** to make this possible.



St. Thomas is an **Affirming Ministry** within The United Church of Canada. LGBTQ2 people are whole people and full members in this community of faith.

**The United Church of Canada** St. Thomas is proud to be part of the United Church of Canada which ministers to close to 3 million people in 3,500 congregations across the country. For more info about the United Church **visit [www.united-church.ca](http://www.united-church.ca)**



100 Hawkwood Blvd. NW  
Calgary AB T3G 2S9  
office@stthomasunited.ca  
www.stthomasunited.ca  
403-241-0366