

## CALLED TO WORSHIP

Organ Prelude

Comfort You My People  
- arr. M. Burkhardt

Call to Worship

*We are on the journey of Advent.*

*Though it is familiar,*

*we do not always know what to expect*

**Guide us God,**

**to help us embrace the unexpected messenger.**

*Like the road to Bethlehem,*

*our journey through Advent will be long.*

*Though it is a road we have travelled before,*

*we do not know what awaits us.*

**Travel with us God.**

**Give us strength when we falter.**

*Our journey through Advent is a mystery.*

*Though it is a road with familiar signs,*

*we do not always understand their meaning.*

**Open our eyes God,**

**to the Hidden Advent that reveals your hope.**

Theme - **Hidden Advent**

Advent II: **Hidden Messenger**

Hymn 112

*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle: Peace

*The Baptist cries out:*

*"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight!"*

**Help us, Lord, to repent.**

*The way of God is made crooked by our sin.*

*Will we confess our failings and repent?*

*Will we remember*

*God's steadfast love and faithfulness?*

**Restore us again and grant us your salvation.**

*As we have been baptized with God's mercy and grace,*

*will we have the courage*

*to forgive one another?*

**We pray that your light, O Lord,**

**will guide our feet**

**into the way of peace.**



# *Hidden Advent: Hidden Messenger*

*Advent II  
December 10, 2017*



Opening Prayer

Sung Response (V.2) 119

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

Song (V.3) 124

**People in trouble would like to be free.  
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.  
People with arguments want to agree,  
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.  
These days of adventure when all people wait  
are days for the advent of peace.**

The Adventure Centre begins.

## THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

**Gracious God,  
you call us to prepare the way in the world  
for your love, your hope, your peace and your joy.  
May your Word prepare our hearts  
for action and service.  
Amen.**

The Scriptures

Prophet Isaiah 40:1-11  
*This is the word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Mark 1:1-8 122  
*This is the gospel of the Lord.*  
**Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel.**

### Welcome to St. Columba

We are so very pleased that you are worshipping with us today. We invite you to stay for refreshments (served in the sanctuary following the service) and look forward to meeting you in person.

Large print hymn books and Bibles are available in the foyer. (If you wish a receipt for your financial contribution, please use the envelope inside the back cover of the Book of Praise.)

Hymn 113 *Comfort, Comfort You My People*

Sermon *Hidden Messenger*

Anthem *Every Valley – P. Drennan*

Litany

*Advent is a time of familiar traditions,  
ancient symbols and joyful celebrations.*

**But is there something more than what we expect?  
Reveal to us God,  
the hidden Advent that is all around us.**

*Advent is a time  
when we are busy planning and preparing  
for the perfect season.*

**But is there something more  
that we haven't planned or prepared for?  
Reveal to us God,  
the hidden Advent that we might be missing.**

*Advent is a time  
when we celebrate our generosity  
and give support to those in need.*

**But is there something more  
that you are calling us to do?  
Reveal to us God,  
the hidden Advent  
that we are called to live every season.**

*Advent is a time  
when we seek God in stories, worship and song.*

**But is there something we overlook  
when we seek God in familiar places?  
Reveal to us God,  
the hidden Advent that shows us  
that you are closer than we know.**

## THE WORD MADE VISIBLE

Invitation

Piano Offertory *Deck the Hall – arr. P. Perkins*

Presentation of Gifts

Offertory Hymn 144 (v.3) *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Creator of heaven and earth,  
you commanded light to shine into darkness,  
created the vast universe and called it good.  
You gave us the breath of life,  
and the freedom to choose your way.  
You called for justice in the cry of your prophets.*

**We praise you for coming to earth  
and entering time in Jesus.**

**He came to nurture, to empower,  
to make the rough places smooth.**

**He made a place for those who had no place,  
and gave life to those who were treated as dead.**

*There were those who wished to keep the circle small.  
His purpose and presence was too much,  
so they crucified him.*

*Here, O God, we celebrate  
your Son's death and resurrection.*

*Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:*

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Mighty God, you reached into the darkness  
and brought forth light.*

*We pray for your people and for your broken world.*

*Be with all who find this season difficult.*

*Bring peace to all in conflict,*

*bring healing to the sick and grieving.*

**Send your Spirit**

**upon these hidden gifts of bread and wine.**

**Nourish us on our Advent journey,**

**that we may see hidden signs**

**of your power and your presence.**

**To you be all honour and glory,**

**wonderful God, forever and ever.**

*Our Father...*

**Our Father in heaven**

**Hallowed be your name,**

**Your kingdom come,**

**Your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever.**

Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Wine  
Communion of the People  
Prayer after Communion

Community-in-Action

Hymn **148 (vv.1,2,5)** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Benediction

Piano Postlude

Ding, Dong, Merrily on High

- arr. V. Labenske

## COMMUNITY-IN-ACTION

### With Appreciation

Many thanks to the Advent planning group for their work on this year's theme, *Hidden Advent*. Thanks to Charlotte Adams for her leadership this morning.

### Message from Lara

Lara is looking for children and youth to lead a scripture reading or prayer during Advent. If you are interested, please speak with her after worship.

### Dix Mille Villages Ornaments for Sale

Give a gift or buy an ornament for your own tree that supports fair trade! Every ornament has a story. It is alive with the culture, personality and traditions of the person who made it. Ornaments will be on sale following worship this morning and next week, ranging in price from \$7-16.

### Fundscrip

Do you often buy gift cards to give as Christmas gifts? Why not buy through Fundscrip and at the same time, help support St. Columba's various projects? Orders must be in by **today** to get your cards in time for Christmas. See the order form in the narthex, which lists the various retailers and the percentage that they will give to St. Columba.

### Session

All Elders, please take note that the next Session meeting will be this **Tuesday, December 12 at 19h30**.

### St. Columba December Concert

Swing into the holiday spirit **next Saturday, December 16 at 19h30**, with the great voices of Guffman 5 and the very talented John Sadowy on piano. You'll love their renditions of Christmas music and jazz standards. Suggested donation \$15, free for kids. A portion of the donations will go to *Youth Unlimited – La Corde Pierrefonds*, a breakfast, lunch and after-school program for elementary school students.

### Youth Group Activity

The next Youth Group activity will be on **December 17**, during the service, where we'll be baking shortbread and decorating sugar cookies. If you have any questions, please contact Leticia at l.kdupont7250@gmail.com.

**The Book Cart**

The book cart has reappeared with the purpose of being emptied! Please help yourself to any books that appeal to you. Our goal is to have every book find a new home. Any leftover books will be donated to a worthy organization.

**Stewardship 2018**

Please remember to read the information from the Resource and Stewardship Committee, fill out your pledge form and return it as soon as you can.

**Ecumenical Service**

This year, our annual ecumenical worship service will be on **Sunday, December 31 at 10h00** at Summerlea United Church, 225 – 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Lachine.

**Gifts of Hope**

PWS&D Gifts of Hope cards are a meaningful gift for the person who has everything! Donations in honour of a loved one to the life-giving relief, development, and refugee work of PWS&D may be made online [www.werespond.ca](http://www.werespond.ca) or by phone (1-800-619-7301), and a card is sent to them. Gifts of Change donations allow you to specify a particular program through Presbyterians Sharing or PWS&D.

**Sunday, December 24 Worship Services**

10 AM - All Ages Christmas Worship.  
10 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

*Kid's Page*

Preparing the Way for Jesus

It was written in the book of Isaiah that someone would prepare the way for Jesus.

Cross out every letter that appears four or more times. Unscramble the remaining letters to fill in the blanks.

A V H T H N O K  
O K E K O V E D  
S A B D A B V A  
H B V T M K O T  
T H K E V D A G  
D S O B H R T B

A \_\_\_\_\_

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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**Caretaker** Carol Gauthier

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Today – Advent II**

10h00 - Worship  
11h30 - Choral Group

**Tuesday, December 12**

19h30 - Session

**Friday, December 15**

09h00 - St. Columba Crafters  
10h30-14h30: Window Marché

**Saturday, December 16**

19h30 - Concert: Christmas Jazz with Guffman 5

**Sunday, December 17 – Advent III**

10h00 - Worship  
- Youth Group Activity: Christmas Cookies!  
11h30 - Choral Group

**CONGREGATIONAL PURPOSE**

God's spirit has anointed us and sent us  
to proclaim good news to the poor,  
to release the prisoners,  
to restore sight to the blind,  
to free the oppressed,  
to announce that  
this is the year when God will act.  
Luke 4.18,19 (Isaiah 61.1,2)