

CALLED TO WORSHIP

Piano Prelude

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus
- arr. P. Perkins

Call to Worship

*Our journey through Advent has begun.
Though it is familiar,
we do not always know what to expect*

Guide us God,

to help us embrace the unexpected gift.

*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 1: **Hidden Gift**

Hymn 125 (vv.1,2,4,5)

People, Look East

Lighting of the First Advent Candle: Hope

What do we wait for?

Our hope is in God.

We wait for God

**to tear open the heavens and come down,
so that God's presence may be known!**

When we turn away,

God's deeds become hidden from us.

We forget God's ways

and lose hope in a world of terror and tears.

We are God's people,

the work of God's hands.

The light of God will shine upon us

that we may be saved.

Keep us alert and waiting with hope,

expecting that God will come to save us,

to forgive us, to restore us

and shape us to be the people of God.

We wait for Christ to come

with great power and glory!



Hidden Advent: Hidden Gift

*Advent I
December 03, 2017*

Welcome to St. Columba

We are so very pleased that you are worshipping with us today. We invite you to stay for refreshments.

If you wish a receipt for your financial contribution, please use the envelope inside the back cover of the Book of Praise.

Opening Prayer

**Promised One, as we begin the journey of advent,
give us patience
to seek the meaning of these busy days.
Give us courage
to wait in times of pain and trouble.
Give us compassion
to wait for one another.
Reveal to us hidden gifts in unlikely places.
Give us hope to wait for the Messiah,
even when we cannot hear the angels singing,
Amen.**

Sung Response (V.1) 119

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
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.2) 124

**People with sickness are praying for health.
Come, come, come, Jesus Christ.
People in poverty want to have wealth,
Come, Lord Jesus Christ.
These days of adventure when all people wait
are days for the advent of hope.**

The Adventure Centre begins.

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

The Scriptures

Prophet Isaiah 64:1-9

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Mark 13:24-37

This is the gospel of the Lord. 122

Rejoice, rejoice!

**Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.**

Hymn 166 *Once in Royal David's City*

Sermon *Wake-Up Call*

Anthem *Come, Come Emmanuel - J. Althouse*

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

Organ Offertory *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*
– J. Brahms

Presentation of Gifts

Offertory Hymn 145 (v.4) *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*

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 110

Come, Though Long-Expected Jesus

Benediction

Organ Postlude *Votre bonté grand dieu - C. Balbastre*

COMMUNITY-IN-ACTION

With Appreciation

Many thanks to the Advent planning group for their work on this year's theme, *Hidden Advent*. Thanks to Graeme McDonald and Roberta Thomson for their 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.

Please take note that Lara will be on holiday this week from Monday – Wednesday (Dec. 4-6). If there is a pastoral emergency, contact Kay Diviney at 514-842-3431.

All Committee Meeting Night

This **Thursday, December 07 at 19h30**, committee members are reminded of the meetings taking place.

Friday Luncheon

A Christmas luncheon for those who are "*free for lunch on Fridays*" is taking place on **December 08 at 12h30**. Please join us as The Rev. Lara Scholey tells us about her life before she began her journey here at St. Columba. A delicious hot meal will be served with Christmas goodies for dessert. Along with a suggested lunch donation of \$8, we ask that you bring non-perishable food items for CAC and a small gift under \$10 for our traditional gift exchange. Call Pat Gerard if you plan on attending: 514-695-1721.

Christmas Baskets

If you have taken an index card or signed up to buy a gift, please remember to bring your items in by **next Sunday, December 10**. Financial contributions can be made through your envelope. If you can help with assembly or delivery (Dec 15-17), contact Euridice at 514-695-1856.

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? Please note that **Dec. 4 & 10** are the last two order dates to get your cards in time for Christmas. Please see the order form in the narthex, which lists the various retailers and the percentage that they will give to St. Columba.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. COLUMBA BY-THE-LAKE

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Session

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

St. Columba December Concert

Swing into the holiday spirit on **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.

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 on December 3, 10 and 17, ranging in price from \$7-16.

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 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.

Stewardship 2018

Please remember to pick up your Resource and Stewardship information from your mailbox, carefully consider its requests and return it as soon as you can.

Sunday, December 24 Worship Services

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

Pastoral Team

Pastor

Lara Scholey

lara@stcolumba.ca

Director of Music

Michael McAuley

michael@stcolumba.ca

Food Ministry Coordinator

Nadia Prevost

nadia@stcolumba.ca

Congregational Companions

Allysyn Gordon,

Jack McDonald

Clerk of Session

Cheryl Doxas

Congregational Secretary

Laura Downey

office@stcolumba.ca

Treasurers

Sandy Steadman & Ian MacDonald

Envelope Secretaries

Gloria Chen & Keith MacDonald

envelopes@stcolumba.ca

Caretaker

Carol Gauthier

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Today – Advent I

10h00 - Worship

11h30 - Choral Group

Thursday, December 07

19h30 - All Committee Meeting

Friday, December 08

10h30-14h30: Window Marché

12h30 - Friday Luncheon

Sunday, December 10 – Advent II

10h00 - Worship

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)