



Britannia United Church

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Meditation: Hope is like the sun, which, as we journey toward it, casts the shadow of our burden behind us.

Welcome: to Britannia United Church. Our **nursery** is always available to children three years of age and younger. It is at the end of the hall by the office. **Headsets** are available for those who need assisted hearing. Please speak to our sound technician. Please join in the reading if it is **bold** and *italic*. Coffee and Tea are available at the back of the church, after the service.

We Gather in God's Name

Introit: We Three Kings
Star of wonder
Star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading
Still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Announcements

Prelude: O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Danielle Turvey with Helen Hutcheson

Call to Worship:

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
***Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set your people free!***
O Come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart!
O Come, Thou Wisdom from on high
O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray!
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O come to us, abide with us, O Lord, Emmanuel!

Prayer:

Ancient of Days, from ancient times
You have entered our world in a new way,
revealing Yourself as our Creator
through new understandings of our created universe.

***Our relationship with You has changed
and grown and deepened,
as our understanding of ourselves as a people
and as individuals has also transformed.***

We call upon You to be revealed in a new way,
to open Yourself to us in a new way,
so that we can tear back the veils that separate us
from knowing You more fully.

***We wait for You to come and bring justice,
and mercy, and peace
to our world that desperately needs it.***

We wait in hope for You to come again.

In Your name we pray. Amen.

Sung Response: Prepare the Way of the Lord (10)

Advent Candle Lighting Barry Meredith and Dianne Tupper
(prayer)

***Thank you, Wise Ones,
for your faith and your gift of hope.
We will join you on this Advent adventure.***

Sung Response: Hope is a Star (7, verse 1)

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.

Anthem: Servant King

Theme Presentation

We Hear God's Word

Minute for Mission – Susan Aiken

Scripture Reading: Mark 13:24-37 (NT, pg. 50, Brenda Hamilton)

Message: The Journey of the Magi

Prayer of Brokenness/Confession

Almighty God, we come to You and confess that we are tired,
we are burned out, we are busy and worn and frazzled.

We have too much to do and too little time to do it.

How can we find time to be on the lookout
for Your coming reign?

How can we be prepared for You?

Help us to hand over our burdens, O God.

Help us to give over to You our worries and cares

and to slow down and remember that You are our God.

You are our Creator.

You are the one who saves us, time and again,

and You are entering our world in a new way,

if only we would take the time to perceive it and participate.

Forgive us when we put our ways of the world
ahead of Your ways

that You have designed for us and desire us to live.

In the name of the Christ, who is coming,

we pray all things. ***Amen.***

Blessing/Assurance of Pardon (from Isaiah 43:19)

Behold! God is about to do a new thing, now it springs forth!

Do you not see it?

Do you not know that God is already with you,

all around you, and loves you?

God is about to do something new in you.

Know that you are forgiven and loved,

and be present with God, who is already with you. ***Amen.***

Hymn: As With Gladness Men of Old (81)

We Respond to God

Prayers of Joy and Concern and The Lord's Prayer

Offertory

* **Doxology**: (541)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

* **Offertory Prayer**:

The Magi had great gifts

and so they brought great gifts.

The shepherds came empty handed,

but they came.

They were rich and they were poor,

and together, they worshipped a king born in poverty.

They were Jews and they were Gentiles,

and together they adored the Prince of Peace.

So may we come as we are,

to worship, to adore and to bring our gifts.

And may this God of Hope be with us all. Amen

* **Hymn**: Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus (2)

* **Commissioning Prayer**:

O God, by the leading of a star

you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:

Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence,

where we may see your glory face to face;

through Jesus Christ our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. Amen.

* **Sung Response**: Threefold Amen

Postlude - Video – Wise Men by Allen Krehbeil