

May God be with you: **and also with you.**

Announcements (10:45 MF)

Praise Band

Passing of the Peace (11:00 MF)

*All are invited to pass the peace from their spot,
offering a sign of peace to your neighbours.*

Welcome & Land Acknowledgement

* We Prepare our Hearts:

On Sundays and Mondays,

on good days and bad days,

early in the morning and very late at night,

here in this room, and out in the world,

God, we long for you to break in.

Meet us in this space.

Surprise us with your presence.

Fill this room with your good news.

With hope, we sing, we worship, we pray. Amen!

* Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel (VU 1, vv 1-5)

Prayer of Confession (unison):

Ever-present God,

we long to feel you close.

We long to feel your presence in our lives.

We long for you to break through the chaos and suffering of this world.

However, if we're honest,

we rarely stand still long enough to feel you in our midst.

Forgive our rushing and distractions.

Forgive our wandering hearts, and center us in this space.

Remind us that even in the time of Herod,

even on the longest nights, you are always there. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness:

Family of faith,

even when we doubt God's presence,

even when we fail to notice God's fingerprints in this world,

God is always moving closer to us.

Hear and believe the good news this Advent season:

Nothing can keep God's love away.

We are seen. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Amen.

We Listen for God's Word

Advent Candle-Lighting: Hope

Sung Response:

As we are waiting for a sign

As we long for Christ's birth.

We trust your word revealed to us

Is hope for all the earth.

Wonder Time

Prayer for Illumination (*Lay Reader*)

Readings: Luke 1:5-13

These words are offered as wisdom for our journey.

May we walk together in their truth.

Ministry of Music/Choir

Sermon: Longing for God

* Hymn: In the Time of Herod (Insert)

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to the Offering for the Work and Witness of the Church

Offertory

* Offering Response: (VU 55)

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet, what I can, I give him~ give my heart.

* Prayer of Dedication

HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Gifts

Prayer After Communion
**Loving God, in a world racked with fear,
you gather us together.
You set the table.
You meet us here.
You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits.
You remind us that this is a joyful feast,
and that fear cannot win every time.
So with renewed courage, with renewed hope,
with renewed conviction,
send us out into the world.
Help us to feed others as you have fed us.
With gratitude we pray, Amen.**

We Go Out to Love & Serve God's World

* Hymn: (WL) Come Thou Long Expected Jesus (VU 2)
(MF) Beyond the Beauty and the Awe (MV 80)

* Sending Forth
In a fearful world,
may you look for God's spirit.
May you reach for each other's hands.
May you choose courage whenever you can.
And in all things, may you remember
that good news is louder than fear.
In the name of the one who calls,
the one who sends,
and the one who journeys with—
go in peace and
be not afraid.

* Sung Benediction (MV 220)
**Hope shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together
Mirror the Light of Lights,
And illumine the pathway home.**

November 30, 2025



**The United Church of Canada
Mount Forest-Woodland Pastoral Charge
Woodland – 9:15 a.m. Mount Forest – 11:00 a.m.
Rev. Lori Campbell**

In the Time of Herod

In the time of Herod, fear had taken hold
Hope was buried deep and hidden, rare as gold
Ordinary people dared not speak aloud
Dreams of the Messiah breaking through the clouds

Thick as fog the fear grew, slowly creeping in
Day by day the people bent and drew within
With the clouds so heavy, who could see the stars?
Hopelessness had trapped them, strong as prison bars

Piercing through the stratus comes the angels' song
"Do not fear!" rings hollow when we've feared so long
Still in the recesses of our weary souls
Something is awakened—could it be our hope?

In the time of Herod, fear has taken hold
Still we share a longing for a glimpse of hope
Ordinary people shout the truth we trust:
God will stop at nothing to be here with us.

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