

MILLWOODS COMMUNITY CHURCH

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent



avored one by Lauren Wright Pittman Inspired by Luke 1:26-38 Digital painting

Prelude - Ritchie Trombone Choir

Welcome & Purpose

MWCC strives to grow as a multi-generational, inclusive Christian faith community with Christlike love by developing close, healthy relationships and partnering with community groups such as WINGS and WeCan.

Call to Worship

God says, **“Do not be afraid.”**

God says, **“I have called you by name.”**

God says, **“I will be with you.”**

God says, **“You are precious and honored in my sight.”**

At the beginning of this season, **At the start of this week,**

At the top of this hour, **May we wrap ourselves in these words. May we begin again.**

Let us worship our Holy God!

Liturgy for the Candle of Hope

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with the good news! Let us begin by trusting that we are a blessing, loved by a gracious God. Let us begin with music and singing! Let us begin with warmth and welcome. Let us begin with hope.

Yes, let us begin with hope. Today we light the candle of hope to shine a light in a worn and weary world.

May this be our foundation. May this be our fresh start. May this be our new beginning.

May hope flow forth from here. Amen!

Here I am to Worship/O Come Let Us Adore Him

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Verse 1

Light of the world
You stepped down into darkness
Opened my eyes let me see
Beauty that made
This heart adore You
Hope of a life spent with You

Chorus

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that You're my God
And You're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy Altogether wonderful to

me

Verse 2

King of all days
Oh so highly exalted
Glorious in heaven above
Humbly You came
To the earth You created
All for love's sake became poor **Chorus**

O Come Let us adore Him
O Come let us adore Him,
O Come Let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.

Liturgy for Advent 1

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Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, all the earth! The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Rejoice greatly, shout for joy! See, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and brings salvation.

Hail to The Lord's Anointed

Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
Great David's greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression,
And rule in equity.

We praise you, the Lord God of Israel! You came to the help of your people and have set them free.

You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, a descendant of your servant David.

You promised through your holy prophets long ago that you would save us from our enemies, from the power of all those who hate us.

You have shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and have remembered your holy covenant.

With a solemn oath to our ancestor Abraham, you promised to rescue us from our enemies and allow us to serve you without fear,

So that we might be holy and righteous before you all the days of our life.

By your tender mercy you cause the bright dawn of salvation to rise on us,
To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

(Sitting)

The voice of the messenger echoes from the desert, calling us to prepare the way of the Lord and to make a straight path on which he may come. Let us confess our sins, so that our crooked ways will be made straight and the rough ways smooth.

Gracious Lord Jesus, you come to us with the good news of salvation, but too often we fail to notice. You come to us day by day, yet we close the doors of our hearts when it seems convenient to do things our own way. We ignore your presence and your leadership. We have failed to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Forgive us, merciful Lord. May we live so that the world will know that you have come. Amen.

Through John the Baptizer, we hear the Lord's promise: Turn away from your sins, and God will forgive your sins.

Lift Up Your Heads

Lift up your heads, you mighty gates; Behold the King of Glory waits,
The King of Kings is drawing near, The Savior of the world is here.

Fling wide the portals of your heart, Make it a temple set apart
From earthly use for heav'n's employ, Adorned with prayer and love and joy.

So, come, my Sov'reign, enter in; Let new and nobler life begin;
The Holy Spirit guide us on, Until our glorious goal is won.

Scripture Luke 1:26-29 , Isaiah 43:1-7

Isaiah 43:1-7

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life.

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."
Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Sermon

Special Music - Ritchie Trombone Choir ***"Salvation is Created" - Chesnokov***

Blessings & Concerns

Liturgy for Advent 1

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Eternal God, Ruler of all ages, graciously you come to us in order that we might come to you, through the merit of Jesus Christ, strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Help us and all your children to respond to the call of your gospel with faith, love, and hope.

God of faith, you created humanity to serve and praise you; and even when we rebelled against you, you promised to send a Savior to redeem us from our sins:

Strengthen our faith in your saving work through Christ. As you chose the people of Israel to hear the promise of redemption through the prophets, may people today believe in your good will for all that you have made.

God of love, you fulfilled your promise of a redeemer in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Grant us the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may share your love with the sick and the afflicted, with the poor and the homeless, with the victims of injustice and discrimination, and with all who are experiencing times of trouble.

God of hope, you comfort us through our Savior's promise to return in glory at the end of time:

As we await the coming of the Prince of Peace, let us not despair. We long for you to inspire all the nations and peoples of the world to turn to cooperation and nurture, rather than to hatred and destruction.

God of faith, love, and hope, to you and to you alone we pray:

For you are our God, the only God, forever and ever. Amen.

(Standing)

Hosanna MBW pg. 239

Lord, you have kept the promise you made to our ancestors, and have come to the help of your servant people.

You remembered to show mercy to Abraham and Sarah and to all their descendants forever!

We praise you, Lord. You are enthroned in glory, yet you came and continue to come for all who will receive you. We praise you, for you are good, and your mercy endures forever.

To you be glory and power, forever and ever. Amen.

Praise to You, O Lord

Praise to you, O Lord, we render
For your love in Jesus shown;
May that love, so strong and tender,
Bind us fast to him alone; Now and ever,
Now and ever Gather us among your own.

Ministry Opportunities

O Little Town of Bethlehem

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O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in the dark streets shineth, the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

***Benediction**

Postlude

Thank you everyone for your help and support for the WINGS fundraiser this past weekend!! :)

CHOIR REHEARSAL DATES

- December 7th - no rehearsal
- December 14th - 10:30 am
- December 15th - In Church Performance
- December 21st - 10:30 am
- December 24th - Christmas Eve Special Music

WeCan Food Basket

To place an order please go to [WECAN Food Basket Society](#) to order online. Or, For in-person cash orders, please come to the church on the third Thursday of the month from noon-2:00 (the same as our pick-up time). If you want to help with Wednesdays, speak with Sonja, Ron, Ken & Sandy G, or Pastor Aaron.

CANDLE Fund

We have a family in the church who are unable to work at the moment because their work permits have expired and they are waiting for their Permanent Resident paperwork. They have a job ready and waiting when their residency comes in, but they need help covering their rent until then.

Thanks to your generosity we are able to help them with their rent through January (no one should need to worry about paying rent over the holidays). THANK YOU VERY MUCH! The Elders and Pastor Aaron will re-evaluate again next month.

If you are able, please continue contributing to the CANDLE FUND so we can continue to help the family with rent if they do not win the permanent residency lottery.

To support this assistance, just put CANDLE Fund in the message of your e-transfer (office@mcchurch.ca) or on the memo of your cheque.

MWCC Christmas Party

Join us December 14th at 5:30pm for a Christmas dinner, music and fun!

Food will be catered by Ironwood Catering.

When: Dec 14, 2024

Time: 5:30pm

Ticket Prices per ticket:

Adult \$30.00

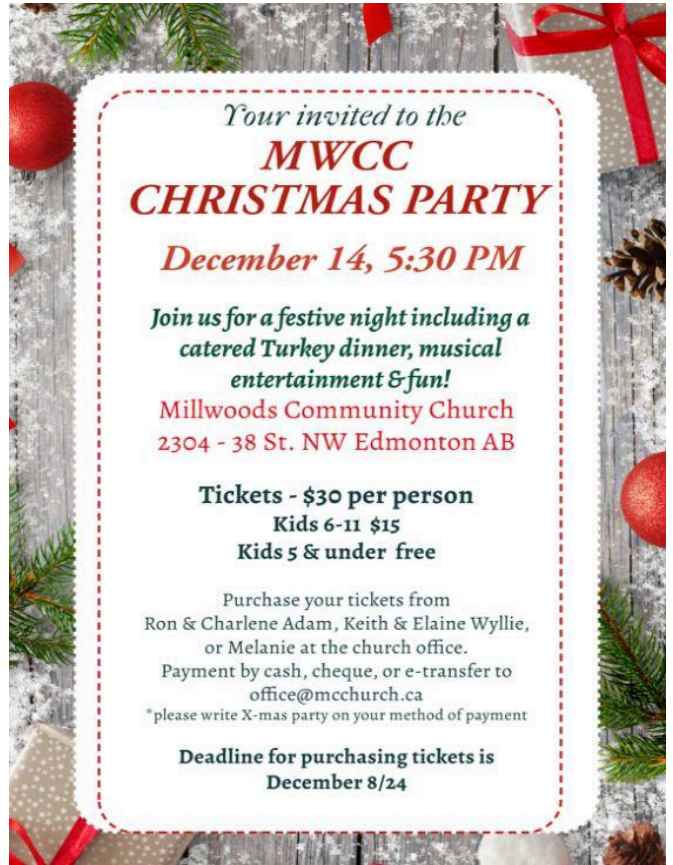
Child 6 - 11 \$15.00

Child 5 & Under Free

You can purchase your tickets by sending an E-Transfer to office@mcchurch.ca with a memo saying MWCC Christmas Party.

Deadline to purchase tickets is December 8, 2024

*This is not a tax receiptable event.



Todays Service				December 8, 2024 Service			
Greeters	Sharon	Ushers	Armand	Greeters	Ron	Ushers	Armand
Music	KT, RT	Reader	Tony	Music	Lorraine	Reader	Charlene
Sound		Media		Sound	Larry	Media	Donna
Coffee		Elder		Coffee	Char & Ron	Elder	
Birthday Cake	N/A	Closing	Pastor	Birthday Cake	N/A	Closing	Pastor
Counters	Kevin, Ron			Counters	N/A		

“Millwoods Community Church gathers on Treaty 6 Territory, the traditional lands of First Nations and Metis People, and on the former Papaschase Reservation.”

[Learn more here.](#)

Millwoods Community Church

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Church Administration: Melanie Wilcox Phone #780-463-7427, email: office@mcchurch.ca

Pastor Hours: Mon - Thurs 10am - 3pm, Sunday 10am - 1pm

Please phone us to make an in office appointment