

**Millwoods Community Church**  
**November 28, 2021**

 "To know and accept Jesus Christ personally as Lord and Saviour, grow in relationship with Him and make Him known"



Photo by A Sanctified Art

## **Welcome**

### **Call to Worship**

Can one be homesick for something you've never known?  
We are homesick for a just world,  
for peace like rivers, for the end of suffering.  
Yes, we are homesick—  
for joy that is contagious,  
for nations that feel like neighbors,  
and for hospitals that run empty.  
We are homesick for the world God promises.  
We are homesick, but we are on our way.  
God is here. God is still creating.  
Let us worship Holy God.

### **Candle Lighting Liturgy**

A: We hope for a world where all are fed.  
B: We hope for a world with more bridges than walls.  
A: We hope for a world with wide open doors.  
B: We hope for a world with contagious laughter.  
A: We hope for a world where trees grow tall and creeks run clean.  
B: We hope for a world where all people feel at home—in their bodies, in the church, in their physical homes.

A: We hope for that world.

B: We long for that world.

A: We are homesick for that world.

B: So today we light the candle of hope, because hope keeps our hearts alive as we wait.

A: May this light be a reminder that the wait is always worth it.

B: We are close to home.

May we carry hope with us. Amen.

### **Opening Prayer**

Dearest friend, help us surrender to you. Grant us faith to deepen and share our relationship with you. Grant us love to listen to our neighbours for unmet needs in our community. Grant us hope to see anew our identity in you. 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

#### **Bridge**

And I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross  
And I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross

#### **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

O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
O come let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord

## **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

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O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the king of angels;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

O sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

### **Advent 1 Liturgy Part 1**

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**

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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.***

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**

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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.

### **Scripture Reading** Luke 21:25-36

“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, there will be dismay among nations in their confusion over the roaring of the sea and surging waves. The planets and other heavenly bodies will be shaken, causing people to faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world. Then they will see the Human One coming on a cloud with power and great splendor. Now when these things begin to happen, stand up straight and raise your heads, because your redemption is near.” Jesus told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, you know that God's kingdom is near. I assure you that this generation won't pass away until everything has happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will certainly not pass away. “Take care that your hearts aren't dulled by drinking parties, drunkenness, and the anxieties of day-to-day life. Don't let that day fall upon you unexpectedly, like a trap. It will come upon everyone who lives on the face of the whole earth. Stay alert at all times, praying that you are strong enough to escape everything that is about to happen and to stand before the Human One.”

### **Message**

### **Blessings and Concerns**

## **Advent 1 Liturgy Part 2**

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 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 afflicted, with the poor and 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.***

**Part A**

**Hosanna**

**Part B**

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**Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!**

*Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!*

**Hosanna!**

*Hosanna!*

**Hosanna!**

*Hosanna!*

**Blessed is he that comes,**

*Blessed is he that comes,*

**he that comes in the name of the Lord!**

*he that comes in the name of the Lord!*

**Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!**

*Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes!*

**Hosanna!**

*Hosanna!*

**Hosanna!**

*Hosanna!*

**Hosanna,**

**Hosanna in the highest!**

*Hosanna in the highest!*

**Repeat from beginning**

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna!**

*Hosanna in the highest!*

**(All)** Hosanna in the highest!

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***

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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.

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## ***Ding Dong Merrily on High***

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### **Verse 1**

Ding dong merrily on high  
In heav'n the bells are ringing  
Ding dong verily the sky  
Is riv'n with angels singing  
Gloria hosanna in excelsis  
Gloria hosanna in excelsis

### **Verse 2**

E'en so here below below  
Let steeple bells be swungen  
And io io io  
By priest and people sungen  
Gloria hosanna in excelsis  
Gloria hosanna in excelsis

### **Verse 3**

Pray you dutifully prime  
Your matin chime ye ringers  
May you beautifully rhyme  
Your eve time song ye singers  
Gloria hosanna in excelsis  
Gloria hosanna in excelsis

### **\*Benediction**

### **Postlude**

**Message:** Pastor Aaron

**Music Accompanist:** Lorraine

**Musical Volunteers:**

**Sound, Media & Sling Studio:** Larry, Amy

**Scripture Reading:** Bev

### **Carol Sing Along - December 17th, 2021**

We will be hosting a carolling sing along at 6:30pm at Millwoods Community Church on December 17th. Admission will be by donation, and all proceeds will go to WINGS. Invite your friends and family! We are currently looking for volunteers to serve hot chocolate and greet people at the door. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please contact Katie at [tilbury@ualberta.ca](mailto:tilbury@ualberta.ca)

## **Christmas Eve Services**

We will have two services on Christmas Eve at 4:00 and 7:00 based on the feedback we heard from the survey we emailed to all of you. Because we still have reduced capacity for our services please call, email, or text Melanie and Aaron to let us know which service you and your family/friends will attend. If we do not answer, **please leave a message.**

## **2021 Christmas Eve Offering**

Our designated 2021 Christmas Eve offering will be split between the Moravian Disaster Response and WINGS of Providence. You'll have two ways of contributing towards this ministry. 1) write a cheque and designate "Christmas Eve Offering" and place that check in the mail or drop it in the offering box. 2) designate your online giving through mcchurch.ca as "Christmas Eve Offering." You can use either of these methods between now and Christmas Eve. Thank you for your generosity supporting our neighbors in need. Here's a little information about MDR and WINGS:

- **The Moravian Disaster Response Fund** is managed by the Board of World Mission and is used to respond quickly to natural disasters that strike around our Moravian world. It is ready to go as soon as a disaster strikes with money to purchase emergency supplies, and then helps send Mission Teams when and where possible to help with rebuilding efforts.
- **WINGS - Women In Need Growing Stronger** offers a second-stage shelter and affordable housing for women with children who have experienced family violence. At WINGS, we address the social, psychological, and health issues affecting women and children, extending our programs inclusively to clients of all races, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

## **If I Had a Million Dollars - Van Es Capital Reserve Fund**

The Van Es Board has created a Capital Reserve Fund to be used for improvements. The target is to raise \$1,000,000 to address anticipated needs in the near future. Needed projects are:

- Replacement of pool mechanicals and liner as well as modifications to comply with current regulations. Modifications will include pool contouring and renovations to the dressing rooms.
- Completion of renovations to the former caretaker's house to become a small group retreat centre.
- Upgrading and replacement of cabins.

Please donate to this cause. You can specify a project or give to the overall fund.

**Our mailing address is:** VanEs Camp & Conference Centre

PO Box 57063, Eastgate  
Sherwood Park, AB T8A 5L7

**Millwoods Community Church**

**2304-38 Street, Edmonton, AB 780-463-7427**

**[office@mcchurch.ca](mailto:office@mcchurch.ca)      [www.mcchurch.ca](http://www.mcchurch.ca)**

*Rev. Aaron Linville Phone#780-862-9453, email: [pastoraaron7427@gmail.com](mailto:pastoraaron7427@gmail.com)*

*Music Director: Katie Tilbury Phone#403-550-5424 email: [tilbury@ualberta.ca](mailto:tilbury@ualberta.ca)*

*Church Administration: Melanie Wilcox Phone #780-463-7427, email: [office@mcchurch.ca](mailto:office@mcchurch.ca)*

**Office Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed 10am-1pm or by appointment.**