

Nov 22ND, 2020 HOPE UNITED CHURCH 10:30 AM

Reign of Christ Sunday

Gathering in Expectation

(▲ Please rise in body or in spirit)

Prelude

Welcome and Life & Work of the Church

Lighting the Christ Candle

Opening Song *Care for My Lambs* ~ Marian Johnston, solo

Call to Worship (responsive)

L: All right. Who wants to be a sheep?

P: A sheep? No way!

L: What's wrong with being a sheep?

P: Are you kidding me? Sheep are dumb. Sheep are passive. Sheep just do whatever they're told. Who'd want to live a life like that? I'd rather be anything else. Even a goat!

L: A goat? Why would you want to be a goat?

P: Are you kidding me? Goats are smart. Goats are tough. A goat goes wherever it wants to go and never let's anything stop it. Who wouldn't want to live a life like that?

L: I'm not sure Jesus would want us to live a life like that.

P: What? Why?

L: I think the Good Shepherd would rather be herding sheep than goats.

P: No way!

L: Jesus even says so.

P: But why?

L: Let's find out.

P: Yes. Let's take it to the Shepherd in prayer.

Opening Prayer (together)

To call someone a "sheep" isn't a compliment. It means to be docile, compliant, or easily influenced or – if we're feeling especially nasty – a waste of skin and brain cells who mindlessly follow wherever they're led. So no wonder we reject the idea of being Christ's sheep no matter how good a shepherd Jesus might be.

And so we ask you, God, to join us in our worship today so that we might see past our cultural blinders and get to the heart of what it means to be a sheep. Of what it means to be forever in the care of God's shepherd. We ask this in His name. Amen.

Hymn **MV 126 *Are You a Shepherd?***

Growing in Faith

We Hear the Word of God

Scripture Matthew 25: 31-46

For the word of God in scripture, among us and within us...

Thanks be to God!

Ministry of Music: *When I Survey The Wondrous Cross*
(with Air by Bach) for two keyboards

Reflection

Prayers of the People

We Journey Forth

▲ Sending Hymn **VU 213 *Rejoice the Lord is King v 1,2,4***

▲ Commissioning & Benediction

▲ Song of Dismissal: ***You Shall Go Out with Joy***

Postlude

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**It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like... storm season!**

Storm Cancellation Notices for Sunday service are posted on the office voice mail (902-455-0261), website ([www.hopeunitedchurch.ca](http://www.hopeunitedchurch.ca)) and Facebook page as well as CBC's Nova Scotia Storm Centre found at [cbc.ca](http://cbc.ca). The Pastoral Care Team is also willing to call those without Internet/Computer access. If you would like your name and phone number on the call list, please contact the church office.

### In-person Worship at Hope United

**Sunday School Recycling Fundraiser:** The Sunday School is collecting recyclable drink containers. You can contribute by bringing your recycling to Tanner Transfer Enviro Depot, 6393 Bayne Street and asking for it to be credited to HOPE UNITED CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL. Contact is Nancy Hayter 455-6476.

**A New Year of Faithful Giving:** The office will be preparing **2020 lists for offering envelopes and PAR** in the next few weeks. if you plan any changes to your giving in the new year, please contact Nancy in the Church office: 902-455-0261 or office@hopeunitedchurch.ca.

Have you considered switching to the convenience of **Pre-Authorized Remittance?** PAR brochures/forms are at the back of the sanctuary, on the website, or contact the office to receive one by mail.

**Haven't tried Fundscrip yet?** This easy-to-use program allows our church to turn your everyday spending into ongoing fundraising. Simply buy gift cards from us or on-line for participating retailers and up to **15%** is donated back to the church. Many of these are retailers you already use – plus cards can be used as a great gift alternative on special occasions or as a donation. Use invitation code **3M3RWE** at **www.fundscrip.com/retailers** or contact Barb 457-1112 for info.

**Brunswick Street Mission:** Please note that at this time due to COVID restrictions, the Mission is **not able to accept general donations of goods and clothing**. Only winter clothing as described below is currently being accepted.

**Winter Coats – Men's, women's and children's**

**Winter Boots – Men's, women's and children's**

**Jeans – Men's, women's and children's**

**Children's clothing – girls and boys, newborn to teen sizes.**

**Winter gloves, hats and scarves.**

Winter clothing can be dropped off at 2107 Brunswick St. any weekday (except holidays) between 9:30am and 12:30 pm. Thank you!

Hope United is open for in-person worship Sunday mornings at 10:30, following all current public health guidelines. Masks are mandatory and are provided if you require one. The sanctuary is set up to keep family groups 6 feet apart and you will be ushered to a seat (please bring your own pew cushion and take it with you).

Offerings are placed in boxes at the entrances and blessed during the service, along with those offered by PAR, mail and e-transfer.

We follow the service on the audio-visual screens and enjoy the gifts of our Music Ministry Team while humming along.

There are lots of signs and people to help you navigate.

If you are not ready, uncomfortable or unable to return, the Order of Worship is attached and if you have computer access

**the service will be livestreamed via the website and on Hope United's YouTube channel on Sunday mornings.**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3HRccXryI5FGSCXCLZuwgw>

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**Anyone who may be willing to help on Sundays with Greeting and Ushering is asked to contact Nancy Hayter, Chair of Worship at 455-6476 or [nancyhayter@gmail.com](mailto:nancyhayter@gmail.com).**

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**Office Hours:** Nancy can be reached at the office **Tuesday, Thursday & Friday from 9-12 noon**. Please limit in-person visits to essential business only and remember that masks are required in the building as well as physical distancing. Thank you.

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**Minister:** Rev. Sean Handcock      sean@hopeunitedchurch.ca  
**Children, Youth & Families:** Caitlin Smithers      Caitlin@hopeunitedchurch.ca  
**Office:** Nancy Nelson      **Mon-Fri, 9am to noon** 902-455-0261  
**Website:** www.hopeunitedchurch.ca      **Email:** office@hopeunitedchurch.ca  
**Organist:** Rafael Alcolado      **Music Director:** Barbara Pate  
**Percussion:** Brad Ruggles      **Webmaster/Tech:** Paul Verboom  
**Facebook:** Becky Campbell      rcampbell@gnspecs.ca  
**Minister Emeritus:** Rev. Diane MacVicar  
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**We Celebrate Together**

**Happy Birthday to Sandra Bauld on Nov 25  
and Colin Fry on November 26**

**In Our Thoughts and Prayers**

Thinking of **David & Carol Carnell**  
during Dave's recovery from his surgeries.

**If you have a prayer request** to be printed or **know of a pastoral care need** for anyone connected to our congregation, please contact Rev. Sean, Caitlin, the Pastoral Care Team or the church office.

**Intergenerational Advent Devotional:** This year we are planning to create a Devotional to be shared as a congregation during Advent. Anyone – child, youth or adult – can contribute by submitting your response to any of the four traditional Advent themes: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. You could share a short story, a tradition in your household, a recipe, a drawing, a piece of music, a photograph – be as creative as you like. Responses can be sent any time for any of the four themes but should be submitted to Caitlin by **Friday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>** to be formatted into a document to be shared for the Advent season. Any questions, contact [caitlin@hopeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:caitlin@hopeunitedchurch.ca)

**Advent decorating:** Anyone interested in helping to decorate the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas season can meet at the church on **Saturday November 28 at 1 pm**. Masks are required and we will practice physical distancing. If you plan to attend, please contact Nancy Hayter 455-6476.

**Reverse Advent Calendar:** This year to mark the days of Advent, Hope United is offering a Reverse Advent Calendar. Rather than receive a small token or treat each day, **the calendar will suggest an item or items that families can add daily to a Feed Nova Scotia box**. The boxes are available at the church and can also be delivered. We will display returned boxes after Christmas and deliver to Feed NS in January. Contact Caitlin: [caitlin@hopeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:caitlin@hopeunitedchurch.ca) or the church office 902-455-0261.



**Hope Cottage:** We will be providing the meal for Hope Cottage on **Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup>**. If you are able to make a **hamburger casserole** for that day, please let me know. **It needs to be at the church by 12:00 (noon).**

Thanks, Janet Ward

**Christmas Eve services:** This year in an effort to accommodate more people on site, **Hope United will offer one Christmas Eve service during two different times on December 24<sup>th</sup> – 4 pm and 7 pm**. The service will also be livestreamed at both times for those who are unable or uncomfortable to come in person. There will be pre-registration for Christmas Eve beginning in early December. More information on how to pre-register will be available soon.

**FINAL NOTICE Broadview magazine – Time to Renew!** It is time to renew subscriptions for the United Church of Canada's national magazine. Hope United has a group subscription – the cost for each person is **\$25/year – delivery is direct to your home**. Payment must be submitted to the church office c/o Nancy Nelson, 3055 Connaught Avenue, Halifax, NS, B3L 3A7 **by November 23** -- please make **cheques payable to Broadview**. Please let the church office know if you do not plan to renew. [office@hopeunitedchurch.ca](mailto:office@hopeunitedchurch.ca) 902-455-0261 **New subscribers are welcome!**

**The 2020 “Gifts with Vision” order catalogue is now available!** The United Church of Canada developed Gifts with Vision in response to member requests to be able to give gifts to relatives, friends, and loved ones that are in direct support of the church's Mission & Service partners. This year, partners continue to work hard to provide vital and caring programs and services in a world with new and challenging limits on direct interactions with others. Visit **[giftswithvision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca)** to browse the categories and choose a gift in support of missions far away or right here in Canada.