



## Service of Comfort and Hope



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast, are on the traditional territories of Indigenous people.

---

Minister: The Rev. Diane Knowles  
Pastoral Care Coordinator: Judy White  
Director of Music: Kyung-A Lee  
Church Administrator: Suzy Simson  
Custodian: Judy Hall

33 Main Street East, Huntsville, ON P1H 2B8  
705-789-5660 • [trinityhuntsville.ca](http://trinityhuntsville.ca)

# Welcome to Trinity

The Heart in the Heart of Huntsville

A Service of Comfort and Hope

Thursday December 18, 2025 – 7 pm

*“Loving Hearts ... Open Minds ... Serving Hands”*

---

*“Healing Spirit heal our broken hearts and  
make us whole again”*

**Prelude:** Kyung-A Lee

**Greeting**

One: May the peace and hope of Christ be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Welcome in Friendship! Welcome in Faith!

Welcome in Spirit’s reassuring healing and hope.

**Moment of Meditation**

**Call to Worship**

One: All around us, Christmas lights brighten our long evenings and carols are playing on the radio. The season heaps joy upon us.

All: **Yet, we feel the darkness of our souls. Come, God of light sit with us in our sadness this evening.**

One: Tonight, we gather with friends and strangers alike united as one in our loss and sorrow.

All: **We gather here in this place of refuge because God has promised to meet us and welcome us just as we are.**

**Opening Hymn:** “Come and Find the Quiet Centre” (VU 374)

**Opening Prayer**

All: **Comforting God, we come to you in this quiet place seeking your reassurance and your hope. We gather as hurting people, bringing our pain, our sorrow and our confusion to this safe space this evening. To those who are chilled by grief and pain, bring the warmth of your love. Breathe courage into our days and whisper strength into our dreams. Come, Child of Bethlehem and enlighten our path ahead. Be born anew in our hearts and in our hopes of brighter and gentler days ahead. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:** John 1: 1-5

*(In the beginning was the Word...the darkness will not overcome the light.)*

Reader: Julie Brushey

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to our hearts.

All: **Amen.**

**Reading:** “When the World says Rejoice”

Reader: Jane Booker

When the world tells us to rejoice,  
and we find that joy feels far away,  
God meets us right where we are—  
not with pressure,  
not with demands,  
but with presence.

God does not ask us to pretend.

God does not hurry our healing.

God simply draws near,  
like light through a crack in the door,  
like warmth in a cold room,  
like a steady hand when our knees tremble.

Tonight, we bring the truth of our hearts  
and Christ says to us:

*“Blessed are you who mourn, for you shall be comforted.”*

We rest in that promise.

We breathe in that hope.

We wait for that light.

**Hymn:** “Hope Is a Star” (VU 7 - verses 1 and 2)

### **Candle Lighting Liturgy**

One: Tonight, we light candles as signs of God’s presence in our darkness, small flames that remind us of a light that the darkness cannot overcome. Each candle represents a place where we long for God’s healing, God’s peace and God’s hope.

### **Candle One - For Loss and Grief**

One: We light this first candle for all who are grieving both here and virtually this evening. For empty chairs, and quiet rooms, for memories that are tender, for love that continues even as we mourn.

*The first candle in the Advent wreath is lit...*

Candlelighters: Grant and Lisa Wager

### **Candle Two - For Strength in Illness and Weariness**

One: We light this candle for all who are weary in body, mind or spirit. For those struggling with illness, for caregivers who pour themselves out in love, for those whose strength is stretched thin.

*The second candle in the Advent wreath is lit...*

Candlelighter: Gord Mitchell

### **Candle Three - For Emotional and Spiritual Burdens**

One: We light this candle for the burdens we quietly carry, the fear of the future, for loneliness and anxiety, for nights when sleep will not come and the days when getting up feels too hard, meet us with compassion and rest.

*The third candle in the Advent wreath is lit...*

Candlelighter: Judy White

All: **God of light, shine gently in our darkness.**

### **Candle Four - For Broken Relationships**

One: We light this candle for fractured families, estranged relationships, words spoken in anger, and the silence that can hurt more than the words.

*The fourth candle in the Advent wreath is lit...*

Candlelighter: Karen Schamehorn

All: **May this light shine upon the paths of reconciliation, healing what feels too damaged for us to mend on our own.**

### **Christ Candle - Light in the Darkness**

One: And now we light our final candle, the Christ candle. A sign of the light that no darkness can overcome. A flicker that reminds us of the Love that holds us, the Hope that sustains us and the Peace that will not let us go. God is with us even when we’re not feeling God’s presence. We are held.

*The Christ Candle is lit ...*

**All: Jesus is our light in the darkness, our companion in sorrow, our healer, our comfort, our Emmanuel, God with us.**

*Extended silence*

One: The Christ child comes not only for the joyful but for the weary, the anxious, the broken-hearted, the searching. He comes with a promise:

*“My peace I give to you... not as the world gives.”*

Tonight, we lean into this peace, fragile though it may feel, trusting that God is already here, already working, already holding us, already breathing life into places we thought were finished. Come, Lord Jesus. Bring peace to our waiting hearts.

**Hymn: “Hope is a Star” VU 7 (verses 3 and 4)**

**Evening Prayer**

**All: Holy One, gather all our losses into your loving arms and breathe hope into our weary spirits. Let your light shine upon us and within us as we move through this season. Be our comfort and hope. Amen.**

**The Lighting of our Candles of Remembrance**

One: You are now invited to come forward and light a candle in memory of your loved one, or a loved one who lives far away or a member of your family who may be estranged at this Christmas time.

**Solo: “Angels Among Us” (Chuck McClelland)**

**A Brief Message of Hope - Rev. Diane Knowles**

**Musical Reflection**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**All: Our Father,  
who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: “A Light is Gleaming” (VU 82)**

**Benediction**

One: May God be your comfort in sorrow,  
your strength in weakness,  
your peace in the storm,  
and your light in the long night. Amen.

**Sung Blessing**

**All: Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in love and show you believe,  
reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching with much love.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.**

**Postlude: Kyung-A Lee**

*"May the God of Hope go with you  
on your way into the Christmas season."*

Blessings, Rev. Diane



***Oh, Come All Ye Faithful and Ye Not So Faithful Too!***

Upcoming Christmas services here at Trinity and online on YouTube or COGECO TV on Sunday mornings.

**Christmas Sunday Service December 21 at 10 am**

Special Christmas music featuring professional singers  
Parres Allen and Ryan Burda.

Holy Communion will also be served this Sunday.

**Christmas Eve December 24 at 5 pm Family Service-**

Especially for young families who have excited children and grandchildren anxious to get home to hang up their stockings by the chimney with care! Live nativity!

**Christmas Carol Sing Along at 6:30-6:50 pm**

Come and sing your favourite Christmas carols on the holiest night of the year.

**Christmas Eve - 7pm, Candlelight and Carols**

A more reflective service with full choir and enactment of the ancient Christmas story.

Christmas Blessings from our home to yours,  
Rev. Diane and family!



**Sunday December 28<sup>th</sup> - A Taizé service**

A service with repetitive prayers and generous amounts of silence to usher out the old and bring in the new year.

This service will be led by our Music Director, Kyung-A Lee.

###