



The heart in the heart of Huntsville

Today's bulletin is sponsored by EHS Renos (Kanu Torripa)
in memory of his best friend,
Erwin Hulshof.



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

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The United Church of Canada



L'Église Unie du Canada

Photo: Laura Lynn Hodson

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Welcome to Trinity

The Heart in the Heart of Huntsville
The Fourth Sunday in Advent
Sunday December 21, 2025 – 10 am
Christmas Sunday!

“Loving Hearts … Open Minds … Serving Hands”

“Christmas is waiting to be born in you,
in me, in all humanity.”

Howard Thurman

LET'S GO TO BETHLEHEM AND FIND THE LOVE OF CHRISTMAS

Gathering Christmas Carol Medley - 9:55 am

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory” (VU 36 - first verse)
“Silent Night, Holy Night” (VU 67 - first two verses)
“The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” (VU 73 - first and last verse)

Greeting

One: Life doesn't come neatly wrapped and tied with a bow. But it is still a gift!

All: Life is full of choices and today I choose to be hopeful, joyful and full of love!

Introit: “Love Will Be My Guide” (Scott Kearn)

All: In what I do, in where I go, through all my life, I want to know that love will be my guide.

In how I talk, in what I choose, in how I gain, in how I love, oh, love will be my guide.

(Chorus)

Love will guide; love will lead.
I will follow in word and deed.
Love will be my guide.

One: Good morning and welcome to Trinity United Church, the heart in the heart of Huntsville, on this Christmas Sunday, the last Sunday before Christmas.

Welcome in Friendship! Welcome in Faith!
Welcome in God's Transforming Love!

We are a lively Spirit-filled community with arms open wide to welcome you too! No matter who you are, where you come from or where you're going, we're glad you're here with us today. Our congregation is affirming and inclusive of the full spectrum of gender, identity, sexual orientation and theological beliefs. Jesus welcomed everyone, so do we! Come out of the cold of winter and feel the warmth of God's love.

Announcements

Joys and Concerns and God Moments

Moment of Meditation

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

One: God of Christmas love, draw near to us and bless us. As Joseph was surprised by the visit of the angel,

All: prepare us for the Holy and the unexpected in our own lives.

One: We come seeking a Christmas full of love,

All: love close to home, a love shared with family or among friends.

One: We come seeking a Christmas full of love,

All: love that is faithful, love that embraces us in our faith community.

One: We come seeking a Christmas full of love,

All: love that is compassionate, love that brings healing and hope.

One: We come seeking a Christmas full of love,

All: love that is practical, love that is shared by those who work during Christmas.

One: We come seeking a Christmas full of love,

All: a love that floods our hearts and enlivens our spirits!

One: We give thanks for the birth of the Christ child, a love that will not let us go.

Opening Hymn - Advent Song: "With Hearts Open Wide"
(tune of *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*)

**All: Oh, with hearts open wide,
with hands open too,
living God's love each and every day through.
Jesus' people, walking love's way.**

**Opportunities here, opportunities there,
using our talents, God's gifts we will share.
Jesus' people, walking love's way.**

**This Advent flame is burning,
to brighten day and night,
it invites us to discipleship,
to shine out the Christ light!**

**Oh, with hearts open wide,
with hands open too,
living God's love each and every day through.
Jesus' people, walking love's way.**

The Lighting of our Advent Candles

One: Today, we are nearing the end our Advent journey. It's Christmas Sunday. We come to the same story year after year to encounter it anew because we have changed since last Christmas. Jesus, who has the heart of God, is about to be born again. Today we will light our fourth candle, the candle of love. Love is the wick given by God to burn in our hearts.

All: We light this candle as a sign of God's love revealed in Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us.

Our Light Beamers light our fourth candle... a candle of love.

Hymn: "Candles of Advent"

**All: Light one candle warm and bright.
Light one candle of love.
Love that will teach the world to care.
Love the surrounds us everywhere.
Love in a child who will help us share.
Light one candle of love.**

Opening Prayer

All: God of love, we are here today because it's Christmas Sunday and that's what we do. Some of us are joyful. Some of us are fearful, wondering what this season and the new year has up its sleeve for us. Remind us to allow love to lead us. Enable us to love the way Jesus taught us to love. We take heart

knowing, whatever we are facing in life right now, love leads us closer to the Sacred and to one another. We are held in God's love. For this we are truly grateful. Amen.

Light Beamer Time

This is the time our Light Beamers hear the stories of Jesus and how his stories teach us to be kind and loving human beings. We strive to teach them to follow in the footsteps of Jesus growing up to have a big heart just like Jesus, a heart that welcomed and accepted everybody. As their hearts grow, they can then go out into the world and shine their light and love for others.

Christmas Anthem: "Sing Noel, Alleluia!"

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Our Scripture reader today is Faye McKnight.

Prayer of Illumination

Reader: Wonderful Counsellor, Prince of Peace, we long for you to feel as close to us as possible. As we prepare to hear this ancient and familiar story, awaken something new within us. Awaken in us a fire for your truth and wisdom. Awaken in us your love which is as close as our very breath. We are listening. Amen.

New Testament Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25

(Joseph is visited by an angel in a dream.)

Reader: Companion Spirit, open our hearts and stir us to loving action.

All: Amen.

The Minister's Message: "Don't be Afraid, Be Emmanuel"

Musical Reflection

Our Offering Invitation

One: This is the season of giving, giving of ourselves, our money and our time. With the love of Jesus in our hearts, even the smallest of offerings are transformed into mighty miracles. Let us bring our gifts forward to help bring heaven right here on earth.

Our Christmas offerings will now be received.

Special Guest: "To Where You Are" (Ryan Burda)

Offering Prayer

All: Generous God, here is the work of our hands and here is the love of our hearts. Thank you for the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others. Bless these gifts so they may bring hope and love to those who need it most, in our church, in our community and around the world. May our gifts show us to be faithful followers of Jesus' movement of love. Amen.

SHARING OUR CHRISTMAS HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER

Communion Hymn: (tune of "Away in a Manger")

All: O come to this table, O seekers of light.
O come with your burdens, your hearts worn with night.
For here Christ is waiting, with joy for the soul,
with bread for the journey and grace to make whole.

The Invitation

One: Friends, on the Christmas Sunday let us gather to remember that it is the Spirit of God who sheds love in our hearts as we make our way to Bethlehem once more. A God that did not stay far away, but came close, born among us, walking with us, loving us still.

The Greeting

One: May God be with us.

All: God is here among us.

One: Let us open our hearts to the God of love.

All: We open them to God and to one another.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Blessing of the Bread and the Cup

One: This table of remembrance represents a place of gathering, of sharing and of relationships and community. We gather at this table of love today to remember once again the last night Jesus spent with his friends and shared a simple supper with them.

The Post Communion Prayer

All: God of love, we give thanks for the spiritual bread we have eaten and the cup we have tasted. We thank you for breaking into our lives in unexpected moments, like you did in Joseph's dream. May this meal strengthen us to bring comfort where there is sorrow, light where there is shadow and joy where hope has grown dim. In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

(An alternate version)

**All: Eternal Spirit,
Earth maker, Pain bearer, Life giver,
source of all that is and all that shall be.
Loving God, in whom is heaven.**

**The way of your justice be followed
by all people of the world.
Your will be done by all created beings,
your peace and freedom sustain our hope
and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love
now and forever. Amen.**

Closing Hymn: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (VU 48)
Commissioning

One: "In the Spirit of love we have gathered,
in the Spirit of love let us depart."

Benediction

One: May the love that made the stars be our guiding light.
May the love revealed in that tiny manger be our hope and inspiration, and may the love of the ever-present Spirit give us hope, peace and joy now and always. Amen.

Postlude: Kyung-A Lee

Song: "We Wish You A Merry Christmas!"

All: **We wish you a merry Christmas.**
We wish you a merry Christmas.
We wish you a merry Christmas and
a Happy New year!

Following the end of the Service, let us take three minutes to turn and greet one another with signs of Christ's peace and blessing as we move into a brand-new week.



Please join us in Trinity Hall following today's service where you are invited for a cup of tea or coffee and fellowship time.

Your hosts today are Julie and John Brushey.



Thought for your week ahead!

"Your image of God creates you.
If God is a tyrant, you'll become fearful.
If God is loving, you'll become love."

Father Richard Rohr



*"Wishing you the light of faith,
the warmth of home and the love of family
at Christmas time and always.*

Have a Joyous and Blessed Christmas!

Rev. Diane and family

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER STUFF!

In the bulletin today you will find a **Christmas Giving Envelope.**

In the spirit of the first Christmas gift,
we invite you to share your blessings.

Your generosity supports Trinity's mission
and brings the light of Christ to others.

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Matthew 6:21

Thank you and Merry Christmas!

The Outreach Team thanks you for helping to collect Food for the Corner Lighthouse food bank. **December is Rice and Toilet Paper.**

Christmas Office Hours!

The office will be closed from Thursday December 25 to Thursday January 1, 2026.

Back to normal hours Monday January 5, 2026.



December FundScrip update! A big “Thank You!” to everyone who purchased gift cards through FundScrip in December. The order total was \$33,250! We had 43 supporters and earned \$1,112.20 cash back! Cards were bought for Christmas and everyday shopping, Rotary bought cards for food bank support, and a local community gave cards to their residents. Thank you to all our supporters throughout the year. Earning dollars for Trinity is so easy with FundScrip!!!

Merry Christmas from Mr FundScrip!



Christian Meditation Course —

Beginning January 8, 2026

Feeling a pull toward something deeper?

Wondering if there's more to life than the hurry, noise, and pressure of our everyday world? You're not alone. Many people, especially young adults, are looking not just to *know* about the Divine, but to *experience* it. This January, Trinity United Church is offering a chance to do just that. Spiritual Director and long-time meditation guide **Alexander Jones** will lead a five-week introduction to **Christian Meditation** — a simple, grounding practice that helps us reconnect with God, nurture inner stillness, and awaken the “Divine Spark” within.

When: Thursdays, January 8 to February 5, 2026

Cost: \$150 **Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Where: Trinity United Church

Facilitator: Alexander Jones, with over 50 years of meditation practice and teaching.

Whether you're brand-new to meditation or simply longing for a more intentional, spacious relationship with God, this course is a wonderful way to begin the new year.

If you'd like to join us, please add your name to the sign-up sheet or contact **Suzy** or **Rev. Diane**.

Save the date! There is an event being planned in February.



On February 7, 2026, a special dinner and evening entertainment will be happening in our own Trinity Hall. For now ... watch this space!!!

Jane, Cherryl and Barb

Camp Big Canoe is thankful for Trinity United Church and is offering a \$100 discount to a camper connected with Trinity United Church. To get the discount code please reach out to director@campbigcanoe.ca.



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
from the staff at Trinity!*





“Oh, Come All Ye Faithful And Ye Not So Faithful Too!”

Christmas Services 2025

Christmas Eve Services - December 24, 2025

Family Service - 5 pm

Children get home in plenty of time to hang up their stockings and read The Night Before Christmas.

Carol Sing - 6: 30 pm

Carols and Candlelight Service - 7 pm

This is a quieter, more reflective service with readings and songs as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child in our hearts. Have a Joyous and Blessed Christmas season!

Last Sunday in the year- December 28, 2025

Hymns, Taizé, and Prayer Service led by Kyung-A Lee.
A Taizé Prayer Service is a simple, meditative form of worship that consists of generous silence and repetitive sung prayers. Taizé prayer is named for the ecumenical Christian community that formed in Taizé, France during World War II.

