Welcome To Trinity

The Heart in the Heart of Huntsville
The First Sunday in Advent
White Gift Sunday
November 29, 2026 - 10:00 am

"Loving Hearts … Open Minds … Serving Hands"

"Hope is the lark that senses the dawn
and sings while it is still dark."

LIVING AS ADVENT PEOPLE

Greeting: May the hope of this Advent season be with you.

All: **And also, with you.**

Introit: "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope" (MV 33)

All: **Jesus came bringing us hope,**
Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
hallelujah for ever more! *(sung twice)*

Good morning and welcome to Trinity United Church!

Welcome in Friendship! Welcome in Faith!
Welcome in Advent hope and holy anticipation!

Here we are at the start of a brand-new year for the Christian church, perhaps we should say Happy New Year!

Advent is the start of a brand-new liturgical season in the church.

The Advent season is observed for the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day.

Announcements
Joys and Concerns
Moment of Meditation

Call to Worship and Prayer of Approach

One: In this sacred season, our world remains hungry for hope.

All: **We come carrying the weight of the world and the concerns of our own hearts.**

One: Advent reminds us to look beyond what is and imagine what could be.

All: **We come with open hearts believing that love is still at work and new beginnings are possible.**

One: So let us begin this Advent journey together with hope in our hearts. Amen.

Hymn: "Hope Is a Star" (VU 7 - first verse only)

The Lighting of the First Candle of Advent

One: Advent is a season of anticipation and waiting. Advent is not simply counting down the days until Christmas or opening our Advent calendars. It's about making room for hope, peace, joy and love to be born in us anew.

Our Advent wreath shows the circle of God's unending love for us. There are four candles and each Sunday leading up to Christmas we shall light a new candle. The closer we get to Christmas the brighter our wreath will shine with the coming light of Christ.

Today as we begin our Advent pilgrimage to Bethlehem, we will light our candle of hope.

The Lighting of our Advent Candle by our Light Beamers.

Light Beamer Song: "Advent is Here"
(tune of Winter Wonderland)

All: **Advent's here, are you ready?**
Every year (yes, already)
the cycle comes round,
the Christ to be found.
Join us in the walk to Bethlehem.

Hope's alive, in our living.
Mistakes are made, but there's forgiving.
This Christmas we'll share
the Good News everywhere.
Join us in the walk to Bethlehem!

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.

Choir Anthem: "Silence to Song" by Joseph Martin

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Our Scripture Reader today is Sue Hicks.

Prayer of Illumination

Reader: God of light and possibility, open our ears to hear something new. May words spoken long ago find their way into our hearts today. And may familiar stories awaken fresh hope. Speak to us, O God, we are listening.

First Scripture Reading: Old Testament Isaiah 64: 1-4

(God where are you? I am suffering. Tear open the heavens and get down here!)

Second Scripture Reading: New Testament Mark 13: 32-37

(Jesus is telling his disciples and us to be mindful and stay awake.)

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

All: **Amen.**

The Minister's Message: "A Hopeful People"

Brief Musical Reflection

Offering Invitation

One: As we begin this Advent journey, we are reminded that hope is more than a feeling. Hope is something we share and put into action. Every gift we offer in love helps bring a little more hope and light into our world.

Our Advent offering will now be received.

Offering Hymn: "God of Hope"

All: **God of hope, hear our prayer,**
bless this offering we bring you.
May our lives do your will,
guide and guard us forever.
Give us the courage to stand for truth,
help us care for others.
God of hope, hear our prayer,
bless this offering we bring you.

Offering Prayer

All: **Advent God, here is the work of our hands and here is the love of our hearts. May we be people who don't**

wait for hope, but who help bring it to life. Bless these gifts so they may bring hope to those who need these gifts most- in our church, in our community and around the world. Amen.

GATHERING AT OUR ADVENT TABLE

Hymn: "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus" (VU 2)

The Invitation

The Greeting

One: May God be with us.

All: **God is here among us.**

One: Let us open our hearts to God.

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

One: Let us give thanks to God for all the special blessings we enjoy this time of year.

All: **It is right to give our thanks and praise for God is still working in our lives today.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Blessing of the Bread and the Cup

The Prayer Following Communion

All: **God of hope, we give you thanks for the spiritual bread we have eaten and for the wine we have tasted. For the life we have received; we thank you. May we be channels of your hope, peace and justice not only this Christmas season but all year long. Amen.**



Commissioning

One: Now, go forth from this table feeling blessed and refreshed. Be at peace with yourself and bring the Good News of Christ's love and hope to all you meet.

Closing Hymn: "May the God of Hope" (VU 424)

Benediction

One: Go now in the light of love and hope.
May the warm rays of God's love touch your heart.
May the gentleness of Christ's spirit blow through your life,
and may the softness of grace
soak deep into your soul.
This day and forever more. Amen.

Musical Postlude: Kyung-A Lee

Following the Postlude, let's take three minutes to greet one another with the peace of Christ or simply reach out and say hello to somebody you have not had the blessing of meeting until today.



With thanks to Will Gibson and Lynda and Shane Baker for hosting Coffee Hour today!



Thought for the week ahead!

"Open your eyes and you will find hope for your hurting heart."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER STUFF!

A BIG THANK YOU to Trinity's decorating elves – the inside and the outside ones!! Trinity is looking festive: merry and bright!!



The Outreach Team thanks you for helping to collect food for the Corner Lighthouse Food Bank.



November is Soda Crackers!
They are also in need of reusable grocery bags and egg cartons (any size). Thank you!

"A Joyful Advent, Anyway" is a free daily Advent series from Kate Bowler, beginning today! Each morning brings a short reflection with Scripture, a blessing, and a question to think about, along with some surprising Christmas history from Kate's father, a historian of Christmas. It is honest about grief and generous about joy. Sign up at katebowler.substack.com.

Therapeutic Touch – Monday November 30 at 1:30 pm in the Arnold Room. Everyone, members of Trinity or anyone from the community, is invited to drop in for a free Therapeutic Touch session.



Men of Trinity – Wednesday December 2 at 9:00 am in the Arnold Room.

Knitting Circle – Wednesday December 2 at 1:00 pm in the Arnold Room.



Mug Up with the Minister! – Join us this coming Thursday December 3 in the Arnold Room at 10:00 am and enjoy a cup of coffee with your church family. This is a wonderful opportunity to catch up with friends, meet new people and explore how our faith connects with our everyday lives. Bring your own mug and we will supply coffee!



Trinity's 2026 Christmas Walk About! The UCW are reminding everyone to please drop off your baking, puzzles and book donations at Trinity on Friday December 4 between 12 noon and 3 pm. If you need someone to pick up any items, please contact Barb Dalziel at 306-960-7349 (dalzielbarb@gmail.com) or Julie Brushey at 705-789-8737 (jbrushey1@cogeco.ca.) Thank you!

FundScrip orders are due next Sunday December 6!
Order the amount you need for your month's groceries, gas and gifts and in doing so, Trinity benefits. Fundraising remains a vital part of Trinity's budget. Order forms and instructions can be found on the bulletin board in Trinity Hall or from Gord Mitchell. Thank you for your support!



PLEASE NOTE!! When writing cheques to Trinity they need to be written to "**Trinity United Church Huntsville**". The TD bank is tightening it's rules and will now not accept cheques written to Trinity United Church. Thank you for your help with this.

Sunday Coffee Hosts needed for December 20 and 27!
If you are available to help, please let Lynda Arnold know.



Muskoka Music Mix

THE MUSKOKA MUSIC MIX
PROUDLY PRESENT



Christmas in Muskoka!

BRACEBRIDGE:
SATURDAY
DECEMBER 5
3:00 PM
UNITED CHURCH
46 DOMINION STREET

HUNTSVILLE:
SUNDAY
DECEMBER 6
3:00 PM
TRINITY UNITED CHURCH
33 MAIN STREET E

ADMISSION BY DONATION

FEATURING **FRANK BERG** ON PIANO AND VOCALS, PLUS:

Accidentals

2/4 Two Four Time

Huntsville Hospital Auxiliary Volunteer

Cookie Delight Fundraiser

50 cookies or 40 squares, $30 each

ORDER
Starting Nov 16, 2026
from the Hospital Gift Shop
Nov 16
GIFT SHOP

PICK UP
Dec 4, 2026, 10 am to 1 pm
in the Hospital Board Room
Dec 4

FOR MORE INFORMATION
For more information, call Susan, 705-380-2713
or Barb, 705-788-5917