

Worship on December 21, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Today we bear witness to the light of Christ shining in our midst. With Isaiah and Jeremiah, prophets of Israel, we await the promised return of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

We look for the coming of the One who will bring lasting peace, justice and righteousness to the earth.

With John the Baptist, calling from the wilderness, we cry:

"Prepare the way of the Lord! Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

With Mary, the mother of Jesus, we rejoice in God our Savior:

the Mighty One has done great things for us; holy is his name.

With the writers of the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we tell the good news of Jesus Christ:

he is a child of Bethlehem who came to save the world, and he will return to rule in glory.

The Word became flesh and lived among us

and we have seen his glory. Hallelujah!

Prayer of the Day*

God of life, we rejoice in your love which has filled creation from the beginning and which calls all life into being. We praise you for Jesus Christ who reveals most fully your loving purpose for all people. We praise you for your Spirit who draws all humankind into your love. Gracious God, bless us with your presence so that our worship and our lives may be a celebration of your love in Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Hymn 211 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Prayer of Confession*

God of mercy, every good gift comes from you. We confess that too often we have taken them for granted. You call us to be hopeful through the gospel of Jesus Christ, but at times fear and the cares of the world have weighed us down. You call us to be joyful in the wonder of your presence among us, but too often we become mired in the mundane and lose the gift of reverence. By

your saving power, O God, enable us to trust in you with our whole heart and live in thanksgiving. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament	Isaiah 7:10-16
New Testament	Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon "Joseph, the Right-Hand Man" Dr. Anderson

Offertory

Doxology Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains: *Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, thank you for bringing us to this season of faith, hope, and love. Thank you for the countless ways you provide for our needs. Draw us outward to share joyfully what you have given us. Let our acts of kindness as a church bear good fruit in the world. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Prayers of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

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 and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 224 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Benediction

Postlude

* Prayers based on the Presbyterian Church in Canada's *Book of Common Worship* Online <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/book-of-common-worship/>

Church Calendar

Saturday, Dec. 20 **Alcoholics Anonymous** 5:00 p.m.
Connect with the facilitator by emailing info@finyaa.org.

Sunday, Dec. 21 **Worship and Fellowship** 10:00 a.m.
Everyone is welcome to join is to worship God in person or
via live stream and stay for conversation and refreshments.

Cookie Exchange & Christmas Albums 4 - 6 p.m.
This event is for all ages. Bring a dozen cookies to exchange.
Mere Doyen will bring a selection of Christmas albums to listen to.

Monday, Dec. 22 **Church Office Closed, Pastor's Day Off**

Tuesday, Dec. 23 **Alcoholics Anonymous** 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 24 **Advent Study** 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.
We will meet in the Parlor and via Zoom conclude with "The Baby."

Tots Time 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
Caregivers and toddlers are welcome in this play group.

Christmas Eve Worship 5:00 p.m.
Join us to celebrate the Nativity with candlelight and "Silent Night."

Saturday, Dec. 27 **Alcoholics Anonymous** 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 28 **Worship and Fellowship** 10:00 a.m.
Dr. Clifford Anderson will return to the pulpit as our Guest Preacher.
Everyone is welcome to worship God with us in person or via live
stream and stay for conversation and refreshments.

Fishers Island Union Chapel (UCC)
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