# Advent 2021 Offering Invitations and Prayers

## November 28, First Sunday of Advent

### Invitation

Friends, “The days are surely coming,” says God, “when I will fulfill the promise of justice and righteousness.” I invite you now to be a part of fulfilling God’s promise as you give generously. Your gifts to this community of faith, and our wider mission through Mission & Service, provide hope as you help to bring justice a little closer to reality.

### Prayer

Gracious God, with our gifts we declare that our hope lies in you. We trust you to provide all that we need, and so we are secure in offering these generous gifts. May our giving be a sign of our faith and hope. Bless these gifts, whether given here or through PAR, e-transfer, or online, that they might indeed serve your purposes here and in the world. Amen.

## December 5, Second Sunday of Advent

### Invitation

The world is crying out, “Where is the God of peace?” By offering your gifts, you give your answer. The impact of what you offer, through this church and through Mission & Service, loudly proclaim that the God of peace is active in this church and around the world. Please be generous.

### Prayer

God of peace, complete in us the good work you have started. As you refine us, melt our cold hearts, mould our lives, and nurture us into the good stewards you would have us be. May giving these gifts be a part of that process. Amen.

## December 12, Third Sunday of Advent

### Invitation

Sometimes we wonder how generous we should be. John the Baptizer was very clear: share what you have so everyone has enough. Do not give in to greed. Be content. I wonder what that could look like here? What joy would that kind of generosity bring us? Friends, let us trust God to be sufficient in all things as we share our gifts for our community of faith and for God’s work in the world through Mission & Service.

### Prayer

God of joy, may giving these gifts be our deepest joy. You are the God of abundance, and on this day, we give thanks knowing you are our salvation; we will trust and will not be afraid, for you are our hope and our strength. Amen.

## December 19, Fourth Sunday of Advent

### Invitation

Friends, this is difficult. Hearing the words of Mary, too often we believe we are the chosen ones; we believe we are the ones God raises up and fills and protects. However, many of us are the rich, the proud, and the powerful. Yet there is good news for us, too. When you choose to generously share all that God has given you―to feed and house, to comfort and heal, to seek justice and resist evil―you turn to ally yourselves with the love of God that you have found. Let us share our gifts, then, that all may know God’s love.

### Prayer

Loving God, we give you thanks for the grace and love you show us. As we share and give, may your love be revealed in our lives, in the lives of others, and in the world. Amen.

## December 24, Christmas Eve/December 25, Christmas Day

### Invitation

Week after week, I invite you to give and be generous. Tonight/Today, we celebrate and experience God’s generosity to us. We believe God gave God’s Self to us in Jesus. Generosity is at the core of God’s being. God’s generosity is unlimited! We get it! And so I invite you again to give and be generous. To give gifts. To share. Because generosity is also at the core of our being.

### Prayer

Gracious and generous God, we give of ourselves for the same reason that you offer yourself: to touch lives, care for the poor, lift up the broken-hearted, and bring comfort to those in need. May our giving bring hope, peace, joy, and love to all people. Thank you for inviting us to do this with you, and thank you for Jesus. Amen.

## December 26, First Sunday after Christmas Day

### Invitation

Friends, I invite you to give of yourselves so that, through your gifts, others here and elsewhere may experience the fullness of God’s grace as revealed in Jesus.

### Prayer

Gracious God, we give thanks for everyone who helps us discover and grow as followers of Jesus. Whatever form our offerings take, may our gifts help to reveal Jesus to the world. Amen.

*For more Boxing Day worship materials, see* [*Share Your Light*](https://united-church.ca/stories/share-your-light) *and scroll to the Downloads at the bottom of the page.*