



The United Church of Canada L'Eglise Unie du Canada

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
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Advent Message from the President of Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council November 24, 2025

As the season of Advent approaches, our minds and spirits are again drawn to the symbols of this beloved time of year. We are often told it is a time of waiting, but what is it we are waiting for? Others suggest it is a time of preparation or getting ready. Again, we ask, preparation or getting ready for what? For many the fruit cake is already mellowing in its November hibernation, and the meat pies have been baked and safely stowed away in the freezer. We may still be agonizing over which favourite cookies and sweets we just cannot do without, while still being tempted by something new from the world of Instagram!

Christ was born over 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. How many Advents do we need before we tire of waiting and getting ready? The answer to that question is as many Advents as it takes for the Advent message to finally sink in. God is patient. One prepared soul at a time is just fine with the Divine!

Now I will admit that I am as liable as many others to spin into one or more cycles of over functioning during the Advent season. And, as hard as I try not to, it is a hard habit to break.

Maybe this time of year provides us with too many opportunities.....an embarrassment of riches so to speak? There can be so many distractions it is hard to focus. Food, music, lights, parties, decorations, gifts, concerts...the options seem endless.

At the end of the day, when we strip away all these distractions and temptations surrounding this season, Advent is about preparing. Preparing ourselves again to be ready to receive the rebirth of LOVE into our world and this world can use all the love it can get!

Can we each find it in our imagination and hearts to become that innkeeper; accommodating an unexpected guest, or a shepherd on a quiet hillside who suddenly becomes the audience for a heavenly pop-up choir, or maybe become, for a time, a mystic or magi from a distant land drawn by the discovery of a new star? Can you imagine being a part of such moment in history? You can!

This Advent let us take a few moments to think about what it is that God is nudging you to prepare for. Yes, certainly, it is that amazing reminder of how love can be reborn into our own lives and world, but maybe we need to be prepared for the unexpected opportunity to put that love into action like an innkeeper, or shepherd or magi. It can happen in our own families and communities. The greatest gifts we offer to others are those from the heart; offered freely in selfless love.

***What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give Him?
Give Him my heart.***

I wish you all a happy, fulfilling Advent filled with meaningful preparations as we await the miraculous rebirth of love again in our world.

In hope, peace, joy and love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Hugh Ellis".

Hugh Ellis
President

