

WEEKLY E-LETTER -- Dec. 5, 2017

Grace and Peace to the congregation of Wilmot United Church!

Advent has begun! What a special treat we had Sunday as the sanctuary shone in its Advent decorations and symbols.

This week I will begin with a prayer:

SETTLING

by Cora Krommenhoek
O Wilderness Wayfarer,
Singer of our silence and vulnerability,
We are frightened of wildness;
We long to shun barrenness.
Yet, it is often in the desert
That we find our true selves.
Remind us that still you come to us,
Right in the desert places of our lives,
Even when we feel clothed in roughness;
When we seem forced to feed on strangeness.
You touch our true selves,
You even embrace our wildness.
Help us to sing the songs of the desert
As easily as songs of lush meadows.
Amen/So be it.

We have planned several Advent events for you this year, one happened Monday December 4th; but let me tell you a bit about the next ones.

Wednesday December 13th

- Come and Find the Quiet Centre. This is held in the sanctuary and there are a few options for how one spends the 45 minutes. Several spiritual practices are brought together, including walking the labyrinth, lectio divina, contemplative music, scripture and use of icons. Here are several ways to refresh your soul and experience the hope, peace and joy of Advent. Saturday Dec. 16th at noon and Tuesday Dec. 19th at 2 p.m.

- Praying the News. These are small group events that encourage our sharing together as we engage with the events of our community and the wider world. You may attend either one or both as each time there will be a different theme. Thursday Dec. 21st 7 p.m. -

The Longest Night service. A combined service with St. Paul's. This is a quiet candle light service in the sanctuary for those who may have endured a loss or know a less happy side of Christmas this year. There will be opportunity for you to be still with your deepest self, in the loving embrace of our reassuring sanctuary, and to know you are never alone.

Finally, we have the Stations of Advent in the sanctuary throughout Advent. You will find seven 'stations' or places to sit and rest with some words of scripture and a sacred image. There is also a notebook for your reflections at each station. You can drop in to spend time at the Stations any time the church is open throughout Advent.

Advent Blessings to all,

Rose~Hannah