

Clifton Pastoral Charge

Old Barns and Hilden United Churches

We are Affirming Churches in an Affirming Pastoral Charge

Clergy: Reverend Phillip Kennedy

Organist: Old-Barns- Beckie Burrows, Hilden - Edith Selwyn- Smith

Church Bulletin Secretary: Mallery Thomas

Mission Statement: To provide a friendly, welcoming, caring and safe environment to promote spiritual growth.

December 7th, 2025

Advent II – Peace

White Gift Sunday

Introit – VU 1: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel” vs 1

Welcome, Life and Work of the Charge

Celebrations, Birthdays, Prayer Requests

Greeting Your Neighbour

Land Acknowledgement

We give thanks today that we are able to worship on land that is the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. As Treaty People, may we continue to seek ways to foster peace and friendship among all.

All My Relations

Advent II – Peace

[Old Barns reading by Shirley and Mike Lipton]

[Hilden reading by Edith and Keith Selwyn-Smith]

Today is the second Sunday in Advent. Last week, we lit the first candle in our Advent wreath, the candle that represents Hope. [First candle is lit] Today, we light the second candle – the candle that represents peace.

We live in a world longing for peace; a Peace that will squash wars and the devastation wars leave behind; a Peace that will reunite families; a lasting Peace based on justice and reconciliation.

Knowing the need for peace in our own lives and in this conflicted world, we light this candle as a symbol of the peace promised in the coming of Jesus.

[The second purple candle is lit.]

Hymn - VU 2: Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

Story Time – OB: reading by Glenda Kent

Special Music

OB: Praise the Lord – Madelyn Stewart 2025

Hilden: MV 173 – Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

Prayer for Illumination: MV 172: God Says, vs 1

Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

[Old Barns Choir]: *Let There be Peace on Earth and Peace in Our Hearts* [Miller & Jill Jackson©1955; music Ron Klusmeier©1996]

Sermon: Lasting Peace

Hymn – VU 18: There's A Voice in the Wilderness

VU 400: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer [BCP]

Focus on Giving

Offertory Prayer

Response – VU 81: As With Gladness, vs 3

Hymn – VU 28: Herald Sound the Note of Gladness

Commissioning | Benediction

Sung Response – MV 172: God Says, vs 4

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2025

Please come join us as we joyfully celebrate the Advent/Christmas seasons together beginning November 30th.

Here is a list of some of the services and events;

Advent, I Hope – November 30th

9:30am Hilden; 11am Old Barns

Tree Lighting and Carol Sing – December 2nd, 6:30pm at the Spirituality Circle [Old Barns United Church]

A Clifton Family Christmas Celebration in OB- Dec 5th
at 7:00pm

Advent II; Peace – December 7th 9:30am OB; 11am Hilden

Advent III; Joy – December 14th 9:30am Hilden; 11am OB

Advent IV | Christmas Sunday; Love – December 21st.
9:30am Hilden; 11am OB

Christmas In The Barn – December 21st
6:30pm Archibald-Waugh Farm, 3442 Highway 236

CHRISTMAS EVE- Lessons and Carols – 4:30pm OB;
7pm Hilden

First Sunday After Xmas, December 28th - Joint service and Communion 10 am or Hilden- Charge Potluck to follow

Merry Christmas!

-Rev. Phillip Kennedy

Announcements and Events

****Please note that there is a correction to the Christmas Advent Schedule. On December 21st, Hilden will be at 9:30am, and Old Barns will be at 11am. An updated copy of the schedule is in the bulletin.****

Congregational Meeting will be held on December 16th at 7:00pm in Old Barns. Hot chocolate & candy canes provided.

1. Present information for the appointment of short term ministry
2. Nomination of a representative from the committee seeking the short term ministry personnel access to the Charge Hub

November M&S Report

\$2,108.00 [includes \$245 World Dev & Relief]

Total \$23,418.10 – 93.7% - We are close to our total goal. If December giving's are close to November's, we will surpass last year's total. Will we make it?

Connection and Community

Jam Session at Hilden United Church Hall
Sunday, December 7th from 2-5pm, Doors open at 1:30

Community Game and Craft Night – St. Andrew's United Church
December 11th and January 8th 6:30-8:30pm

Cards & Games – Hilden United Church
Wednesday December 17th at 10:00am

If anyone in the community [Old Barns or Hilden] would be interested in attending Chess Club in the New Year [beginners, seasoned players, and all ages welcome!] Contact Mallory at secretary@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca for more information.

Hilden United Church

The annual Hilden Mitten Tree will be up for the next two weeks for all those warm knitted articles you may have to donate. Items are greatly appreciated.

Old Barns United Church

Saturday, December 13th: Old Barns UCW is asking for 2 doz. crisp cookies for the Christmas Cookie Trays. Please leave the cookies in the Bayview Room by noon on Saturday, December 13th.

First United Church, Truro

Saturday, December 6th at 7:00pm A
Candlelight Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 9th at 7:30pm
Christmas At Home with Measha Brueggergosman-Lee

Saturday, December 13th at 7:00pm
Winter Songs (Cantabile Society)

Wednesday, December 17th at 6:30pm
Brenna Conrad Voice Studio Christmas Recital

Friday, December 19th at 7:00pm A
Brigid Christmas

Saturday, December 20th at 3:00pm
Our Canadian Christmas (Creative Voices)

Cobequid United Church [Masstown]

December 7th at 6:00pm Tree Lighting
Make a Tree Shine Donate \$10 to place a light in memory of or in honor of someone special to you. Names will be read at the lighting of the tree (weather permitting). Proceeds for local outreach ministry. Come and enjoy this special event with us. Hot chocolate & carols. Contact Rev. Marty 902-893-7585, Millie 902-986-1176; Ellen 802-890-3199 to make donations.

If you have any announcements you would like to see in the Bulletin, please email Mallory Thomas [secretary@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca]. Submissions for the week must be submitted by Thursday at 10:00am

Peace with Justice

Rev. Cameron Trimble

There are some kinds of peace that are not peace at all. They are surrenders dressed in diplomacy, betrayals disguised as negotiations. This so-called “peace deal” being forced upon Ukraine by the US Administration is one of them.

A plan brokered by Russia, billionaires, and autocrats, written in the language of profit, and translated from the syntax of empire — it sells the future for a fleeting illusion of stability. It asks the wounded to thank their aggressor. It calls the amnesia of power “reconciliation”. *To accept such a deal is to mistake quiet for peace, silence for healing.* The biblical prophets understood this: “They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. ‘Peace, peace,’ they say, when there is no peace.” (Jeremiah 6:14). The peace of appeasement is always purchased with someone else’s blood.

Every wisdom tradition that honors the sanctity of life teaches that peace cannot be built atop injustice. To call domination “resolution” is to break covenant with the sacred. It is to forget that every human being carries the spark of the Divine, the image, the breath, the presence of the Holy.

When President Volodymyr Zelensky warned last week that Ukraine may face “the loss of dignity or the risk of losing a key partner,”¹ he was invoking more than geopolitics. He was recalling Ukraine’s Revolution of Dignity in 2014, when citizens filled Kyiv’s Maidan Square to demand freedom from corruption and Russian influence. That uprising, known as Revolyutsiya Hidnosti, was not merely political; it was a spiritual declaration that a people’s dignity is not for sale.

History and myth echo each other here. In every age, the gods of empire promise peace if only we will stop resisting. Pharaoh promised order; Rome promised civilization; modern autocrats promise security. But theologian Reinhold Niebuhr warned, “If we survive, it will be because men have learned to discipline their passions by the moral sense of responsibility for others.”² *What*

we call “peace” without justice is simply the stillness before collapse.

In the mythic imagination, false peace is the spell cast before the fall — the moment when heroes are lulled into sleep while the walls tremble. True peace, by contrast, is not the absence of conflict but the presence of right relationship. It's what Buddhists call right intention and what the Hebrew prophets named shalom: wholeness, harmony, interdependence. Such peace is not given by rulers but forged by the courageous. Howard Thurman once said, “In the stillness of the quiet, if we listen, we can hear the whisper of the heart giving strength to weakness, courage to fear, hope to despair.”³

That is the peace Ukraine is fighting for: not the hush of defeat, but the calm at the center of courage. This is not a distant war. It is the testing ground of our collective soul. Every concession to cruelty, every deal that rewards violence, writes the moral code of the century to come. The question before us is ancient: What shall it profit a nation to gain the world and lose its soul?

We are in this together,

Cameron

Lectionary Readings

Scriptures: Luke 1:39-56

Theme: Joy

Worship Service Schedule

Holiday Schedule on Bulletin Insert

November 30 – December 31, 2025

Booking-

Old Barns- contact Reg Henderson @ 902-895-0740
or rlhenderson8@hotmail.com

Hilden- contact Sheila Marshall at 902-893-2636 or
Diane Creelman 902-897-4493

Bulletin Announcements - contact Mallery Thomas
secretary@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

Charge Website - cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

Church bulletins & video of service are available on the website under the heading “**Worship**”. **All Policies** - (*Funerals, Marriages, Baptisms or Blessings*) are located under the heading “**About Us**”

Clerks of Session -

Old Barns - Position to be filled

Hilden - Position to be filled

Minutes for Mission playlists at

www.youtube.com/unitedchurchofcanada

Stories and Photos on www.united-church.ca

Need A Drive To Church (OB) - Contact Gordie at 902-895-6833

Old Barns Treasurer - regarding church business or e-transfer
donations contact Bob Francis at

oldbarnstreasurer@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

Social Committee (OB) - contact Julia Blois at 902-893-2641 (OB)

Glenda MacDonald 902-897-6123 (Hilden)

The Reverend Phillip Kennedy can be reached 902-957-4727 (cell)
or by email at phillip.kennedy@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

Visitation: Please contact your pastoral elders or Rev. Phillip
Kennedy

Hilden - April Canton-Austin and Sheila Marshall

Old Barns – Karen Archibald-Waugh and Barb Miller