

ADVENT 1 - HOPE ROMANS 13: 11-14

Wakefulness is easier said than done. A steadying strength of purpose, the ever-present call of Shalom alerts our minds and spirits to the inequity of our society. Let this serve as an accompanying alarm: a wake-up call, a knock on the door, a collective urge to forgo numbing with late night snacks, drinks, mood altering substances. To stay awake intentionally and to help one another resist the so-human desire to fall back to sleeping in, to find comfort under the covers.

The Shalom of physical and material wholeness is good news for those living at or below the poverty line in our communities. We, as the church, are the hands to the toil to bring this good news into being, to nourish this HOPE through intention, education, organizing, advocacy, and collective action. We are called to cocreate physical and material wholeness with God.

The call to reduce poverty is Advent, it is preparing the way with devotion and hope. A Guaranteed Livable Income for all in BC and Yukon is possible, and together we can bring this reality closer.

ADVENT IN ACTION

As an individual, a committee or an entire Community of Faith, write a letter, an email, or make a phone call to the members of your Legislative Assembly advocating for the implementation of a Guaranteed Livable Income program in BC and/or Yukon. Ask your representatives for a meeting to discuss the importance of Anti-Poverty action and legislation in your community.

Please copy takeaction@united-church.ca in your emails, so our national GLI Working Group can keep track of our efforts.



MLA LOOKUP FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA



MLA LOOKUP FOR YUKON TERRITORY

You can find sample letters to support your MLA advocacy at the links below or on the Guaranteed Livable Income page of the Pacific Mountain Region website:



SAMPLE MLA LETTER BC



SAMPLE MLA LETTER YUKON



PMR Justice Ministries letter to BC Minister of Poverty Reduction and Social Development



Rev. Barry Morris letter to

BC Minister of Poverty Reduction
and Social Development





Shirley Baker testimonal from Ladner United Church



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ADVENT 2 - PEACE MATTHEW 3: 1-12

John likely lived simply so that others could simply live. He rebuked and called out those in positions of power who rationalized a lifestyle that created and exacerbated inequity; those who used more than their needs required and left not enough for others. Advent and Christmas are times of gift-giving and excitement for many, and for others it presents the dilemma of foregoing basic needs like rent, heat, medicines, food and transportation in order to participate in the trimmings and trappings of the season.

God's Shalom includes relational harmony. This encompasses being in reciprocal, respectful and caring relationships with those around you, everyone included in the widest human experience, and with all of creation: human and non-human, individual and collective, inclusive of all systems that make up the planet and the cosmos.

St. Augustine reminds us that "Charity is no substitute for justice withheld." A Guaranteed Livable Income would allow us to enter into a greater degree of relational harmony with our siblings who live in poverty. Not charity, a just distribution of resources that supports the living of dignified lives where needs can be met, where wholeness can be found.

ADVENT IN ACTION

Senator Kim Pate's bill S-260 calling for the implementation of a nation-wide GLI program has passed the second reading in the Senate and will go to committee. Add your voice, and the voice of your Community of Faith to this campaign for relational harmony in Canada. Send an email to the senators, add your name to the LeadNow Petition, and spread the word!



SENATOR KIM PATE'S WEBSITE ABOUT BILL S-206



LEADNOW PETITION TO CANADIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTING GLI



NATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA GLI RESOURCE AND ACTION PAGE

Bill S-206 A Framework for a National Guaranteed Livable Income

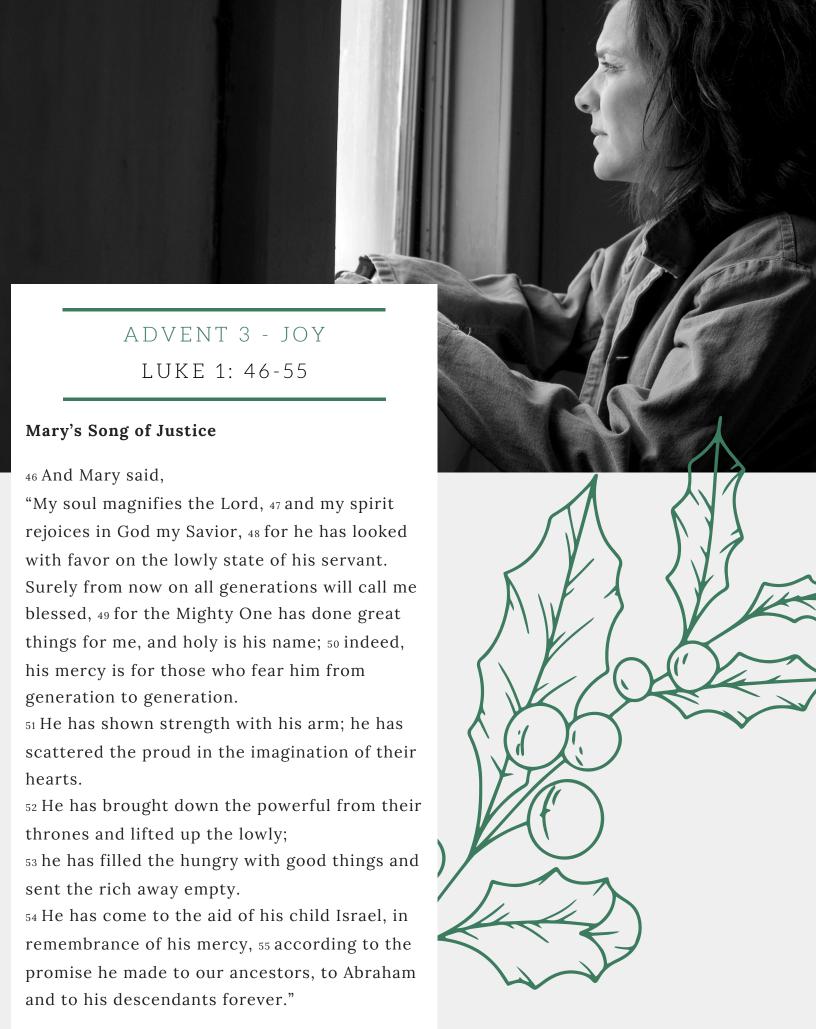
Sen. Kim Pate's bill has passed its reading in the Senate and will be going to committee. You may find the list of Senators who comprise the committee here:

https://sencanada.ca/en/committees/NFFN/45-1?v=committee-members

Individual Senators may be contacted via email:

Claude.carignan@sen.parl.gc.ca andrew.cardozo@sen.parl.gc.ca clement.gignac@sen.parl.gc.ca krista.ross@sen.parl.gc.ca joan.kingston@sen.parl.gc.ca

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elizabeth.marshall@sen.parl.gc.ca
martine.hebert@sen.parl.gc.ca
manuelle.oudar@sen.parl.gc.ca



ADVENT 3 - JOY LUKE 1: 46-55

Mary sings out joyfully of the justice in God's Shalom. The Magnificat speaks about all people having access to what they need, to all people being equitably provided for, and to flattening economic and power hierarchies. Filling the hungry with good things, means more than offering food to empty bellies. Mary sings of a society where needs are met routinely, readily, without stigma, and with consideration for dignity. Sending the rich away is not intentionally depriving those with wealth, it is requiring that those with economic resources and social/political power will provide resources rather than receive. The rich will come with full bowls, and leave with bowls empty; the hungry will come with bowls empty and leave with bowls full. A Guaranteed Livable Income embodies this justice, to use collective resources to support, nourish and sustain a collective wellness wherein all needs are met and people can live in wholeness.

In the United Church of Canada, we carry the torch of decades – generations – of steadfast advocacy for a true GLI to be implemented across the country. Still, we continue to echo Mary's joyful song to remember God's mercy through sustained action, we will not give up the work.

ADVENT IN ACTION

Be in community, right where you are. Along with other anti-poverty actions you and your community are already doing like food banks, meal programs, emergency funds, and cold-weather shelters, you can include local advocacy for a Guaranteed Livable Income at the municipal level too. Attend a municipal council meeting, get in contact with your mayor's office and municipal representatives, provide them with sample resolutions from the GLI Municipal Campaign Strategy. Getting municipal leaders involved in GLI advocacy will help amplify the movement's voice, reaching the ears of provincial and national representatives.



UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA NATIONAL WORKING GROUP ON GUARANTEED LIVABLE INCOME MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN STRATEGY

SAMPLE ADVOCACY LETTER MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS BC



SAMPLE ADVOCACY LETTER MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS YUKON



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We wait for the birth of Jesus, for the cosmic love of God's Shalom to be made flesh. God's message arrives to Joseph in a dream: an angel urging him to stay true to his betrothed, to remain on the path that God has laid at his feet. The angel speaks of God's Shalom as spiritual wholeness, urging Joseph to live in alignment with the Divine Purpose for his life, and to be assured of God's grace and presence.

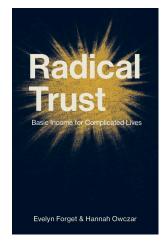
This message of faithfulness and the promise of Emmanuel also undergirds the generations of earnest advocacy for a real resolution to poverty and its resultant indignities rooted in persistent and unnecessary inequalities. The pull of spiritual wholeness, and alignment with Divine Purpose sustains the Guaranteed Livable Income advocacy movement. With this rooting in Shalom, it is possible to stay the course - hamper by hamper, donation by donation, petition by petition, march by march, zoom session by session, political visit by political visit - with the Psalmist's steadfastness: "we will never turn back .. give us life, and we will call on your name." God's Shalom is for all, and a nation-wide GLI brings us closer to this vision of physical and material wholeness, relational harmony, spiritual wholeness and justice.

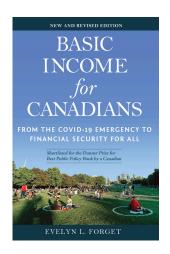
ADVENT IN ACTION

Education and inspiration are part of any advocacy and social justice work. Connecting with others in your Community of Faith, and the wider community, on shared passions uplifts the spirit and helps to bring a sense of wholeness to a perhaps heart-weary advocate. Book clubs, movie screenings, discussion events, and dedicated worship services are included in the praxis of (re)birthing God's Shalom over and over again.

BOOKS

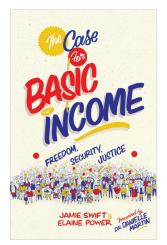
Radical Trust: Basic Income for Complicated Lives
Evelyn Forget & Hannah Owczar





Basic Income for Canadians: From the COVID-19
Emergency to Financial Security for All
Evelyn Forget

The Case for Basic Income: Freedom, Security, Justice
Jamie Swift & Elaine Power
Foreword by Dr. Danielle Martin



DOCUMENTARIES

Four Fee Up by Nance Ackerman National Film Board of Canada, 2009



A Human Picture by Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction, 2024



HYMNS for a GLI Advent

I Saw the Rich Ones MV#127

Jesus Christ is Waiting VU# 117

My Soul Cries Out (Canticle of the Turning) MV#120

"Christ Jesus of You I/We will Sing as We Journey" one of L' Arche theme's hymns and in VU;

Tomorrow Christ is Coming VU#27

God Weeps MV#78

When I Needed a Neighbour VU#600

When the Wind of Winter Blows MV#71

Put Peace into Each Other's Hands MV#173

Sing We A Song of High Revolt Complete Anglican Hymns Old & New #604

We Turn to God, When We Are Sorely Pressed Singing the Faith #640

