**ST. ANDREW’S UNITED CHURCH**

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**60 West Avenue, St. Thomas**

**519- 631-4558**

**e-mail: standrewsucgra@rogers.com**

**website : www.standrewsunitedchurch.com**

**Ministers: The people of St. Andrew’s**

**Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton**

**Ministry of Music: Brian and Lynn Sloan/Merna Edison**

**December 11th, 2022**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Acknowledging Our Kinship**

**Advent Candle Lighting -**

Voice 1:

“The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting.” (*Isaiah 35:1‒2*)

Voice 2:

What does joy feel like in the new world?

All:

**Joy feels like everlasting love.
Joy feels like the freedom to be who God created me to be.
Joy feels like sharing love and kindness.
Joy feels like pride.**

Voice 2:

Advent is the beginning of this new world, a better world,
where joy boldly bubbles up in unexpected places.

(*Third Advent candle is lit - Pink*)
**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn - Hope is a Star - 7 VU - Verse 1-3**

**Call To Worship**

We hear the echo of a promise:
“I’m coming!”
**Are you really the One?**
“The blind receive their sight and the lame walk.”
**Are you really the One?**
“The lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear.”
**Are you really the One?**
“The dead are raised and the poor eat their fill.”
**But are you really the One?**
“I’m the One who changes the world.
Are you really ready for me?”
**With God’s help, we’re ready to follow you.**
**We’re ready for you!**

**Special Music - Thomas Bee**

**Young at Heart Time - White Gift**

**Hymn - Joy to the World - 59 VU**

**Prayer of Confession**

**Words of Assurance**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Special Music - Thomas Bee**

**Scripture Reading - Isaiah 35: 1-10, Luke 1: 47-55**

**Meditation - Jump for Joy**

**Hymn - Joyful, Joyful - 232 VU**

**RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

**Invitation to Offering**

**Offering Hymn - In the Bleak Mid-winter - 55 VU - Verse 4**

**Offering Prayer**

**Generous God,
you have given us all that we have
and all that we are.
We thank you for the opportunity
to respond to your love and generosity
by sharing our gifts with others.
Our hearts sing with joy
as we work with you
to bring true peace and justice to our world.
As we prepare for the coming of your Son,
may our lives proclaim your good news for all
throughout the earth. Amen.**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern**

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Final Hymn - Good Christian Friends, Rejoice - 35 VU**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming Events**

**December 18-“Communion Sunday”, 4th Sunday of Advent**

**December 24- “Christmas Eve Service” 5pm**

**December Celebrations**

**December 20-Kim Perry**

**December 22-Pam North**

**December 23-Erika Broadbear**

**December 28-Alli Joseph**

** You can now etransfer givings to St.Andrews. This can be used to make a donation, pay for camp, buy dinner tickets etc. You can do etransfers thru your bank and the email address to use is:** statreasurerst@gmail.com**. Feel free to ask Rev.Cheryl or Susan or our treasurer Belinda any questions you may have about etransfer.**

**Lynn and Brian Sloan would like to invite you to check out their Winter Wonderland display at 70 Mandeville. The lights and blow ups are on every night between 6pm and 9pm! You are even welcome to check out the backyard display.**

***The UCW and St. Andrews are sponsoring a mom and her 2 daughters for Christmas. The Mom is a size medium and the 2 girls (who are 12 years old) are children’s size 16. Some items on the girl’s list include paint markers, minibrand toys, sketch books, slime kit, tie-dye kit, nail stuff, hair ties, socks, hairbrush and black leggings. Items can be dropped off to the office or bring on a Sunday Morning.***

