

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH



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Ministers: The people of St. Andrew's

Pastor: Rev.Cheryl Bolton

Ministry of Music: Lynn Sloan

December 12, 2021

Advent 3, Joy

WE GATHER

Welcome -

Welcome! We gather in this place to feel God's gentle touch and powerful peace. This week may have been too full or maybe too empty,

We are here for what God alone can provide. Let our voices unite in song and praise. Let our senses come alive to the new birth God offers to each one of us. May the fruits of this time be a gift to God and to all that gather this day wherever you may be. Amen.

Announcements

Acknowledging Our Kinship - As we gather in this time of expectant waiting, we begin by acknowledging the gifts we have already received and thanking Creator God, from whom all blessings flow, for this land on which we live and worship. We acknowledge and give thanks to those who were stewards of the land before our ancestors came and we give thanks to them for the blessing of the sharing of this land. With open hearts we commit ourselves to living into our Advent Joy with love and respect with all our relations.

Advent Candle Lighting -

When confusion claims us. When we feel unable to do anything right.
The Holy invites us to be faithful And we find Joy
(Joy candle is lit)

Where in the world do we find Joy these days?

Gathering Hymn (Tune of O Come, O Come Emmanuel)

**O come to us like joy of heaven's dawn,
From Mary's womb a faithful paragon.
Brought forth into this world by love's power
Your Spirit through her labours in that hour.
Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to us And all things shall be well**

Call To Worship

Sing aloud, sons and daughters!

Shout with joyful praise!

Rejoice in the Lord always.

Again we will say, "Rejoice!"

The God of our salvation is near at hand. Our redeemer is in our midst.

With shouts of joy, we sing to God.

Again we sing, "Rejoice!"

Make known God's deeds.

Proclaim Christ's love for all to hear.

With hearts of laughter, we love. Again we say, "Rejoice!"

Young at Heart Time

Hymn - A Candle is Burning - 6 VU

Prayer of Confession

O Lord God, the day is growing closer. Still there is work to do. We are not the people you would have us be. We have not always spoken the truth. We have not always treated others with compassion and kindness. We have not always cared enough. Forgive us, in the name of Jesus, the One who is coming. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading - Luke 3: 7-14

Meditation - *What Really Matters*

Hymn - Rejoice the Lord is King - 213 VU

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Invitation to Offering

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

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 I can I give him — give my heart.

Offering Prayer -

Merciful God, the gifts we bring are so small in comparison to the vast needs in our world—nowhere near enough to save the thousands dying of starvation all around the world, or even to meet the needs of the hungry and homeless in our city. Yet we have brought what we can.

As You once multiplied the five small loaves and two fish, multiply these gifts as well, so that, once again, the hungry may receive all they need, and more. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern -

God of our Highest Joy, we come to you this day as your servants, gathered to worship you and you alone.

As we continue this Advent journey, help us to focus on you and the coming of your son, Jesus.

Amidst the commercials, the cooking, and the company, help us to remember the true meaning of this season:

that you would come to us in the flesh and forever live among us.

Even as we share the joy we find in you with one another,

we are mindful of those for whom joy is hard to find,

for those who don't have enough clothes,

for those who don't have enough food,
for those who don't have enough (or any) shelter,
for those who don't have enough protection and justice.
We confess that there really is "enough" for everyone,
but it is our fault that the "enough" is hoarded
by few at the expense of many.
Help us to bear the good fruit that the Baptist called us to bear,
being mindful of those around us without during this season of giving.

We pray this day for those longing for spiritual renewal.
We would ask that your Holy Spirit invigorate us
that we may provide for others first
before expecting them to provide for us.
Come to this place and encourage us to do the work
to which we were baptized.
Help us to proclaim the Good News in word and in deed.

We pray this day for the hope we have found, the peace we seek,
and the joy we will receive in your Holy name.
May we bring hope to the hopeless, peace to the restless,
and joy to those who crave it.
We pray this day, either out loud or in our hearts, for those dear to
us...

Gracious God, may the joy we find not be a commodity to be hoarded
but a gift to be shared with one another.
We thank you for your presence among us, your creation around us,
and your providence within us, as we continue this blessed
journey. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Final Hymn - Go Tell it on the Mountain – 43

Commissioning and Benediction - Go forth with God's blessing Follow God's ways with hearts filled with joy. Walk with God in peace and harmony. Share your gladness with the world.

The bulletin this morning is dedicated by Ron Laing in memory of his two brothers Floyd – 14 years old and Victor – 8 years old, lost in the woods Mersey Townsite N.S., Dec. 7th, 1941. Remains were found Nov. 19th, 1959.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 5pm. All are welcome.



In this season of giving we are bringing back some of the Offertory liturgy, however, we will still not be passing the offering plate. All gifts, to all ministries are a blessing and there are many ways to contribute including: placing your gift in the plate before the service, mailing in or dropping off your gift to 60 West Ave., St. Thomas or speak to the office about setting up Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). Thanks in advance for your continued support of this important ministries.



UCW meets on Tuesday Dec. 14 at 11am in the Hall. Please bring brown bag lunch.



2 more weeks week Bible Study-The Good News of Joy to the world runs every Wednesday until December 22nd. Please let Rev.Cheryl or the Office know if you want to participate-starts at 11am.



We are still in need of ushers for the month of December. Please let Cheryl know if you can help out.



Please check the hall for a Coffee sign up list, to help with Fellowship time after Sunday Service.

November Financial Report

Income \$7445, and our expenses for November \$9,399.74. Our drive thru dinner netted us \$1222.



It's that time again and back to routine

We're asking you kindly and won't be mean

For your Committee or groups annual report

It'd be divine if you kept it short.

You can email it or submit to Sue

Just hand it in, she knows what to do.

So get your report to Sue, do it today!!

I thank you so much, what else can I say?