

St. David's United Church
December 1, 2019
First Sunday in Advent

**HEAVEN & NATURE SING:
300 YEARS OF "JOY TO THE WORLD"**

PREPARE HIM ROOM:

Hopeful Joy

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 1, 2019

PHOTO BY TIM MOSSHOLDER ON UNSPLASH

***Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an
Affirming and Inclusive Community***

Welcome to St. David's United Church

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Sunday, December 1, 2019

Peggy McDonagh presiding with the people of St. David's
Guest Speaker: Jessica Melnychuk, Fund Development Officer

Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small
you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this place.
Come as you are -- and be.

*Prior to the service the Affirming and Value candles were lit to affirm that all
humanity and creation must be respected and valued. The Treaty 7/Metis
Region 3 candle was lit to show respect for the land and to affirm our
continued commitment to live into right relations with our indigenous brothers
and sisters.*

Prelude

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland - D. Buxtehude
Wachet Auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 - J.S. Bach*

Opening Advent Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 1 VU #1

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS

Reader: We gather together to worship the One Who is Joy and as we come
together, our hearts are expanded. We remember the ancient Psalmist who
sung that the heavens declared God's praise as the sun rises and light
multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach
and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.

Lighting the Value Candle: Joy

Focusing on Hopeful Joy

(Threshold Moment)

(Sung with echo from the Congregation throughout)

Sing a new song to the Lord

All: Sing a new song to the Lord

Lift your hearts with gratitude

All: Lift your hearts with gratitude

Sing a new song to the Lord

All: Sing a new song to the Lord

Lift your hearts in gratitude

All: Lift your hearts in gratitude

and Joy,

All: and Joy,

Hopeful Joy.

All: Hopeful Joy.

(Cantor and congregational echo)

Your steadfast love and faithfulness

Is ever present in our lives

Your steadfast love and faithfulness

Is ever present in our lives

and Joy

Hopeful Joy.

Reader: O sing to the Beloved. . .

The glory of Love's Eternal Flame.

(Cantor and congregational echo)

We Sing

We Sing

Joy to the World

Heaven and Nature Sing

Joy to the World

Heaven and Nature sing

With Joy

Hopeful Joy

The Living Wreath and Lighting of the Candle of Hope

Prayer

Holy One, in you we find joy.

You are the joy energy that runs deep and
wide underneath all of life.

This is our hope, that You are ever present
and constantly shifting our fear to compassion,

and grinding our swords into plows.
Let us prepare him room in our hearts this day.
Let us prepare him room in our church this day.
Let us prepare him room in our world this day
for hope. Amen.

Hymn Hope is a Star vs. 1 & 3 VU #7

- 1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.
- 2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. R
- 3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. R
- 4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart. R

The Peace

RECEPTION OF GOD'S WORD

(As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being where the River of Joy is always flowing.

We have only to dip into it for, we have the "joy, joy, joy, joy, down in our hearts.")

Children's Song: I've got the joy, joy, joy

READINGS Isaiah 2:1-5; Hebrews 6:19; Some words of Paul; Quote by Sue Paton Theole, in *Sowing Seeds of Positive Change in Your Life and in the World*

Anthem

Jesus is the Light! - J. Paul Williams & Patti Drennan

Reflection: *'Our hearts become closer to home'*
Guest Speaker – Jessica Melnychuk, Closer to Home

Hymn

Advent's Hope

(Tune: VU #2)

(words by Rev. Peggy McDonagh)

God of Promise, bless this Advent,
bringing hope and joy our way;
fill all hearts with awe and wonder,
for the dawn of Christmas day.

Loss of safety, broken families,
Fear and harm cause hearts to mourn;
Advent hope frees hearts from darkness,
human lives love will transform.

Advent is a time to ponder,
waiting for our hearts to see
peace and justice, human loving
touch the world and set it free.

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES

Invitation to offer the gifts of our hearts and hopes

Let us present our offering given from the heart of hope - hope powerful enough to transform the world during this season of goodwill and peace.

Offertory

Soon and Very Soon - Andrae Crouch/arr. Jack Schrader

Reception of Offering and Dedication Prayer

Let us pray in the spirit of hope and joy:

**God of hopeful joy, we offer respect and caring to all who seek
hope and wholeness;**

And we live our faith through compassion and action.

We dedicate these gifts, freely given and gratefully received,

To our shared work within this congregation,

To shaping a world with hope,

And to prepare our hearts for joy. Amen.

Prayers of the People

What, or who, needs to be lifted up in hope this day?

Where have I fallen down in celebrating the beauty of each being?

How can I find a unity where all are included, like the circle of the wreath?

What keep me from 'making room' in our lives for the Holy?

What perspective needs to be shifted in order to embrace joy?

Am I contributing a voice of hope or a voice of negativity?

The Lord's Prayer

COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD

Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place "with passion" (com-passion) for adding our hope, love, joy and peace to the world.

Closing Hymn

People Look East vs. 1 – 4

VU #9

- 1 People, look east. The time is near
 of the crowning of the year.
 Make your house fair as you are able,
 trim the hearth and set the table.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love the guest is on the way.

- 2 Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
 one more seed is planted there:
 give up your strength the seed to nourish,
 that in course the flower may flourish.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love the rose is on the way.

- 3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build,
 guard the nest that must be filled;
 even the hour when wings are frozen
 God for fledging time has chosen.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love the bird is on the way.

- 4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
 one more light the bowl shall brim,
 shining beyond the frosty weather,
 bright as sun and moon together.
 People, look east and sing today:
 Love the star is on the way.

Action Blessing

Expansion of our Hearts as we gathered,
Reception of God's word as we proclaimed,
Transformation of our Lives as we prayed, and
Now **Compassion** for the World as we go.

Sung Benediction

May the God of Hope Go with Us

VU #424

1 May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.

May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R

POSTLUDE

Prelude on "Richmond" (Hark the Glad Sound) - Healey Willan

**THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY
WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Greeters.....	November Sacred Service Team
Ushers	November Sacred Service Team
Counters.....	
Projection.....	PSALT Team
Reader.....	Wendy Dey
Music	Sanctuary Choir
Accompanist.....	Garrett Krause

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ADVENT SPIRITUAL JOURNEY SERIES

“Heaven and Nature Sing! 300 years of JOY to the World”

“Joy to the World,” a beloved Christmas classic, turns 300 this year.

Composer Isaac Watt’s interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a “new song”—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than “joy” being yet another word for “happiness,” we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially amid suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.©

Join us this Advent on a spiritual journey to reclaim the deep joy within.

GROWING AND DEEPENING OUR LIVES THROUGH WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE

December 8, 2019 Advent 2

“Repeat the Sound Joy: Loving Joy”

Advent Music by the Chamber Choir

Research shows that our very state of being can be transformed by music that resonates in our soul so powerfully that we can’t help but join in. This is the vision of “Joy to the World” as the reverberating phrase urges us to “repeat the sounding joy” of the good news of Love. The prophet Isaiah offers a vision of radical love—the wolf and the lamb living together and being led by an innocent child. Can we lift our voices to joyfully and confidently proclaim this chorus of well-being for the world?



Friends at St. David's, last year your spirit of generosity was truly remarkable. Your acts of compassion have resulted in an abundance of necessities for families in need via the Giving Tree. This year again we are supporting two organizations:



Miskanawah

Mission

Guided by Indigenous teachings, MISKANAWAH (mis-con-a-wa) offers supportive programs and services to people in Calgary as they strengthen their circles of self, family, community, and culture.

Vision

Children, youth and families thrive within a culturally responsive community. Working from a trauma-informed and strength-based perspective, we work with people to build skills and resiliency by forming natural supports. Our work is founded on Indigenous teachings and traditions, and how they can help people from all cultures to live the good life.

Our Approach

Tapisahotiwinn is the act of connecting, engaging and fostering relationships, which is an integral component in the work we do with our clients.

Our own relationships and connections with those we serve are the foundation for the services we provide. Respect and recognition of culture is embedded in the work we do with individuals and families, and within our community. We are focused in meeting the needs of Indigenous and immigrant children, youth and families enabling them to strengthen their resiliency and capacity for success.



Founded in 1995, Closer to Home Community Services (CTH) mission is: Empowering Families to Stay Together. This is the focus of everything they do.

Closer to Home serves children and their families many of whom are at risk of family breakdown and require supportive intervention services. We have evolved into an essential community and family support service offering programs in Calgary, Airdrie, and surrounding rural areas.

We provide a broad array of strength-based and family-centered services that teach, coach, and support families to create new possibilities and achieve better futures together.

Our group and foster care services ensure that children have stable, healthy and safe living environments in which to grow and develop. In some cases, when families are separated, we provide a place for children and youth to call home while offering therapeutic support with the ultimate goal of family reunification.

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Starting November 24 please take a gift tag from the tree in the foyer. Each tag has a gift suggestion on it. Place the gift and the gift tag in a bag and place it under the tree in the foyer. There are special containers for gift cards.

In order to give us time to sort and deliver we request that all gifts be in on or before Sunday, December 15 and no later than December 18. We deeply appreciate your continued generosity and compassion that will touch and bless the lives of others this Christmas.

Worship Committee