

**St. David's United Church
December 15, 2019
Third Sunday in Advent**

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

MAKE THE BLESSINGS KNOWN:

Abundant Joy

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 15, 2019

***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 15, 2019

Peggy McDonagh presiding with the people of St. David's

We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith

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

Carol Sing

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Advent Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 3 VU #1

3 O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
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 Abundant Joy
(Threshold Moment)

(Sung as a call and response)

Sing a new song to the Lord

Sing a new song to the Lord

Lift your hearts with gratitude

Lift your hearts with gratitude

Sing a new song to the Lord

Sing a new song to the Lord

Lift your hearts in gratitude

Lift your hearts in gratitude

and Joy,

and Joy,

Abundant Joy.

Abundant Joy.

(Sung as call and response)

Your steadfast love and faithfulness

Your steadfast love and faithfulness

Is ever present in our lives

Is ever present in our lives

Your steadfast love and faithfulness

Your steadfast love and faithfulness

Is ever present in our lives

Is ever present in our lives

And Joy

and Joy

Abundant Joy

Abundant Joy.

Peggy: Make a joyful noise to the Beloved all the earth;
break forth into grateful song. . .magnify the Beloved!

(Sung as a call and response)

We Sing, We Sing

Joy to the World

Heaven and Nature Sing

Joy to the World

Heaven and Nature sing

With Joy

Abundant Joy

The Living Wreath and Lighting of the Candle of Abundant Joy

Wreath Actors: Hopeful Joy – Joan Gray; Loving Joy – Donna Fallon;
Abundant Joy – Heather Chubb-Way; Peaceful Joy –Yvonne Adams

Prayer

Holy God, you provide the source of our joy.
It runs deep and wide underneath all of life.

When we are tempted to depend on others for happiness,
draw us back to you, for you are the Light that shines for us always.
Help us to shine that light from within us through our own Abundant Joy.

**Let us make your blessings known in our hearts this day.
Let us make your blessings known in our church this day.
Let us make your blessings known in the world this day...
in the name of Joy. Amen.**

Hymn

Psalms 100 Make a Joyful Noise VU #820
Refrain, vs. 1, 2, 3 Refrain

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

1 Know that your God has made you.
Know it's to God we belong.
And come to this place with joyfulness and praise.
Worship your God with a song!

2 Enter these gates, thanks giving.
Enter these courts with praise.
Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy Name.
Worship your God with a song!

3 Ages through endless ages,
seasons of endless years,
the love of our Maker ever shall endure.
Worship your God with a song!

Make a joyful noise all the earth!
Worship your God with gladness.
Make a joyful noise all the earth.
Come to this place with a song!

Come with praises, come with praises,
celebrate the gift of love.

To this table bring your vision
for a world made whole through love.
Where all people share their wisdom
truth and justice shall increase.
Come ye faithful, come ye faithful,
celebrate the power of love.

(Tune: VU #36)

(Words by Rev. Peggy McDonagh)

Opening Words

Friends, on this Advent of Joy,
you are invited to the table of God.
Here God's presence is revealed
In the fabric woven and spread,
In wax shaped and lit,
In bread baked and broken,
In grapes grown and pressed,
In cup and plate molded and passed.
**We come with eyes filled with peace,
Hands gently open to receive.
As we eat together Jesus' spirit is within,
between, and beyond us.**

A Communion Prayer

(Sung in Call and Response)

God is with us, with us now...

We lift our hearts in gratitude...

It's right to give God thanks and praise...

We lift our hearts in gratitude...

and Joy...

Abundant Joy!

Holy Living God, creator of all heaven and nature, . . .

And so,

With the whole realm of nature around us, earth, sea and sky,

With the Divine light that envelops us,

with Gabriel who announced Jesus' birth to Mary,

and with the angels who proclaimed to the shepherds,

"peace on earth and goodwill among all people," we sing

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! (VU #37)

Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!

Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah.

Loving are you Creator of Life and blessed is the one we call Jesus,
anointed to preach good news to the poor. . . .

And so,
with joy we offer ourselves in service,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

[A call and response]

**God is with us, with us now
We lift our hearts in gratitude
Christ is born within each heart
We lift our hearts in gratitude!
And joy,
Abundant Joy**

Like the heaven's light from above on that special night,
Let your spirit pour out on us gathered here, . . .

By the Spirit of goodwill make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world. We sing

**May the bread and wine unite us
in our quest for peace on earth.
May our hearts be moved within us
to embrace our own new birth.
Come with praises, come with praises,
celebrate the way of joy.**

(Tune: VU #36)

**Sharing of the Bread and the Juice (*at stations*) and
Lighting a Prayer Candle**

*(After you have taken communion you are invited to go to the candle table and
light a prayer candle and take an apple from the basket)*

*(For those unable to come forward, raise your hand and the bread and the
cup will be served to you. For those unable to take juice or eat bread
alternative elements are available.)*

Communion Music
Aria – Eugene Bozza

As you sit through communion you are invited to meditate on the following questions

How can you personally tap into the strength of
God-given ever-present joy,
especially during difficult times?

How are you contributing to joy in the lives of others?
Who brings joy into your life?

What are you doing to bring healing in our community—
to be an “antioxidant-rich” church?

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.)

Esira Dance Troupe

Noel Nouvelet – Anuna

Action Benediction

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 Blessing

You Shall Go Out with Joy (sung twice)

VU #884

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.

POSTLUDE

In Joyful Praise – Laurence Lyon

**Join us this evening for the
Advent Evening Compline at 7:30 pm
Pre-compline recital at 7:00 pm with Jim Picken – organ**

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 as we continue our spiritual journey through Advent to reclaim the deep joy within.

GROWING AND DEEPENING OUR LIVES THROUGH WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE

**December 22, 2019 Advent 4 Lessons and Carols
with Angel Voices**

“Make the Nations Prove: Peaceful Joy”

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in god my Savior, for God has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Luke 1: 46b-48

The name Emmanuel means “God with us.” From both the Hebrew and Christian narratives, we hear the yearning for this “Emmanuel” – for God to become so present that God’s peace, truth, love and justice reign among all the world and bring balance to what feels out of sorts. Psalm 98 names the joyful expression of all creation as the response to the news that the Prince of Peace, Emmanuel, is coming at long last.

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

Greeters.....December Sacred Service Team
 UshersDecember Sacred Service Team
 Counters.....Bernie Nemeth & David Layton
 Projection.....PSALT Team
 Reader.....Eldon Godfrey
 Guest Musician.....Chinley Hinacay - Saxophone

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