

**St. David's United Church
December 24, 2019
Christmas Eve**

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

THE LORD IS COME:

Incarnate Joy

CHRISTMAS EVE | DECEMBER 24, 2019

PHOTO BY TOBIAS TULLIUS ON UNSPLASH

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

Welcome to St. David's United Church

3303 Capitol Hill Crescent NW

Calgary, Alberta T2M 2R2

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Sunday, December 24, 2019

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

Music Director: Brent Tucker

Music: Combined Choirs, Brittany Rae – soloist

Accompanist: Garret Krause

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 candle was 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.

EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS

We gather together to worship the One Who Is Joy and as we come together, our hearts are expanded. We remember that the heavens declare God's love is as limitless as the stars above. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.

Please gather and sit in quiet joy and listen to the opening music of the evening.

Organ Music prior to Worship

Pastorale from Sonata No. 1 Op. 42 – Alexandre Guilmant

Noel Etranger – Louis-Claude Daquin

Organ – Claire Sharp

Sussex Carol: On Christmas Night – arr. Robin Milford

Christmas Suite for Organ – Gordon Young

I. The Heralding

II. Cradle Song

III. Joy

Organ – Bruce Clark

Welcome

Carol O Come, all ye faithful VU #60
O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Focusing on Incarnate Joy
(Threshold moment taken from Psalm 98)

Opening Words

Theme Song
(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,

Incarnate Joy.

Incarnate 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

Incarnate Joy.

Incarnate Joy.

Reading Psalm 98

Theme Song Reprise

(Sung as 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,

Incarnate joy!

**The Living Wreath Drama and lighting of the Advent and Christ
candles**

Wreath Actors: Hopeful Joy – Joan Gray; Loving Joy – Carlie Jean Godfrey

Unabashed Joy – Heather Chubb-Way;

Peaceful Joy – Janet Clare;

Christ Candle – Nancy Erickson; Narrator – Eldon Godfrey

Theme Song Reprise
(Sung as 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,
Incarnate joy!

Opening Prayer

Let us join our hearts in prayer:
Holy God, we give you thanks that you became Joy-Made-Flesh
in Jesus the Christ
so that your hope, love, joy and peace could be multiplied in all
heaven and earth.

Help us to remember that Joy is our true nature
and that simply being the humans you have created us to be—
including our moments of struggle and sadness—
is what you want us to do fully,
hopefully, lovingly, abundantly, peacefully.

Together we proclaim that

**God's hope, love, joy and peace have come to our hearts
and the world this Christmas eve! Amen.**

Anthem

Noel – arr. Shayla Blake

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.)*

Readings and Reflections

Scripture Reader: Alex Cross

HOPEFUL JOY

Scripture Reading – Luke 1: 26-27
A conversation with Hopeful Joy

Carol Oh, How Joyfully vs. 1 VU #57
Oh, how joyfully, oh, how hopefully,
waits the world on Christmas Eve!
Love comes healing, God revealing.
Friends be joyful and believe!

LOVING JOY

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1:18-21
A conversation with Loving Joy

ABUNDANT JOY

Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 10-14
A conversation with Abundant Joy

Anthem

Awake, Shepherds Awake - J. Paul Williams & Lee Dengler

PEACEFUL JOY

Scripture Reading: Luke 2 :8-9, 15-18
A conversation with Peaceful Joy

Carol Oh, How Joyfully vs. 3 VU #57
Oh, how joyfully, oh, how peacefully,
sleeps the world on Christmas Night!
Love uncovered, grace discovered.
In our darkness shines the light!

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES

(Connecting with our deepest selves, we can accept that all of life resides within joy's possibilities—not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving us strength and courage for all circumstances.)

Christmas Offering Invitation

Offertory

O Holy Night-Adolphe Adam/arr. C. Kirkland & T. Fettke

Offering Dedication Song (Tune: VU #75)

Our Christmas offering now we bring

from hearts that shine so fair,
with loving joy our voices sing,
our gifts we gladly share.

Prayers of the people

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.)

Incarnate Joy and Passing the Light of Joy Anthem

In the Bleak Mid-Winter – setting by Harold Darke

Carol *Silent Night* VU #67

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Blessing with Candle Light

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.

Carol *Joy to the World vs. 1,2,4* VU #59

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns:
let all their songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction

Postlude

Sonata No. 5 – Allegro Maestoso Felix Mendelssohn

Thank you for joining us at St. David's United Church for this special Christmas Eve service.

Please place the candles in the baskets as you leave the church.

NOTE: The church office will be closed from December 23 to January 2, 2020 inclusive.

**From the staff and congregation of
St. David's United Church**

**may you be deeply blessed this Christmas by
the joy, joy, joy, deep down in your heart.**

**May you join with all heaven and nature
by making of your life a song of joy
that lights up the world wherever you are.**

Peace and joy be with you.

MERRY CHRISTMAS