

**Melville United Church
December 15, 2019
3rd Sunday of Advent**

** Congregation please stand as you are able.*

Bold print invites congregational response.

Presiding today - Rev. Marion Loree

We acknowledge with respect the history, spirituality and culture of the Indigenous peoples with whom Treaty 4 - also known as the Haldimand Tract - was signed and the territory wherein our church resides, and we acknowledge our responsibilities as treaty members.

Prelude

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

Welcome & Announcements

Joys, Concerns

God Moments/Moments of Awe

Sharing the Light

We light a candle

**in the name of the God who creates life,
in the name of the Christ Presence who loves life,
in the name of the Spirit who is the fire of life.**

Centering words:

-Leo Bascaglia

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.

Gathering Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus **VU 2**

Ministry of Music :

Colby Walker - Deck the Halls

Grace Powell - Fur Elise

Lighting of the Advent Candle:

Voice 1: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light three candles.

Our first light was for

hope, our second for peace. Today we light the candle for joy.

Voice 2: (read while the third candle is lit)

We wait, and we travel together in this Season of Advent. This week our light is for joy. There may not always seem too much to rejoice about in the world. But we light this candle to remind us that God has promised this world can be transformed - turned upside down and right side up. We rejoice in this good news.

All: May the light of hope, and peace, and joy guide our way as we travel through Advent. Amen.

Advent Song: The Light of the World - Paul Chappel

**Joy is what we pray for this holy day,
As we wait for the coming of Christ,
And we light the candle of joy today,
As we wait for the light of the world.**

**The light of the world that comes at Christmas,
The light of the world that loves us all,
But we only see this light as a candle
as we wait for the light of the world.**

Children's Prayer:

WE WORSHIP TOGETHER

Call to Worship: (based on Isaiah 35)

When God's Anointed One comes,

the desert will rejoice, and flowers will bloom in the wasteland.

When God's Anointed One comes,

**tired hands will receive new strength,
and fearful ones will find fresh courage.**

When God's Anointed One comes,

the lame will leap and dance, the blind will see.

When God's Anointed One comes,

the grieving and sorrowing will be forever resolved.

Come, let us worship together.

Opening Prayer:

Holy Oneness, you called Isaiah to be a prophet,

Paul to be an apostle,

Mary to be a mother,

John to be a witness.

Now you call each of us to be holy,
in our own unique way.

Let it be.

Forgive us when we fail to be patient.

Forgive us when our hearts weaken.

Forgive us when we grumble against one another and against you.

Remind us to be patient, to strengthen our hearts, not to grumble,

and to remember the lives of the prophets and saints who came before us.

Amen.

Words of Affirmation:

We are modern-day saints and prophets

who are known totally and loved completely by a living God.

Take courage in the knowledge that we are free to love and live fully.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 1:47-55

(Mary's Song of Justice - The Magnificat)

"My soul proclaims our greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you, my Saviour. For you have looked with favour upon your lowly servant, and from this day forward all generations will call me blessed. For you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name.

Your mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear you. You have shown strength with your arm; you have scattered the proud in their conceit; you have deposed the mighty from their thrones and raised the lowly to high places.

You have filled the hungry with good things, while you have sent the rich away empty. You have come to the aid of Israel your servant, mindful of your mercy - the promise you made to our ancestors - to Sarah and Abraham and their descendants forever."

Words to Ponder: Enjoying Life-Antony de Mello, *The Song of the Bird*

The rich industrialist from the North was horrified to find the Southern fisherman lying lazily beside his boat, smoking a pipe.

"Why aren't you out fishing?" Said the industrialist. "Because I have caught enough fish for the day," said the fisherman. "Why don't you catch some more?" "What would I do with it?" "You could earn more money" was the reply. "With that you could have a motor fixed to your boat and go into deeper waters and catch more fish... Soon you would have enough money to own two boats...maybe even a fleet of boats. Then you would be a rich man like me." "What would I do then?" "Then you could really enjoy life." "What do you think I am doing right now?"

Scripture: Matthew 19:13-14

(Let the children come)

Then small children were brought to Jesus so he could lay hands on them and pray for them. The disciples began to scold the parents, but Jesus said, "Let the children alone - let them come to me. The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Children's Presentation: A Christmas Carol in Bethlehem

Overture - The Sussex Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Good King Wenceslas

Lully, Lullay - Solo - Aurora Sampson

ANGEL OF CHRISTMAS PAST

Away in a Manger

ANGEL OF CHRISTMAS PRESENT

What Can I Give Him?

ANGEL OF CHRISTMAS FUTURE

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

VU 48

WE RESPOND**Offering:****Ministry of Music:**

Little Drummer Boy - Aurora Sampson

Away in a Manger - Robbyn Grills

***Offering Hymn:** Grant Us, God, the Grace

VU 540

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.**

***Offertory Prayer:**

For the opportunity to give freely,

we give thanks.

For the privilege to worship openly,

we give thanks.

For the blessings we have received,

we give thanks.

Accept these, our offerings, Great Mystery,
with our thanks and love.

Amen.

Prayer Prelude: God, Listen to Your Children VU 400

God, listen to your children praying,

God, send your Spirit in this place;

God, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Prayers of the People:

(beginning with a prayer by Joyce Rupp- Joy is Our Banquet)

O God, hear our prayer:

Breathe kites high into blue skies,

Sow bright mirth into circles of friends,

Embroider brilliance into stars of night.

And teach us how to joy.

Paint the air with lilac's fragrance,

Feast the earth with gentle rain,

Clothe each creature with a whimsy,

And teach us how to joy.

Dance the seasons with new colour,

Caress each face into a smile,

Splash creation with your laughter,

And teach us how to joy.

Our prayers continue...

Lord's Prayer:**WE PREPARE TO LEAVE**

***Hymn:** Joyful, Joyful We Adore You (vs 1,2,3)

VU 232

***Blessing:**

Go faithfully from this gathering!

We go to serve, to create community, to give thanks.

Go taking the gift of Christ's hope, peace and joy to heart,

We go, responding with joy to God's love!

Go, knowing you never go alone for the Spirit of Love lives in you!

Amen.

Parting Song: Take Up His Song

**MV
213**

Take up his song of joy and go into the world.

Take up his song of joy in ev'ry moment.

In ev'ry moment of the journey,

we're laying down our lives;

lay them down, in joy lay them down,

and take up his song.

Postlude:**Prayer of the Week:**

Liberating God, help us to know the insurrection you birthed in the form of a baby. As we are inspired by a young woman's humble, joyful obedience, remind us how you steer our lives, no matter how our ego struggles for control. May we hear your Advent call for revolution in our lives. Amen.

Partners in Prayer: Grand River Community Church
Western Ontario Waterways: Allenford/Park Head PC
Prayer Tree Captain: Alison Rainford

Welcomers: Mark Andrews, Isobel Glennie, Joyce Keizerwaard,
Karen Smillie.

Counters: Karen Smillie and Phil Brown