

**St. Mark's United Church
Cannifton, Ontario
December 15th, 2024**

Minister: Rev. Ryan McNally, MDiv.

Organist/Pianist: Mark Bond

Technical Team: Sheila Parks, Elaner Pound, Mary Milligan, Julie McNally, Alfreda Rupert and Lois MacDonald

ADVENT III - JOY

GATHERING

Prelude

WELCOME

COMMUNITY NEWS

ADVENT WREATH

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle symbolizing joy—acknowledging the reality that joy often bursts out of pain, hardship, and failure. *The pink candle is lit.*

Joy often comes to us unexpected, especially when we have given up on life. Joy reminds us that nothing is impossible—even in weakness.

In our joy, we are powerfully reminded that God is always near.

Therefore, let us rejoice! Let us sing as we celebrate the good news in this divinely newborn baby.

† Hymn # 7 VU "Hope is a Star"

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**

Rejoice! And again, I say, rejoice!

Our joy erupts from the assurance that God is with us in our here and now.

Let us join prayerfully in thanksgiving and through divine conversation to discover peace and strength for our living and our loving:

Open our understanding, O God, rooted in coming home to your loving. Free our perceptions from the chains of judgment and of polarization. Equip us to perceive the good in one another while sharing right relations. Inspire us for new life and new vision in all we think and do, that we might dance joyfully in Jesus' name. Amen.

PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you all!

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of Christ with those nearest to you, using a word, sign, or gesture of peace as we prepare to sing our opening hymn together.

† Hymn # 9 VU “People Look East”

- 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 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.

5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth
Christ who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love the Lord is on the way.

APPROACHING GOD THROUGH PRAYER

† Hymn # 34 VU

“Come Now, O God of Joy”

3 Come now, O God of joy,
we are your people;
pour out your spirit
that we be one body.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

† Hymn # 40 MV

“Never Ending Joy”

**Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy,
Never ending joy, never ending joy, never ending joy!**

1 God of every tribe, every language, God of every river and sea,
God of every mountain and island, you bring joy to me.

- 2 God of every hill, every valley, God of every leaf, every tree,
God of every cloud, every raindrop, you bring joy to me.
- 3 God of every song, every story, God of every captive set free,
God of every dance, every footstep, you bring joy to me.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ryan McNally

SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 3: 14 – 20

Read by: Alexandria Reid

Responsive Psalm Isaiah 12: 2 – 6

**Page 880 VU
Led by Alexandria Reid**

Refrain:

Proclaim God's marvelous deeds to all the nations.

I will praise you, O God,
**for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away, and you comforted me.**
Surely God is my salvation.
I will trust and not be afraid,
**for you, God, are my strength and might,
you show yourself my saviour. R**

With joy we draw water from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks and call on God's name.

Make known God's deeds among the nations;

proclaim that God's name is exalted.

Sing praises to God, whose work is glorious;

let be known in all the earth.

Shout for joy, you who dwell in Zion,

for the Holy One of Israel is majestic among you. R

MESSAGE

RESPONSE

PRAYERS OF CONCERN & THANKS

LORD'S PRAYER

† Hymn # 73 VU “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy”

1 The prophet proclaimed
 the promise fulfilled,
 The prophet proclaimed
 the promise fulfilled,
 The prophet proclaimed,
 the promise fulfilled
 And then said get ready for Messiah
 He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
 he come from the glorious kingdom.
 He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
 he come from the glorious kingdom.
 Oh, yes! Believer! Oh, yes! Believer!
 He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
 he come from the glorious kingdom.

2 The prophet came
 to make the path clear,
 The prophet came
 to make the path clear,
 The prophet came
 to make the path clear,
 And then said get ready for Messiah. **R**

3 The prophet proclaimed
 that God will rejoice,

The prophet proclaimed
that God will rejoice,
The prophet proclaimed
That God will rejoice,
And then said get ready for Messiah. R

SHARING OUR GIFTS

GIFTS IN ACTION STORY

OFFERING PRAYER

† Hymn # 55 VU “In the Bleak Midwinter”

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.

† Hymn # 59 VU “Joy to the World”

1 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.

2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour 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.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
 nor thorns infest the ground:
 he comes to make his blessings flow
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
 far as, far as the curse is found.

4 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.

BLESSING & SENDING FORTH

Go forth as people of joy.
We go into the world

As you make your preparation for the Christ child's coming again, know God goes with you, blessing you and guiding your way. Amen.

“As We Leave” (Choral Amen)

As we wait, we trust your Word.
Seal in us the hope we've heard!
We'll live for peace, seek joy, this day;
In your love, we'll grow and pray.
Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

Postlude

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