

Welcome
to Aurora United Church
...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Advent 3 (Joy) Pageant Sunday
December 12, 2021

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called 'Gaudette' or 'Rejoice Sunday', marked for Joy. 'Gaudette in Domino semper', Paul writes his letter to the Philippians: 'Rejoice in the Lord always.' Today, a pink candle will be lit to remind us to rejoice in this time of the year as we await the coming Christ Child.

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Greensleeves (*arr. Cathy Moglebust*)

Faith-A-Peal and Bellissimo Handbell Ensembles—Carols by Candlelight, 2015

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

Acknowledgment of Territory/Candle of Remembrance-Every Child Matters

As we come into worship today, we acknowledge that we reside and worship on the traditional lands of the people of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation... and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.



CALL TO WORSHIP Holly & Bruce Williamson

Come among us, God,
source of life and heart of all—
so that we may know your love.
Come among us, God,
wrapped in human flesh—
**so that we may touch and see
and hear your love.**
Come among us, God,
blowing bubbles of joy and hope—
**may we become your joy,
your love in the world.**
Come among us, God-be with your people—
As we come to worship you!

CAROL Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (*J.M.Neale/G.A.Smith*) VU 35

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today.
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door,
And we are blest forever more.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Joy) Jen, Damien, Sabrina & Alexis Hanna

Here we are, at the third Sunday of Advent—
Christmas is getting closer!
**We began our Advent journey by lighting the candle
of HOPE on the first Sunday, followed by the candle
of PEACE last week.**
(The first and second candles are lit.)

The flames from these candles invite us to wonder and
dream and pray and reflect on how we can bring God's
hope and peace into the world.
**Today, we light the next candle of Advent--
the pink candle—the candle of JOY. This candle
reminds us that this is a season to celebrate God's
goodness!**
We light this third candle of Advent—the candle of
JOY—as an invitation for us to praise God with generous
voice and action.
(The pink candle is lit.)

Let every song proclaim this JOY! **Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE Hope Is a Star (*B.Wren/J.C.Fogg*) VU 7

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.
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.**

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

The Christmas Story...

Prophecy of the coming of Christ the King—Isaiah 9:2-7

The Angel Gabriel came to Mary—Luke 1:26-38

Mary and Joseph, who are tired, arrive in Bethlehem.

CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem (*P.Brooks/L.H.Redner*) VU 64

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

O Holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

The Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem—Luke 2:1-7

The stable...and the animals who live there.

CAROL Angels We Have Heard on High (*J.Chadwick/E.S.Barnes*) VU 38

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn king.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The Shepherds come to the stable—Luke 2:9-16

In the fields of Bethlehem...shepherds and angels.

CAROL Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (*E.Reed/A.E.Rusbridge*) VU 58

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is born for all. Christ the babe is born for all!

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you!

The Magi seek the baby Jesus—Matthew 2:1-12

Wise people come to see baby Jesus.

CAROL We Three Kings (*J.H.Hopkins*)

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a king on Bethlehem plain,
gold I bring to crown him again.
King forever, ceasing never,
over us all to reign.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a deity nigh,
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him, God most high.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a sigh of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in a stone-cold tomb.
*O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.*

We say good night to Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. ... "Merry Christmas to all, and to all... a GOOD NIGHT."

GIFT OF MUSIC Ding Dong Merrily on High (*arr. K. Roth*)
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

A Statement about the gifts we bring in worship for the life of the church....

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

CAROL Joy to the World (*I.Watts/G.F.Handel*) 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 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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he come 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.

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.

COMMISSIONING

God's Joy is surprising, arriving as a messenger.

God's joy is deep and abiding, gathering us across divides.

Let us seek God's Joy in all whom we meet.

May God who is Giver, Gift, and Grace-Among-Us,
be with you today and always.

SUNG BLESSING Hope Shines as the Solitary Star (C.F.MacLean/J.B.Tissandier)MV 220

**Joy shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.**

POSTLUDE Away in a Manger (Ian W. Bevell)
AUC Chancel Choir, Carols by Candlelight, 2015



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are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.



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Participating in Worship today...

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar,

With thanks to... Noah Comar, videographer, and to Bob Kyriakides,
video editor...and to all who are filming at home in order to participate
in worship in some way! ☺

Images used in worship video...

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Sing Hallelujah!-Volumes 1&3 (produced by Ralph Milton, the United Church of Canada, 2015), *More Voices: Audio CD* (The United Church of Canada, 2007) and YouTube

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