

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE O Holy Night (*Adolphe Adam*)
Susan Guido, trumpet

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Elizabeth Ramsell

INTROIT I was glad when they said let us go to the House (The Giver) (*Mia Michelle McClain*) TLUS sampler

CALL TO WORSHIP

In this season of Advent,
we are here to watch and wait
and pray for the coming light into the world.
God, by your presence, light up the past
that we might learn from it with thankfulness.
Light up the present,
that we might live in it with love.
Light up the future,
that we might prepare for it in hope.
As we watch and wait and pray,
**may we be always ready to encounter the holy;
found in unexpected places—
found in each of us.**
Let us worship!

***HYMN** O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vss 1-5) **VU 1**

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Joy)
The Gilpin Family: Doug, Sylvia, Peter & Emilly

Advent is a season of waiting: waiting for the hope, peace, joy and love of God to break into our lives anew through the story of the birth of Jesus, and through acts

of hope, peace, joy and love.
Today we light the third candle; the candle of Joy.
We wait— not because we do not know the story of Jesus, and not because you are not already and always here. We wait because to wait is to expect something more. To wait is to expect that the story might enter our hearts and our world in new ways, to bring change for which we long.

Three Advent candles are lit: two blue and one pink.

As we light the candle of Joy, we remember the stories of God’s loyalty to all creation. Let us pray... **We give thanks for the messengers—the apostles, prophets, artists, sages, faithful ones—present in every age who bring us the good news of God’s restoring love; and we shout with joy, trusting that God is with us and before us, and that Joy will be born anew in us. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE We Light This Candle (*Mayberry/Kai*)

**We light this candle for Joy.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
so Joy can find a way,
so Joy can find a way.**

PAGEANT Where Are My Minions? (*by Kevin Little*)

Video presentation by the children, teachers & parents of the Funday Sunday program.
In-person dialogue— Myles and Melody Heney.
(*Thank you to Doug Gilpin for editing our finished pageant video!*)

***CAROL** Joy to the World **VU 59**

ANTHEM Come Emmanuel (*Don Besig/Nancy Price*)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

GOSPEL John 1:6-8, 19-28 *p.91-92 Pew Bible NT*
(John testifies to the Light.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

MEDITATION Bearers of Light

***HYMN** Down To Earth, as a Dove **VU 42**

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY O My Dear Heart (*Eleanor Daley*)
Janice Nolan, Rev. Lorraine, Lisa Kyriakides, Margaret Heney

***DEDICATION** As We Offer Gifts (*Tune: VU 81*)
**As we offer gifts most rare
at your stable crude and bare,
and we bend our knee before
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so our humble hearts we bring,
Christ, to you our praise we sing.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing

PRAYER PRELUDE Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ (*J.Bell*)
MV 166

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, Son of God among us,
thank you for every sign showing that you love us.
(sing twice)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER
VU p.910

***HYMN** Still, Still, Still **VU 47**

*** COMMISSIONING**

And now, let us go in faith—
to ponder in our hearts,
the mystery of Jesus' birth.
May life be born in us.

***SUNG BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary Star
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. *(MV 220)*

POSTLUDE Angels Medley (Angels from the Realms
of Glory/Angels We Have Heard on High) *(Smart/Trad.)*
Susan Guido, trumpet



Advent 4 (Love)

December 24th 11:00 am
Sacrament of Communion

Christmas Eve

Trinity Sanctuary **5pm**
'A Story Like No Other'

Christmas 1

December 31st 11:00 am



MISSION AND SERVICE

Ecumenical Church Loan Fund:
Anert's Story

Fifty-three-year-old Anert Mwenda is a bubbly and cheerful clothing trader in Syokimau, Kenya. Her path from housewife to entrepreneur has been filled with barriers, but with the help of Mission and Service partner Ecumenical Church Loan Fund (ECLOF), her business is flourishing. After recognizing that her personal savings weren't meeting the rising needs of her business, Anert turned to a self-help group set up by ECLOF Kenya. While taking training programs on business and entrepreneurship, her business grew alongside her skillset. Today, her business employs three workers. When her husband passed away after a long illness, Anert and her five children were faced with tremendous hospital debt. The loan from ECLOF Kenya alleviated some financial strain, while her peers and ECLOF's loan officer provided emotional support to help her process her grief. **Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) make it possible for partners to walk alongside** women like Anert as they work to achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

Anert says, "ECLOF Kenya is a good listening partner who is ready to walk the journey of possibilities and impossibilities with their customers." ECLOF shares that they feel Anert's commitment, perseverance, and passion have truly made it possible for her to achieve her dreams.



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

AURORA UNITED CHURCH

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Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



ADVENT 3— JOY (Pageant)
A Thrill of Hope— the Weary World Rejoices

December 17, 2023
11:00 AM

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called 'Gaudette' or 'Rejoice Sunday', marked for Joy. Today a pink candle will be lit to remind us to rejoice in this time of the year as we await the coming of the Christ Child.

O come, O come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high, who orders all things mightily; to us the path of knowledge show and teach us in her ways to go. **R**

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. **R**

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them that trust your mighty power to save and give them victory o'er the grave. **R**

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. **R**

Down to Earth, as a Dove

Down to earth, as a dove, came to dwell holy love:
Jesus Christ from above bringing great salvation meant for every nation.

**Let us sing, sing, sing,
dance and spring, spring, spring;
Christ is here, ever near!
Gloria in excelsis.**

This is love come to light, now is fear put to flight.
God defeats darkest night, giving for our sorrows hope of new tomorrows. **R**

Christ the Lord comes to feed hungry souls in their need;
in the house there is bread: Jesus in a stable, in the church a table. **R**

Joy to the World

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 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.

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.

Still, still, still

Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.
The Christchild in his crib lies sleeping,
angels round him watch are keeping.
Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep,
while Mary sings and gently holds you,
safely in her arms enfolds you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus softly sleep.

Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!
For through God's holy incarnation
Christ is born for our salvation.
Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!

