

HASTINGS ROSENEATH PASTORAL CHARGE
The United Church of Canada
WORSHIP SERVICE December 16th 2018



Advent 3-Joy & Sacrament of Holy Communion

^MUSICAL PRELUDE: (Leader & Choir Enter)

(^) means, please stand as you are able,
(**Bold Print** - Congregation Response)
LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCHES

^ADVENT INTROIT: “Hope Shines as the Solitary Star”

JOY shines as the solitary star. (More Voices 220)
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the path-way home. (3 times)

^CALL TO WORSHIP: (Rev Jamie York)

^HYMN: VU#20 On Jordan’s Bank

OPENING PRAYER: (Rev Jamie York)

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING—JOY

PRAYER: *Eternal Spirit, who sings sacred mystery into life, with great anticipation we await the Christ child, the One who will light the way before us.*
As we journey ever closer to a new dawn, lift our hearts and give our voices a new song of joy this day.
We pray in the name of the One who comes. Amen.

^HYMN: VU#7 Hope is a Star (verses 1, 2 & 3)

CHOIR ANTHEM: (Roseneath)

SCRIPTURE READING: Philippians 4:4-9 (R)

Reader: May God bless this reading for God’s people today.
People: Thanks be to God! Amen.

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FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL: “Rejoice Always”

^HYMN: VU#45 Joy is now in every place

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:7-18 (L)

Leader: In this reading is Good News for God’s people.
People: May the Spirit of the Living God be with us today! Amen.

SERMON: “John: Gutsy, Rough, and Hopeful”

^HYMN: VU#43 Go tell it on the mountain

ADVENT MOMENT:

^OFFERING AND DEDICATION: (In Unison) MV#191

What can I do?... What can I bring?
What can I say?... What can I sing?
I’ll sing with JOY... I’ll say a prayer.
I’ll bring my love... I’ll do my share. (Repeat)

^PRAYER of DEDICATION: (In Unison)

Through these gifts, Generous God
may we be agents of joy in your world;
lifting people up in love,
so they can experience life in abundance. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE (Rev. Jamie York)

^COMMUNION HYMN: VU#68 “All Poor Ones and Humble”

Communion Liturgy:

Source and Sustainer of life we name God,
present and active from the beginning of time,
we are gathered in your ever “present-ness”.
And it is right that we give thanks and praise,
and tell our stories of celebration and connectedness,
And receive Your Word and Sacrament this day.
In time beyond our dreaming, God of Creation hovered over the water,
and was revealed in fire and storm and precious law.

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Likewise, humanity in this creative likeness evolved on this earth, along with earth's minerals and waters, flowers and fruits, living creatures of grace and beauty!

We offer this our thanks and praise.

Our stories go on to say: Noah was shown a rainbow, Moses gained courage to free his people, in the face of danger Miriam would sing, Esther found new strength, and Ruth stayed loyal.

We give thanks for women and men in many different cultures and times who spoke about our connectedness with each other, and with all the universe.

In this age and season, with TV and internet and shopping and winter darkness, we wait again with expectant hearts and hopeful spirits, as we seek to discern God's "present-ness" among us.

So we join our celebration to the adoration and rejoicing of all people:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Long ago our tradition says, Jesus came in the humble birth of a child, a child of amazing and divine love,... a child of Mary's 'yes' to you, God a child of Joseph's acceptance,... a child of our humanity.

We pledge ourselves to be embodiments of God's Kingdom on earth. The Kingdom Jesus spoke of.

Long ago our tradition says, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

'This bread is broken, as my body will be'.

And he handed it to his friends inviting them to eat: saying 'Eat of this in remembrance of me'.

Long ago our tradition says, Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it, held it before his friends and said:

'This wine is poured out as my life will be poured out for you.'

And he passed it to his friends inviting them to drink of the cup.

It is through the goodness and effort of others, that we have this bread and wine to offer...

bread, that was once scattered as grain in a paddock and gathered together and baked into a loaf; wine, that was once grapes grown on a hillside and gathered together and pressed into juice.

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May this gathering of this community of faith be comforted and challenged during this Advent season.

May people see in us the courage and the generosity that characterised Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection.

PASTORAL PRAYERS & LORD'S PRAYER

You are invited to come forward to receive Communion Served by intinction, taking bread and dipping in juice.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION: (In Unison)

Gracious God, may we remember that we are one with You as mystery and Source and Sustainer of all that exists.

We rejoice in our human capacity to wonder and marvel, to appreciate, to rejoice, and to give thanks.

We give you thanks for this holy meal.

Sustain us in Your grace as we move through our Advent season. In Joy-filled prayer, we pray. Amen.

^HYMN: VU#59 Joy to the World

^COMMISSIONING: (Responsive)

As we leave our worship this Third Sunday of Advent

We will enter this Advent week with hope, peace & joy.

We will enter this Advent week with patience in our waiting.

May your waiting be rich and the presence of God be full and near to you.

We will bear God's joy in this world,

like a candle overcoming the shadows.

^BENEDICTION: Rev. Jamie York

^CHORAL BLESSING: (Go Now in Peace)

Go now in peace, never be afraid

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,

Know God will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love and show you believe

Reach out to others, so all the world can see

God will be there, watching from above,

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

A-a-men, A-a-men, A-a-a-men (Don Besig & Nancy Price)