

**St. David's United Church  
December 22, 2019  
Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**HEAVEN & NATURE SING:  
300 YEARS OF "JOY TO THE WORLD"**

**MAKE THE NATIONS PROVE:**

**Peaceful Joy**

**4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 22, 2019**

PHOTO BY HANS BRAXMEIER FROM PIXABAY

***Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an  
Affirming and Inclusive Community***

# Welcome to St. David's United Church

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## **Sunday, December 22, 2019**

Peggy McDonagh presiding with the People of St. David's

### *We gather as a Christ-infused Community of Faith*

Regardless of your age, stage, gender, sexual identity, or how great or small you feel your faith is we each bring something of ourselves to this place.  
Come as you are -- and be.

*Prior to the service the Affirming and Value candles were lit to affirm that all humanity and creation must be respected and valued. The Treaty 7/Metis Region 3 candle was lit to show respect for the land and to affirm our continued commitment to live into right relations with our indigenous brothers and sisters.*

### **MUSIC PRIOR TO WORSHIP**

Nun Komm, Der Heiden Heiland - Nicolaus Bruhns

Noel en Musette - Jean-Jacques Charpentier

Noel - Henri Mulet

"This Endrys Night" A Christmas Paean - George Oldroyd

### **EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS**

We gather together to worship the One Who is Joy and as we come together, our hearts are expanded. We remember the ancient Psalmist who sung that the heavens declared God's praise as the sun rises and light multiplies. And we witness that all of nature (including us) yearns to reach and expand toward the Light so that all might know joy.

Lighting the Value Candle: Joy

### **Focusing on Peaceful Joy**

*(Threshold Moment)*

Psalm 98, upon which the hymn, "Joy to the World" is based, names the joyful expression of all creation as the Peace, . . . all nations, all the world will prove God's presence in and through this peaceful joy.

### ***(Call and Response)***

Sing a new song to the Lord

**Sing a new song to the Lord**

Lift your hearts with gratitude

**Lift your hearts with gratitude**  
Sing a new song to the Lord  
**Sing a new song to the Lord**  
Lift your hearts in gratitude  
**Lift your hearts in gratitude**  
and Joy,  
**and Joy,**  
Peaceful Joy.  
**Peaceful Joy.**

**(Call and Response)**  
Your steadfast love and faithfulness  
**Your steadfast love and faithfulness**  
Is ever present in our lives.  
**Is ever present in our lives**  
Your steadfast love and faithfulness  
**Your steadfast love and faithfulness**  
Is ever present in our lives  
**Is ever present in our lives**  
and Joy  
**and Joy**  
Peaceful Joy.  
**Peaceful Joy.**

Reader: Let the sea laugh, and all that  
fills it, . . .  
bringing order and balance to  
all of Creation.

**(Call and Response sequence)**  
**We sing**  
**We sing**  
**Joy to the World**  
**Heaven and nature sing**  
**Joy to the World**  
**Heaven and nature sing**  
**and joy,**  
**Peaceful joy!**

**The Living Wreath and Lighting of the Candle of Peace**

## Opening Prayer

Let us pray:

Holy God, we await again the arrival of the Prince of Peace.  
We long for the peaceful waters of joy that run deep and wide underneath all  
of life.

When we feel the chaos of life bearing down on us,  
Help us to remember that it doesn't have to be this way.  
Help us to step into a slower rhythm that is your Peaceful Joy.

**Let truth and grace rule our hearts this day.**

**Let truth and grace rule our church this day.**

**Let truth and grace rule the world this day...  
in the name of Peace. Amen.**

## Hymn

Once in Royal David's City first verse-solo, 2-4 sung by all VU #62

Once in royal David's city,  
Stood lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for His bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,  
who with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
there among the poor and lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our life-long pattern,  
daily when on earth he grew,  
he was tempted scorned, rejected,  
tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless,  
is our Lord in heaven above,  
and he leads his people on,  
to the place where he is gone.



**Hymn**

Hail to God's Own Anointed

VU #30

- 1 Hail to God's own anointed, great David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, God's reign on earth begun!  
Christ comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
to take away transgression, and rule in equity.
- 2 Christ comes with justice surely to those who suffer wrong,  
to help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,  
to give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious  
in his sight.
- 3 Christ shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth,  
and love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,  
and righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.
- 4 To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,  
his kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.  
His name shall stand for ever: that name to us is Love.

**Lesson Three** Luke 1:26-38 The Angel Gabriel Salutes the Virgin Mary**Anthem***A Lullaby*

Ian Charter

This anthem "A Lullaby" was composed especially for the Angel  
Voices by Ian Charter, husband of our accompanist Colleen.

**Lesson Four** Luke: 2:1-7 St. Luke Tells of The Birth of Jesus**Hymn**

Away in a Manger

VU #69

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

**Lesson Five** Luke 2:8-16 The Shepherds go to the Manger

**Anthem** *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* arr. Craig Courtney

**Lesson Six** John 1:1-14 The Great Mystery of the Incarnation

**Hymn** Lo, He Come with Clouds Descending VU #25  
*(This popular Anglican Advent Carol is rightly and wrongly attributed to the great hymn writer Charles Wesley, brother of the infamous John Wesley. In the modern world the words appear foreign and otherworldly. They are an articulation of the apocalyptic language and theology of the Book of Revelation in which the author sought to instill hope in the hearts of those who were oppressed, dehumanized and where injustice ruled. It is a hymn of hope that evil and injustice would be replaced with goodness and justice.)*

- 1 Lo, he comes with clouds descending,  
see the Lamb for sinners slain!  
Thousand, thousand saints attending  
join to sing the glad refrain:  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
God appears on earth to reign.
- 2 Every eye shall then behold you,  
robed in awesome majesty;  
all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you,  
pierced, and nailed you to the tree,  
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,  
shall the true Messiah see.
- 3 Now redemption, long expected  
see in solemn pomp appear;  
all the saints, by us rejected,  
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!  
See the day of God appear!
- 4 Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,  
high on your eternal throne;  
crowns and empires fall before you,  
claim the kingdom for your own:  
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!  
Everlasting Christ come down.

## TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES

Connecting with our deepest selves, we can accept that all of life resides within joy's possibilities—not only the happy moments, but also the sorrows and difficulties of life. Like the work of our hearts, all that flows in can be given new life and pumped back out with renewed oxygen, giving us strength and courage for all circumstances.

### Invitation to Offer our Gifts

Let us present our offering given from the heart of hope - hope powerful enough to transform the world during this season of goodwill and peace.

### Offertory

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen - Angelina Figus*

### Reception of Offering and Prayer

Let us pray in the spirit of hope and joy:

**God of peaceful joy, we offer respect and caring to all who seek  
hope and wholeness;**

**And we live our faith through compassion and action.**

**We dedicate these gifts, freely given and gratefully received,**

**To our shared work within this congregation,**

**To shaping a world with hope,**

**And to prepare our hearts for joy. Amen.**

### Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer

## COMPASSION FOR THE WORLD

Connecting to Joy can compel us to want this connection for all beings. We leave this place "with passion" (com-passion) for adding our hope, love, joy and peace to the world.

### Hymn

Joy to the World

VU #59

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.

### **Action Benediction**

**Expansion** of our Hearts as we gathered,  
**Reception** of God's word as we proclaimed,  
**Transformation** of our Lives as we prayed, and  
Now **Compassion** for the World as we go.

### **Sung Blessing**

You Shall Go Out with Joy (sung twice)

VU #884

You shall go out with joy  
and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands (clap, clap)  
while you go out with joy.

### **POSTLUDE**

*Christmas Fantasy – Clarence Kohlmann*

## **THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE**

Greeters.....December Sacred Service Team  
Ushers .....December Sacred Service Team  
Counters.....David Mitchell & Colin Outtrim  
Projection.....PSALT Team  
Music .....Angel Voices  
Accompanist.....Colleen Charter

## **ADVENT SPIRITUAL JOURNEY SERIES**

### **“Heaven and Nature Sing! 300 years of JOY to the World”**

“Joy to the World,” a beloved Christmas classic, turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watt’s interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a “new song”—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than “joy” being yet another word for “happiness,” we discovered that the depths of joy can be found especially amid suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs. ©

### **Family Christmas Service**

**December 24 4:30 pm**

#### **‘The Sounds and Lights of Bethlehem’ - Betty Lynn Schwab**

‘In dedication to Bethlehem – the Holy Lands  
and to the Child in each one of us.  
for of such is the world of God.’

Come join us for this exciting, happy worship service – a story of two youngsters who are hiding in the cave where Jesus was born.

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**December 24 at 8:00 pm**

Through the Advent season we have been celebrating that “Joy to the World,” a beloved Christmas carol, turned 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watt’s interpretation of Psalm 98 invited us to sing a “new song”— a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than “joy” being yet another word for “happiness,” we discovered that the depths of joy can be found especially amid suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.

***.....the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,  
...Luke 2:1-20***

On this Christmas Eve we celebrate the world-altering narrative of the inbreaking, indwelling, incarnation of the Holy among us. Do you remember the feeling you may have had in moments, events or revelations that changed your life, your outlook, your trajectory forever? The depth of that feeling is what “deep joy” is about. Not simply happiness, that can be fleeting, but the idea that no matter what, there is something living within you that can sustain you for the long haul. God is birthing this within us again and again.

**♪ Here We Go A Wassailing ♪**  
**Sunday, December 29 at 10:00 am**

On December 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. we invite you to fill your cups with some warm wassail to sip on while we gather in the sanctuary for an informal Christmas worship experience!

All are welcome to bring a short (1-3 minute) anecdote, story, poem or song to share, a favorite Christmas carol request from the hymn book, or to simply come and receive what the morning has to offer.

If you can help out by bringing a batch of wassail in a crock pot that morning, we have provided you with a recipe. We hope this will be a warm, beautiful Christmas worship that highlights all that makes this season special, touching, and meaningful and we look forward to receiving all who come “a wassailing.”