

Online Joint Worship for the Mid Fraser Cluster Worship
Aldergrove, Gladwin Heights, St. Andrews
and Trinity Memorial

Third Sunday of Advent – Joy
December 13th, 2020

Thank you for Connecting for Worship

Today's Leadership includes

Preacher: The Rev. Tracy Fairfield

Presiding: The Rev. Bill Booth

and The Rev. Tim Bowman

Musician – Donna Poncelet & Jacob Greenan

Song Leader & Soloist: Deborah Handley

Technical Support: Jeremy Wright

People are invited to share their prayers in the chat during the worship service.

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Words of Welcome, Announcements from Each Congregation
Land Acknowledgments All

Lighting the Rainbow Candles Bill/Tim

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy:

Our Advent journey continues our time of celebration

We celebrate the comings of the Christ child who turns the world upside down.

We come to dance joyfully in anticipations of the season of new life, new life that challenges and guide, and comfort and confronts.

Out of pain comes possibility; out of anguish comes transformation; out of loneliness comes community; out of labour comes the birth. We can in joy but not to distract us from life's pain; instead, so that joy emerges out of each disruption and within each disappointment.

We come to heal one another in the midst of all of life's challenges.

We light the first candle reminding us of the way of hope.

We light the first candle.

Sung Response: "Hope is a Star" verse 1 (VU 7)

Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

R) 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.***

We light our second candle to signify Christ's path of peace in a broken world.

We light the second candle.

Sung Response: "Hope is a Star" verse 2 (VU 7)

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth.

R) 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.***

We light our third candle, which dances in the joy, even as it burns.

The third advent candle is lit.

Sung Response: "Hope is a Star" verse 3 (VU 7)

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

***R) 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.***

Opening Prayer: Tim

Let us join as a community of faith in prayer:

Holy Presence enter now into our hearts as we come to worship.

Make us one people even though we are physically separated. Be in our song, our pray, our listening, our speaking. Living Spirit play the tune to our joyful dance. Amen.

Hymn: VU 222 "Come Let Us Sing"

*Come, let us sing to the Lord our song, we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise, so joyfully thank God for our days.*

*O thirsty soul, come drink at the well; God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand, strengthened and comforted by God's hand.*

*You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow in the fulfilling love they know.*

*Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low, let your praises endlessly flow.*

Time with our Children: Bill

Hymn: "We are Waiting Lord" (Advent 3) Tune of Kumba yah

We will Praise you Lord, come by here (3x)

Oh, Lord, Come by here.

We invite the children and their leaders into breakout rooms.

Prayer of Confession: Tracy

Holy one, Giver of Joy, in this season of celebration our hearts are burdened by social distancing and the many sorrows of this year. Some of us have lost loved ones and the colour we would choose is blue, not the pink of a joyful candle. All of us miss our friends and families. How do we celebrate when are Joy and hope are depleted and restrained? And yet the good news we anticipate in this season is for our broken hearts. Enter our hearts and restore our courage.

Silent Prayer

Sung Response: MV 16 - "Confitemini Domino"

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia.*

*Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O Lord are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace, alleluia.*

Assurance: Tracy

Our sorrow does not prevent us from joyfully welcoming the presence of God into our hearts. This year the good news of the coming of Christ into the world is a much greater value to us. This is the promise of God we are not alone we are bound together by the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD

Scripture Reading:

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: "Live with the Present" Tracy

Hymn: VU 166 "Joy comes with the Dawn"

***Chorus) Joy comes with the dawn; joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.***

*Weeping may come; weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. **Chorus)***

*Sorrow will turn, sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong. **Chorus)***

*We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. **Chorus)***

WE RESPOND IN LOVE AND ACTION

Prayers of the People and all the World: Tim

Prayers shared from the chat: Bill

Holy God, you hear our words; you hear our hearts. We are known and heard deeply, graciously, constantly. Confident in this grace, we sing together the words that Jesus taught us...

The Lord's Prayer [Sung]: (to tune of Away in a Manger)

Our Father in heaven all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone:
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o'er all thing you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again, From all of creation, forever! Amen!

Acknowledging Our Gifts for the Work of God: Bill

Here is our cash; here are our cheques; here is our Pre-Authorized Remittance.
here are our online donations.

They are an expression our hope for Joy in the World.

Here are our hearts; here is our time; here are our passions; here are our lives.

Let our gifts and our lives proclaim Joy to the World.

Prayer of Dedication:

"In the Bleak Midwinter" (verse 4) VU 55

**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.**

Hear our prayer, God.

Amen.

Walkway of Gratitude Plaque Dedication

Hymn: VU 59 "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.*

Blessing and Sending Forth: Tracy

Today, this very moment, is a gift from God and is your gift to the world. So as you turn back to the rest of your day be fully alive in each moment joyful in the presence of God in your life. The comforting love of God be with you, the peace are the living Christ be with you, and may your heart be filled with it the joy of the Holy Spirit

Sung Response: “Joy Shines as the Solitary Star” (sing twice) 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

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