



# NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

10:30 am

Third Sunday of Advent – Joy

Welcome!

*“As followers of Christ, we are called to be a worshipping and learning, receiving and giving community of faith, hope and love.”* – Newcastle United Church Mission Statement

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*As we gather as a faith community, we acknowledge that we are on sacred land rich in the legacy, culture, and spirituality of the Indigenous people. It is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people. We acknowledge that we live and work on land that is under the Williams Treaty, which has been the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee Nations, as well as many other Indigenous nations. These lands today are under the care of the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nations people.*

*We acknowledge this land, out of respect for the many Indigenous nations who have cared for the lands and waterways from the beginning of time and continue to do so. Today we are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and to worship on their traditional lands.*

*We are committed to learn and understand the truth of our shared history, confronting our past and present so that we can strive to build a future together upon true reconciliation, living out what the original ancestors of Turtle Island envisioned: sharing the resources of the land and waterways, and to live in harmony with one another as one people.*

## ***Approaching God With Praise***

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement**

**Announcements**

**\*Please stand as you are able.**

**Prelude (A centering time) “Jesu, Joy of Man's  
Desiring”** Composed by J.S. Bach

*Biblically, waiting is not just something we have to do  
until we get what we want. Waiting is part of the  
process of becoming what God wants us to be.*

**John Ortberg**

**Lighting the Advent Candles – Hope, Peace, Joy**

**\*Opening Hymn: VU 7 vs 1-3  
“Hope Is A Star”**

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

**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.**

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

**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.**

**3 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.**

Gracie: On this Third Sunday of Advent, we come with Joy as a community of faith.

**A: We watch, we wait and we wonder.**

Gracie: May we bask in the joyful moments that are ours when we take time to notice joy – in the beauty of nature, in the beauty of a single snowflake or in the laughter of people playing in the snow.

**A: We embrace joy as we anticipate the birth of Jesus, the son of Mary.**

Gracie: As we light the third candle in the Advent wreath, we take a moment to breathe in the Spirit of joy. (Pause, before lighting the candle of Hope, peace and Joy)

**A: God of joy, on this Third Sunday of Advent, may we bask in the joy of the season, the joy we find in our relationships, the joy of gathering in our community of faith and the joy of being with those we love. Help us to wait for the joy that awaits us in the coming of Jesus. Amen!**

(by Irma Nadeau modified by Rev. B Ransom)

**\*Hymn: VU 28**

**vv. 1, 2**

**“Herald! Sound Of the Note of Gladness”**

# Announcements

Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Welcome! **We enjoy open seating**, so please, sit where you feel comfortable, and meet a new friend.

Today's Greeters are Elaine Spicer and Diane Winchester

Scripture and Announcements Reader is Judy Van Dyke

Bible Study will be on hiatus until the New Year.



## **Coffee Time**

Please join us in the church hall for fellowship after the service. Today's treats brought to you by Ministry and Personnel.

## **Flowers for The Sanctuary**

If you are interested in memorial flowers for the sanctuary for Advent Season, please see Lynne in the office. She can take names of individuals the flowers are for and payment, and coordinate with Wendy to have the flowers ordered. Flowers can be 'in memory of' or 'in honour of'.

## **200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cookbooks!**

Cookbooks are now available!! Each is \$20. Speak to Lynne or Jewel to get your copy.

## **Offering Envelopes**

Please check the Narthex for your 2025 Envelopes. See Marlene or Lynne if yours are not there.

## **Mission and Service Bows**

Our annual Mission and Service Bow campaign has begun. Donations to the M and S Fund will be designated by coloured bows which will be placed on our Christmas tree each week until Christmas. Bows may be purchased in denominations as follows: \$25-49, red; \$50-\$75, green; \$75-\$100, silver; and \$100+ is gold. However, any amount is most welcome!

“Gifts with Vision” catalogues are in the Narthex. These gifts are an additional way to support the work of The United Church of Canada’s Mission and Service Partners.

<https://united-church.ca/donate>

By Phone- Local: 416-231-5931 ext. 2738

Toll-free: 1-800-268-3781 ext. 2738

## **Crock Pot Dinners**

The next round of Crock Pot Dinners has been planned for the New Year. **Jan 20<sup>th</sup>, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** Signs will be posted in the New Year.

## **Upcoming Services**

December 22<sup>nd</sup>

Communion

December 24<sup>th</sup>

Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service



## Key Chains

There are still lots of 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Key Chains available. Great stocking Stuffer idea! \$5 each. See Lynne during the week, or on Sunday. Marie or Marlene have some as well.



We appreciate all donations and can accept PAR, envelope givings, and e-transfer at [nucetransfer@gmail.com](mailto:nucetransfer@gmail.com) using the answer “Newcastle”. You can also send via [Canadahelps.org](http://Canadahelps.org) **You can scan our QR code to the left to donate.** If you have any questions please contact our treasurer, Susan at 289-927-6297 or [treasurer@newcastleunitedchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@newcastleunitedchurch.org)

*Thank you for your donations which make our continued ministry possible.*

**Contacting Rev. Bryan Ransom directly**

905-922-8394

[minister@newcastleunitedchurch.org](mailto:minister@newcastleunitedchurch.org)

**Contact the Church**

905-987-4515

[newcastleunitedchurch@bellnet.ca](mailto:newcastleunitedchurch@bellnet.ca)

**Contact Lynne in the Office**

905-987-4515

[office@newcastleunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@newcastleunitedchurch.org)

**Book the Hall**

[property@newcastleunitedchurch.org](mailto:property@newcastleunitedchurch.org)

*December 15, Third Sunday in Advent*

*Blessings have many faces; so do the needs of those around us. Let us rejoice in what we have been given and look for others with whom we can share it.*



## Opening Prayer

Holy Spirit, You are always present with us. Be in our church and in our world as we celebrate joyfully in your name. What a joy it is knowing we are not alone! Spirit of the Living One, dance and laugh in our worship this morning, as we open ourselves to the Spirit of youth, the Spirit of Christmas and the Spirit new beginnings. Spirit of Joy, gather us, welcome us, in Christ's name. Amen.

\*Hymn: VU 28

vv. 3, 4

“Herald! Sound Of the Note of Gladness”

## *Listening For The Spirit Of God Through The Word*

## Scripture Reading

New Testament: Gospel of Luke 3:7-18

## Response

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

**A: We give praise for the presence of God through the Word**

**Solo – Karen Nichol “Mary Did you Know?”**

Words & Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

\*Hymn: MV 40

vv. 1-2

“Never Ending Joy”

## REFRAIN

**Never ending joy, never ending joy,  
never ending joy, never ending joy,  
never ending joy, never ending joy!**

**1 God of every tribe, every language,  
God of every river and sea,  
God of every mountain and island,  
you bring joy to me. REFRAIN**

**2 God of every hill, every valley,  
God of every leaf, every tree,  
God of every cloud, every rain-drop,  
you bring joy to me. REFRAIN**

### **Conversation Time**

**3 God of every song, every story,  
God of every captive set free,  
God of every dance, every foot-step,  
you bring joy to me. REFRAIN**

Words and Music: Daniel Charles Damon

### **Reflection “The Answer Is!”**

**Ministry of Music Medley-**  
“A Candle is Burning” and  
“Joy is Now in Every Place”

### **Mission and Service**

### ***Our Response***

### **Invitation to The Offering**

**\*The Offertory Hymn VU 55** **v. 4**

**“In The Bleak Midwinter”**

**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.  
Dedication Of The Offering**

**Prayers of the People**

**\*Closing Hymn: VU 36** **vv. 1-4**

**“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”**

***\*Commissioning & Benediction***

**\*Sung 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.**

**Amen, amen, amen.** (Copyright 1988 by Harold Flammer Music, a  
Division of Shawnee Press, Inc.)

**Postlude: "Joy to the World"**

Arranged by Jerry Ray

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Joy to the World

**DIRECTIONS:** Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



|              |         |             |
|--------------|---------|-------------|
| ADVENT       | INFANT  | MYRRH       |
| ANGEL        | JESUS   | NATIVITY    |
| BETHLEHEM    | JOSEPH  | REJOICE     |
| BIRTH        | MAGI    | STABLE      |
| BLESSINGS    | MANGER  | STAR        |
| CAMELS       | MARY    | THREE KINGS |
| FRANKINCENSE | MIRACLE | WISE MEN    |