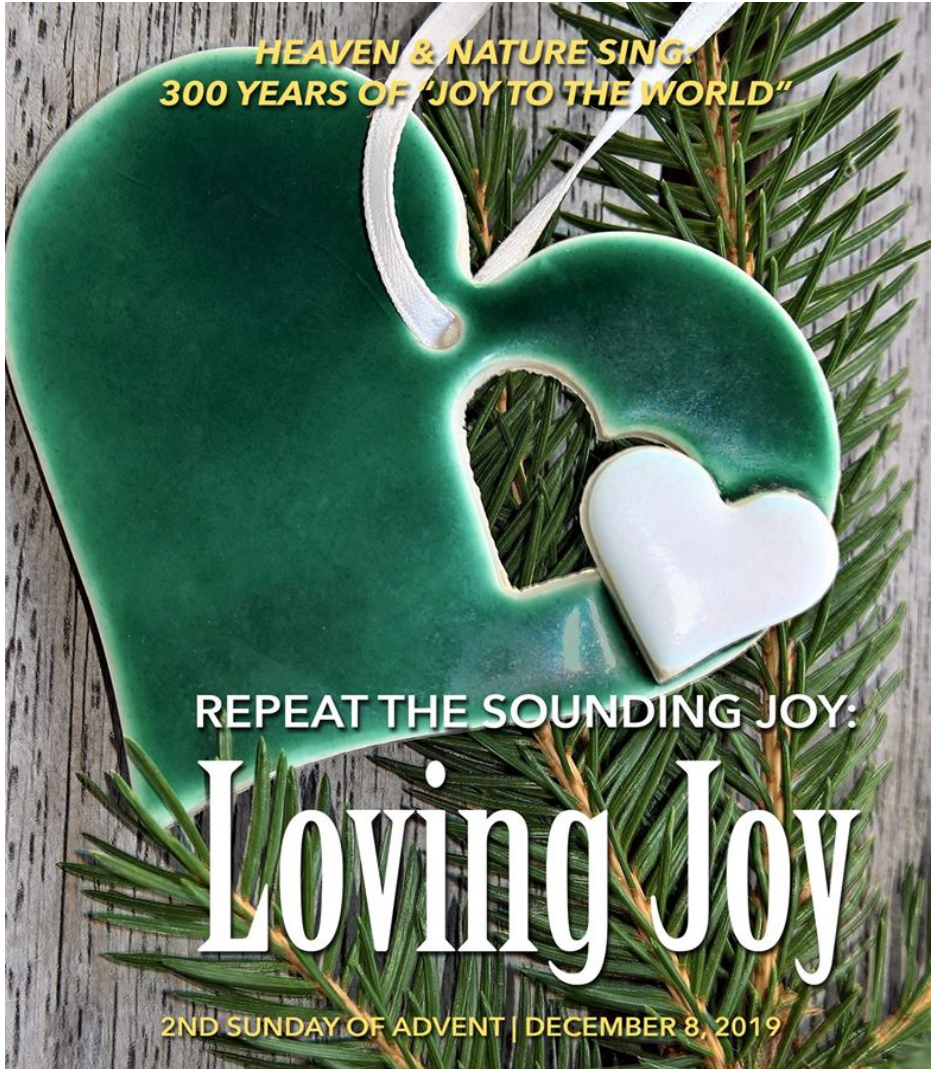


**St. David's United Church  
December 8, 2019  
Second Sunday in Advent**



***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 8, 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.*

## **Prelude**

*"The Peace May Be Exchanged" from 'Rubrics' - Dan Locklair  
Rorate Caeli - Jeanne Demessieux -Claire Sharp – organ*

## **Opening Advent Hymn**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel vs. 2 VU #1

- 2 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.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

## **EXPANSION OF OUR HEARTS**

Reader: 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 Loving Joy**  
*(Threshold Moment)*

***(Sung as a call and response)***

Cantor: Sing a new song to the Lord

**Response: Sing a new song to the Lord**

Cantor: 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,**

Loving Joy.

**Loving Joy.**

**Your steadfast love and faithfulness**

**Is ever present in our lives**

**Your steadfast love and faithfulness**

**Is ever present in our lives**

**and Joy**

**Loving Joy.**

Reader: Make a joyful noise to the Beloved. . .

***(Sung as a call and response)***

**We Sing**

**We Sing**

**Joy to the World**

**Heaven and Nature Sing**

**Joy to the World**

**Heaven and Nature sing**

**With Joy**

**Loving Joy**

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

Wreath Actors during the Series: Hopeful Joy – Joan Gray; Loving Joy – Donna Fallon and JoAnn Shannon; Unabashed Joy – Janet Clare, Heather Chubb-Way; Peaceful Joy – Yvonne Adams, Janet Clare; Christ Candle – Nancy Erickson; Narrator – Eldon Godfrey

**Prayer**

Holy God, you are the source of love.

You are the joy that runs deep and wide underneath all of life.

You are the one that helps us reach out in love,

especially to those whose fear makes it hard for them to love.

Help us when our fear gets in the way of joining the chorus of joy.

**Let us repeat the sounding joy in our hearts this day.  
Let us repeat the sounding joy in our church this day.  
Let us repeat the sounding joy in the world this day...  
in the name of Love.  
Amen.**

**Hymn** Hope is a Star

vs. 1 & 4 VU #7

- 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.
- 4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart,  
Jesus has come and will never depart.  
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.

### **The Peace**

You are invited to pass the peace by saying, "May you have loving joy" to the people around you.

## **RECEPTION OF GOD'S WORD**

*(As we open to receive the Word and interpret its meaning for our lives, we connect to the depths of our being where the River of Joy is always flowing. We have only to dip into it because, we have the "joy, joy, joy, joy, down in our hearts.")*

### **Song: I've got the joy, joy, joy**

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart  
down in my heart, down in my heart,  
I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy down in my heart,  
down in my heart to stay.

I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus  
down in my heart, down in my heart,  
down in my heart,  
I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus  
Down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

### **Readings**

Isaiah 11:1-10; Ephesians 3:16-20; Colossians 3:14;  
Quote by Brian McLaren, *The Great Migration*

## **Anthem**

*Joys Seven - traditional/arr. Stephen Cleobury*

## **Reflection**

*Repeat the Sounding Joy of Love*

## **Hymn**

Love Now Ascending (Tune VU #315)

Holy, holy, holy, love now ascending  
In this time of worship our song we raise to you  
Holy, holy, holy, joy that has no ending  
Giving, forgiving, breathing life anew.

Holy, holy, holy, love without a limit  
Care that binds creation in sacred unity  
Holy, holy, holy, birthing every minute,  
Christ, Love's revealer, sets our spirits free.

Holy, holy, holy, raise your voice in singing,  
Join the cosmic chorus in praise of Love divine,  
Holy, holy, holy, God beyond all naming,  
Echoes our song in harmony sublime.

## **TRANSFORMATION OF OUR LIVES**

Connecting with our deepest selves, we are able to 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 of Offer our Gifts**

### **Offertory**

*Spotless Rose - setting by Ola Gjeilo*

## **Reception of Offering and Dedication Prayer**

Let us pray in the spirit of love and joy:

**Loving and Joyful God, we offer respect and caring to all who seek  
love 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  
And to shaping a better world for all. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

## 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**      I Come with Joy

vs. 1, 4 & 5 VU #477

1 I come with joy, a child of God,  
forgiven, loved and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall  
in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.

4       The Spirit of the risen Christ,  
              unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known,  
              alive among us here,  
              alive among us here.

5      Together met, together bound  
              by all that God has done,  
 we'll go with joy, to give the world  
              the love that makes us one,  
              the love that makes us one.

## Action Blessing

**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 Benediction

## You Shall Go Out with Joy

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**

*Prelude in G Major BWV 550 - J.S. Bach*

### **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 will discover 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. ©  
**Join us this Advent on a spiritual journey to reclaim the deep joy within.**

### **GROWING AND DEEPENING OUR LIVES THROUGH WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE**

**December 15, 2019 Advent 3 White Gift Sunday**

**“Making the Blessings Known: “UnabashedJoy”**

**Guests: Esira Dance Troupe**

**Celebration of Communion**

**Advent Music by Chinley Hinacay**

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. - Luke 1: 46b-55*

Joy doesn’t wait for struggle to be over. Mary “rejoices” in the iconic scripture passage during her pregnancy, a state of affairs that would have put her in a position of dishonor among her people. Instead, she sings out powerfully because she knows that this turn of events will usher in the Presence of justice for the oppressed and freedom for the captive. As we join in a prophetic chorus of joy together, we are more deeply bonded as a whole, multiplying and magnifying the exuberance to all. ©

## THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Greeters.....	December Sacred Service Team
Ushers .....	December Sacred Service Team
Counters.....	Kerry Duncan McCartney & Bob Clare
Projection.....	PSALT Team
Reader.....	Dianne Trew
Music .....	Chamber Choir, Christy Brekke & Rebecca May – soloists,
.....	Chinley Hinacay-guest conductor

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### AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE from Rev Peggy

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to my “Joy” Advent Series design team consisting of:

**Dianne Trew, Mike Trew, Bonnae McTavish, Darlene Heynen, Brent Tucker, Deb Charnuski, Eldon and Carlie-Jean Godfrey.**

Part of my endeavours as a worship leader at St. David’s going forward is to utilize the creativity, skills and insight of members of the congregation. It has been a ‘joy’ to work with this team and I deeply appreciate their palpable enthusiasm, willingness, and creativity. Also, a large thank you to all those who were contacted by the team to be involved in the series. Everyone has responded with such grace, eagerness and joy. This is St. David’s first Design Team and I am hopeful that there will be many more teams engaging many congregants in the years to come.

Also, I wish to thank all the Sacred Service teams for their commitment, kindness, and service this year. These amazing groups of people and their leaders have ensured that pre, mid, and post worship set ups and duties were accomplished to enhance our Sunday morning gathering and worship experiences.

The Sacred Service program runs smoothly under the guidance and direction of its faithful Coordinator **Sheryl Schoenthaler**. Together Sheryl and team leaders work with each other to ensure that the duties and functions are kept updated and the program continues to succeed.

Sacred Service Leaders are:

**Bob/Janet Clare, Sally/Bob Hodges, Betty Smith, Darlene/Frans Heynen, Bonnae McTavish, Heather Chubb-Way, Brenda Wallace, Marion Whitman, Kerri Duncan-McCartney, Ray MacIntosh**

Perhaps we do not always recognize how truly blessed this congregation is and acknowledge the tireless commitment and faithful service of so many in this congregation who volunteer their time, energy, insight, wisdom, and love.

**There is much to celebrate.**

## DECEMBER 15, 2019 – White Gift Sunday

**White Gift giving** comes from a tradition of sharing with those who struggle to meet the basic needs in their lives, so they often go hungry. In these more trying times of job layoffs and a struggling economy the **Food Banks** are being overwhelmed with people needing food for their families and themselves. The **White Gift tradition** shares the spirit of hope, love, joy and peace at Christmas. We give gifts of love to people needing sustenance, love and support. These gifts are often nonperishable food items which are distributed to people in the community. **White Gift Sunday** celebrates the stewardship of compassion and extends God's love beyond our own community. This year we will follow that tradition by offering food items placed in White Bags to help support the Food Bank. Items that are required include:

***baby formula with iron***  
***baby food in jars***  
***canned tomatoes***  
***canned meat & fish***  
***canned fruit***  
***canned soup***  
***macaroni & cheese***  
***canned vegetables***  
***canned beans***  
***pancake mix***

***pasta***  
***pasta sauce***  
***juice (1 litre)***  
***peanut butter***  
***rice***  
***quinoa***  
***pull tab soups***  
***pull top meals***  
***oat bars***  
***rolled oats***

Cash or cheque donations are also greatly appreciated. Tax receipts are available for all donations greater than \$10. A table will be set up in the front hall. If you wish to receive a tax receipt, please fill out the donation form.

Please let us respond with our heart-warming generosity and bring items as indicated above on Sunday, December 16 for the Food Bank. Thank you for thinking about others during this time of peace and goodwill.

Thanks kindly for your Christmas spirit of generosity and good will.