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# St. Andrew's By-The-Lake United Church

## 3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent – December 16, 2018

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As you sit to prepare for worship, you are invited to take a moment to acknowledge the land on which our church stands and the spirit of those First Peoples who named this area Katarokwi – the meeting place on the flat rocks.

We also acknowledge the enduring presence of First Peoples who remind us to honour the places where our feet stand.

◆ the congregation is invited to stand, as you are able.  
Congregational responses and hymn titles appear in **bold** type

### Gathering of God's People

#### Welcome & Greeting / Life & Work / Mission & Service

**Prelude:** Prelude on *Quem Pastores* Helmut Walcha

**Lighting of 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle — Joy:** please see back cover

#### Call to Worship:

Come, people of God, let us journey in the way of joy.

**The stable beckons, and the angels sing.**

Christ is the embodiment of God's love,

**and we are star-followers. Come let us worship!**

**Hymn:** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* VU #48

#### Prayer of Gathering:

God, as we journey ever closer to Christmas, we take time this morning to pause. We dedicate the next hour to you.

Help us to connect with you and each other. Hear us as we express our gratitude for all the blessings in our lives and hear us as we lift up to you any stress, anxiety or fear that may be weighing us down. May we find the spiritual nourishment we need. Amen.

**Anthem:** *The Angel Gabriel* Baring-Gould/Stauff  
*Little One, Holy One* Robert Lau

#### Children's Time

### Good News in God's Word

**Scripture Readings:** read by Ken Ross

**First Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7

Hear the words of the Apostle.

**Thanks be to God.**

◆ **Hymn:** *Joy Is Now in Every Place* VU #45

**Second Reading:** Luke 3:7-18

This is the good news of Jesus Christ.

**Praise be to God.**

**Reflection:** *Filled with Expectation*

### Giving Our Response

◆ **Hymn:** *Good Christian Friends Rejoice* VU #35

**Mission Minute:** Linda Harrison

#### Presentation of Our Gifts and Offerings

#### ◆ Sung Response & Offertory Prayer:

*As with Gladness Men of Old*, vs 3 VU #81

As they offered gifts most rare at that manger crude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

**Prayer of Dedication:** God of expectation, we come before you with humble and grateful hearts. We offer to you our gifts of time, talent and treasure, and ask you to transform them into peace, hope, joy and love for your world. Our Advent prayer is that all your children can live abundant lives knowing they are loved. Amen.

#### Prayers of the People

**and Lord's Prayer:** (please see back inside cover of *Voices United*)

◆ **Hymn:** *Joy to the World* VU #59

◆ **Blessing & Going Forth:** *He Came Singing Love* VU #359

He came singing joy and he lived singing joy;  
he died singing joy. He arose in silence.  
For the joy to go on we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.

**Choral Postlude:** *Sing we all Noel*

Ruth Elaine Schram

## **Lighting of 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Candle — Joy:**

**Voice 1:** On the first Sunday of Advent we lit a candle for Hope.

Our second candle was lit for Peace.

Today we light a candle for Joy.

This is the Joy we search for:

the Joy that comes when we go out of our way to help others,

the Joy that overcomes fear and repression,

the Joy Jesus brought to the downtrodden and despised,

**Voice 2:** the Joy that chuckles out from a young baby,  
the Joy that is in the energy of a street-hockey game,  
the Joy that comes with a new job and is found in a purposeful retirement,  
the Joy of compassionate friendship,  
the Joy of a Christian faith that is central to all we do and are,  
a Joy to release us,  
a Joy to encourage us,  
a Joy to challenge the despair in our hearts, in our town/city,  
and among the hopeless of our world.

**Voice 1:** Let us pray together,

**Loving God, as we prepare for Christmas, we remember and share the joy you offer us. Help us every day to see and feel your presence among us. We pray in faith. Amen.**

**All Sing:**      *Come Now O God of Peace* (seated)      **VU #34**

**Come now, O God of joy,**

**we are your people;**

**pour out your spirit**

**that we be one body.**

## **ADVENT STUDY – THE NATIVITY**

### **A Gathering for Gospels, Goodies and Guitar**

**Tuesday December 18 at 10:30 am, – Friendship Room**

Everyone is invited to attend the last Advent Study on the Nativity. We will explore the biblical accounts of the birth of Christ while nibbling on cookies, sipping on tea and singing some Christmas tunes. No preparation or materials are needed. You are most welcome!