

Welcome to the worship service of
St. Andrew's United Church, Chalk River, Ontario
on this **3rd Sunday of Advent/JOY/White Gift Sunday**
Kindly enter this time centering on God, prepare to meet God.
The musical prelude is to assist you in this quiet meditative time.

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY

MUSICAL PRELUDE

INTROIT: "Joy Shines as the Solitary Star" (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.

LIGHTING of the ADVENT CANDLE/CALL TO WORSHIP

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (VU 1) verse 1

(The first and second Advent candles are lit)

Who do you say Jesus is?

For some of us, Jesus is a sunflower. Like the sun we turn to Jesus for energy and strength. As a team player, Jesus is a great coach who offers leadership, correction, and encouragement. (Time of silence when we consider who Jesus is for us personally). We wait for Jesus, the bright morning star, who brings joy, at his rising.

(The third Advent candle is lit)

We wait for Jesus as we pray: **God of the unexpected and undreamt: You have called us here in this holy season, instill your joy in our hearts. Prepare us again so we can hear the song of the angels and see again the beckoning star. Amen** (Celebrate God's Presence 1G003)

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (VU 1) verse 6

WORDS OF GREETING: Psalm 126:1-3

WELCOME

AS WE ARE CALLED TO WORSHIP, WE PRAY: Loving God, we rejoice in this season of anticipation as we remember your promises and look forward to ways you are revealed to us. We heard the call this morning. May your presence be real to us this hour. We give thanks that you have called us into community and commissioned us to make a difference in our world. We are here to be equipped for the tasks you set before us, our prayers are in Jesus name. Amen

Opening Hymn: "Hark the Glad Sound" VU 29

CALL TO PRAY FOR JOY:

THREADS OF JOY: (VU 63) God of stable, stars, and surprises, of light and hope and new life: open our eyes and hearts to your presence in our world; forgive our obsession with property and possessions; forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision. Open us to your grace, that we might hear again the song of the angels, and respond with a song in our hearts, and in our lives. Help us find joy, in ourselves. Amen.

ASSURANCE:

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

MESSAGE: "Where does JOY come from?"

HYMN: "On Jordan's Bank" VU 20

RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL

LIFE AND WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

WHITE GIFTS - AN INVITATION TO ACTION:

OFFERTORY PRAYER: In our unworthiness, O God, may we yet bring worthy gifts to honor the Messiah. May the broken hearted be led to enriching new celebrations. May the lowly among us come to know their true worth as persons chosen to do great things. By your mercy, may the hungry be fed not only with bread but also with opportunities to feed others. We give ourselves with our gifts. Thank you, God, for expecting great things of us. Our spirits are joyful. Amen.

"Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" VU 400

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER:

CLOSING HYMN: "Once in Royal David's City" VU 62

BLESSING/SENDING

Three-fold Amen

"Go Now in Peace" VU 964

WORSHIP NOTES:

1. Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy adapted from www.united-church.ca/worship-theme/advent-unwrapped Advent Candle Lighting Liturgies: Who Do You Say Jesus Is? © 2019 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Licensed under Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial Share Alike Licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/2.5/ca>.
2. Offertory Prayer adapted/reprinted by permission of United Church Press from *Led by Love* by Lavon Baylor. Copyright 1966 by United Church Press



Thank you to everyone for the joy filled donations to the Mitten Tree and the Food Bank.

Upcoming Services: Sunday, Dec. 20th Communion Celebration 10:30am
Thurs. Dec. 24th Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 7:00pm
Please let Gayle Barks know if you plan to attend the Christmas Eve Service and have not been contacted as seating is limited due to COVID restrictions.