

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Advent Pastoral (*James Southbridge*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Paula Hanna

INTROIT Joy Shall Come
(Israeli traditional *arr. Darryl Nixon*)

CALL TO WORSHIP
Come among us, God,
source of life and heart of all —
so that we may know your love.
Come among us, God,
wrapped in human flesh —
**so that we may touch and see
and hear your love.**
Come among us, God,
blowing bubbles of joy and hope —
**may we become your joy,
your love in the world.**
Come among us, God, be with your people —
as we come to worship you!

***HYMN** O Come, O Come Emmanuel VU 1 vss 1-5

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING LITURGY
Marcia Thompson, Kathie Blackman, Craig Arnold

On this third Sunday of Advent, we come with joy
as a community of faith.

We watch, we wait, we wonder.
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 with its intricate,
always-unique pattern, or in the many snowflakes that
comprise the softly falling snow, or in the play and
laughter of children.
**We embrace joy as we anticipate the birth of Jesus,
Mary’s new boy.**
As we light the third candle, we take a moment to
breathe in the Spirit of Joy.
(The pink candle is lit.)

Let us pray...
**God of joy, on this third Sunday of Advent, may we
bask in the joy of the season, the joy we find in
relationships, the joy of gathering in our community
of faith and being with those we love, and the joy that
awaits us in the coming of Jesus. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE Hope Is a Star VU 7
**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.**

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Philippians 4:4-7 (*p. 198 Pew Bible NT*)
(Rejoice in God always! Again, I say, rejoice!) Jackie Catto

ANTHEM Every Valley (*John Ness Beck*)

GOSPEL Luke 3:7-18 (*p.60 Pew Bible NT*)
(John proclaims the Good News to the people.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Good News to the People

***HYMN** Good Christian Friends, Rejoice VU 35

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD
OFFERTORY Manger Medley (Cradle Song/
Away in a Manger/Silent Night) (*arr. Bill Galliford*)
Susan Guido, trumpet

DEDICATION In the Bleak Midwinter (*Tune: 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.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing

PRAYER PRELUDE We Call to You O God (*Mayberry/Kai*)
**We call to You, O God, in faith and with open heart,
hear our prayer. We call to You, O God, in faith
and with open heart, hear, hear our prayer.
Hear, hear our prayer.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER
VU p. 910

* **HYMN** There's A Voice in the Wilderness VU 18

* **COMMISSIONING**

God of the watching ones,
the waiting ones,
the slow and suffering ones;
the angel in heaven,
the child in the womb.

**Give us your benediction, your good word
for our spirits, that we might rest and rise
in the kindness of your company.**

* **SUNG BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary Star
Joy shines as the solitary star. MV 220
Faith is the inner light.
**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.**

POSTLUDE Angels Medley (Angels from the Realms
Of Glory/Angels We Have Heard on High)
(Smart/Traditional arr. Bill Galliford) Susan Guido, trumpet



Mission and Service

Helping Refugees

This past year, Wesley supported over 1,000 newcomers from Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, and other countries.

This is the story of one family of refugees.

Christine is a courageous and resilient mother who has been through unspeakable danger and sorrow to ensure the safety and success of her family. Christine, her children, and her grandchildren can teach us about self-sacrifice, endurance, and dedication to those we love. Initially from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Christine and her family fled to a refugee camp in Zimbabwe after a violent attack in their village. They lived through deplorable conditions and danger for ten years before finally being granted asylum in Canada. When Christine and her family arrived in Canada, they were exhausted and emotionally drained from their long journey and years of unrest. Their first stop was Wesley's Newcomer Reception Centre, where they found support from Wesley staff and a comfortable place to rest. With the help of Wesley's programs and services, the family is rebuilding their lives in the Hamilton region.

Christine's dream for her children and grandchildren is to have a safe and bright future filled with opportunities. Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, Wesley can provide supportive programs to newcomers, those experiencing homelessness, addiction and mental health barriers, and local families experiencing poverty.

With your support of [Mission and Service](#), we can change lives. Thank You!



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.



AURORA UNITED CHURCH



An Affirming Congregation

Church Office 905-727-1935
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



ADVENT 3 —JOY
December 15, 2024
11:00 am

The third Sunday of Advent is traditionally called 'Gaudette' or 'Rejoice Sunday', marked for Joy. Today a pink candle will be lit to remind us to rejoice in this time of the year as we await the coming of the Christ Child.

O come, O come, Emmanuel vs 1-5

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear.

R Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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. **R**

O come, O come, great God of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. **R**

O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them that trust your mighty power to save and give them victory o'er the grave. **R**

O come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. **R**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

There's a Voice in the Wilderness

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God! The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where God, our God, may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up to the heights and sing! Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King. Like the flowers of the field they perish, like grass our works decay; the power and pomp of nations shall pass, like a dream, away.

But the word of our God endureth, whose arm is ever strong; God stands in the midst of nations, and soon will right the wrong. God shall feed the flock like a shepherd, the lambs so gently hold; to pastures of peace will lead them, and bring them safe to fold.

There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways untrod: prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God! The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low; make straight all the crooked places where God, our God, may go!

