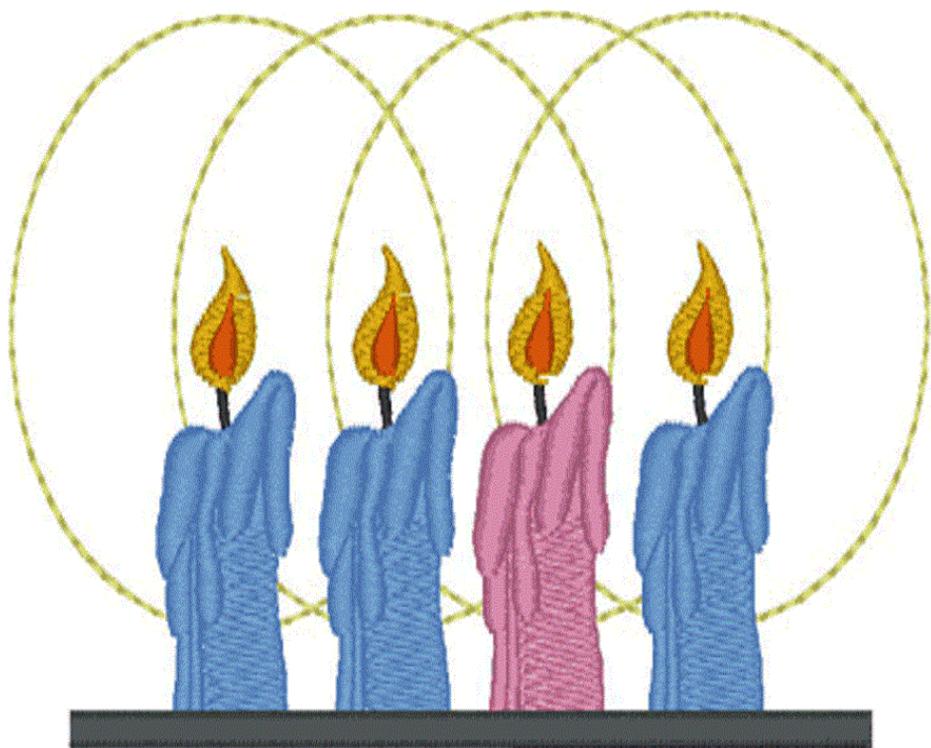


St. David's United Church
December 16, 2018
Advent of Joy



Joy

in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

COMMUNITY NEWS AND GREETING

ENTRANCE INTO WORSHIP

And the prophet said, "A young woman will conceive and bear a child, and the child will be called Emmanuel, a name which means 'God is with us.'"

Advent summons us with the exuberant hopefulness of a child.

It holds us spellbound with child-like wonder.

It challenges us to care for all of God's children.

We wait, amazed, for God made known to us in a tiny child.

OPENING HYMN

We are Pilgrims

VU #595

1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,

Speak the peace you long to hear.

4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY

Today we light the Advent candle of joy.

(Two blue & then the pink candle is lit)

**We welcome the light of joy, the light of joy felt by the young
parents at the birth of their boy child.**

Jesus said "Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and
you will receive, so that your joy may be complete."

**This is the joy of children's laughter. It is the joy of kindness
between strangers, the joy that reaches out to those who
struggle, the joy of giving and receiving love.**

Come, God of Life, beacon of joy on this Advent journey, shine in our hearts.

We receive the light of joy.

HYMN RESPONSE

A Candle is Burning

vs. 3 VU #6

3 A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

ADVENT PRAYER

**God of the unexpected, give us the wisdom to see meaning in
these busy days. Give us the compassion to wait for one
another. Give us faith to wait for the Messiah when we are
threatened by the Herods of this world. Give us hope to wait for
the saviour even when we cannot hear the angels singing. Give
us the love that does not wait when it meets Christ in our
neighbour. Amen.**

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFT

Let us present our offering given from the heart of full of joy - joy powerful enough to transform the world during this season of goodwill and love.

OFFERTORY

Silent Night

Arr. K. Snell & D. Hidy

RECEPTION OF OFFERING AND DEDICATION HYMN

(Tune VU #344)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures high and low
Give thanks to God in love made known
Creator, Word and Spirit one

PRAYERS OF THE HEART & THE LORD'S PRAYER SUNG

VU #959

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil

for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever.

SCRIPTURE READING

The Sign of Emmanuel - Isaiah 7:13-17

ANTHEM

All Earth is Waiting

VU #5

- 1 All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,
and open furrows await the seed of God.
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.
- 2 Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'
One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be,
through whom hope will blossom once more
within our hearts.
- 3 Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,
open new highways, new highways for our God,
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,
and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.

- 4 In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.

REFLECTION AND RESPONSE

**We thank you God, for giving us food
We thank you God for giving us food
For the food we eat and the friends we meet
We thank you God, for giving us food.**

POSTLUDE

*Gloria
Organ – Bruce Clark*

Wold

**Join us this evening at 7:30 pm for our evening
compline. Pre-service organ recital to begin at
7:00 pm.**

**GROWING AND DEEPENING OUR LIVES THROUGH
WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL NURTURE
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

December 21 at 7:00 pm in the TM Room

All are welcome

ADVENT OF LOVE

December 23, 2018

Lessons & Carols and Christmas Communion

Notice of Congregational Meeting

December 23, 2018

Immediately after worship

We need to have a short (15 minutes) congregational meeting to pass a motion to deal with the appointment and removal of Trustees for St. David's before year end. According to St. David's bylaws Trustee appointments and resignations must be approved at a congregational meeting.

COMFORT AND LOVE VIA A PRAYER SHAWL

The prayer shawl group invites people to take a prayer shawl, card, and bag to someone who may need some tender comfort, care, love and support this Christmas season. The shawls are displayed at the back of the sanctuary. Donations to the Prayer Shawl ministry are appreciated.

♪ Here We Go A Wassailing ♪ December 30, 2018 at 10:00 am

On December 30st at 10:00 a.m. we invite you to fill your cups with some warm wassail to sip on while we gather in the sanctuary for an informal Christmas worship experience!

All are welcome to bring a short (1-3 minute) anecdote, story, poem or song to share, a favorite Christmas carol request from the hymn book, or to simply come and receive what the morning has to offer.

If you are able to help out by bringing a batch of wassail in a crock pot that morning, we would be very grateful and would love to provide you with a recipe! Please contact Alison to answer any questions you may have and/or to receive a wassail recipe.

We hope this will be a warm, beautiful Christmas worship that highlights all that makes this season special, touching, and meaningful and we look forward to receiving all who come “a wassailing.”

BAPTISM SUNDAY CELEBRATION

– January 27, 2019

On Sunday, January 27 we are planning to have a worship service honoring and celebrating the sacrament of baptism. In preparation for this exciting event we are inviting people to consider if they would like to be baptized on that Sunday morning. This will be a baptism service celebrated by the entire community.

If you would like to be baptised or have children baptized or would like to reaffirm your faith, please contact Peggy McDonagh, Alison Demeter or the office.

WELCOME TO ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH

We hope that your heart is touched, your faith inspired, and your spiritual life deepened in this gathering time and worship experience. If you are visiting for the first time please know that you are welcome, you are valued, and you enhance this sacred place by your presence.

If you wish to know more about St. David's, please fill in a "Response Card" found at the back of the Sanctuary and place it in the box or the offering plate.

Thank you for making this a scent free environment. It is a joy to have you with us today, you are welcomed and embraced. Please join us following worship in the TM room for conversation, coffee/tea and fellowship. Washrooms are opposite the front entrance and in the basement.

The Rainbow Room Nursery is available for infants to pre-school age, downstairs at the end of Robertson Hall.

OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Voices United hymn book, at the back of the church, or from an usher. If you would like to have contribution envelopes, please contact the office. Tax receipts are issued at the end of the year for all identified donations and offerings. If you give through PAR, PAR cards are available from the ushers to be placed on the offering plate as a symbol of your offering given through PAR.

PRAYER CONCERNS The prayer chain is committed to praying for you in times of crisis for a period of 30 days. Please contact the office or one of the ministers.

FLOWERS enhance our church services each Sunday. Remember loved or joyous occasions all year with donations to the flower fund. Dedications are placed in the worship folder.

If anyone has celebrations or events, they wish to have acknowledged in the worship folder or newsletter, please contact the office administrator at the church office at 403 284-2276 or admin@sduc.ca no later than Wednesday at 9:00 a.m.

PASTORAL CARE *If you have any pastoral concerns about yourself or others please contact Peggy McDonagh or Debbie Stockdale at the church office. If you know someone who is in long term care, in hospital or needs a visit, please contact the office.*

We need your help ... in a congregation the size of St. David's it can be difficult to know who has not been present in worship for some time. If you are aware of someone you have not seen for a while, please contact the office or contact the people and let them know that they are missed. As a congregation, we all must be aware of one another and acknowledge those absent to ensure everyone feels cared for and valued. Let us all do our part to keep connected.

THANKS TO THOSE ASSISTING WITH OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Greeters.....December Sacred Service Team
 UshersDecember Sacred Service Team
 Counters.....Bernie Nemeth & Peter Adams
 Reader.....John Wilkes
 Projection.....PSALT Team
 Minute Speak.....ACTS

MINISTRY PERSONNEL

| | | | |
|-----------------|--|--|--------------------|
| Peggy McDonagh | Minister, Congregational Operations and Worship | peggy@sduc.ca | Voice Mail #104 |
| Chantal Winslow | Office Administrator | admin@sduc.ca | Gen Voice Mail |
| Brent Tucker | Music Director | music@sduc.ca | Voice Mail #106 |

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|
| Wayne Holst | Adult Spiritual Development Ministry | asdm@sduc.ca | Voice Mail #113 |
| Alison Demeter | Minister of Families | children@sduc.ca | Voice Mail #109 |
| Wally Pelley | Custodian | | Gen Voice Mail |
| Paige Martin | Accountant | accounting@sduc.ca | Voice Mail #107 |
| Stephanie Price & Trent Burke | Faith Quest Leader | | Voice Mail #110 |
| Debbie Stockdale | Pastoral Care | pastoralcare@sduc.ca | |
| Vanessa Hansen | Nursery | | |

ST. DAVID'S WEEK AT A GLANCE

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|---------------|---|---|
| Sun. Dec 16 | 8:00 am 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:15 am 2:30 pm 7:00 pm | Sacred Service Breakfast – Robertson Hall Sunday Worship – Sanctuary Faith Quest – Robertson Hall Advent Brunch – Robertson Hall Iglesia Ni Cristo Church – Sanctuary & TM Room Evening Compline - Sanctuary |
| Mon. Dec 17 | 12:30 pm 5:30 pm 7:30 pm | Best Beginnings – Robertson Hall Sparks – TM Room Angel Voices - Sanctuary |
| Tues. Dec 18 | 1:00 pm 6:00 pm | LaCocinelle Christmas Party – Robertson Hall Iglesia Ni Cristo Church of Christ – Sanctuary & TM Room |
| Wed. Dec 19 | 9:30 am 7:00 pm | Qigong – Robertson Hall Adult Recreational Choir - Sanctuary |
| Thurs. Dec 20 | 7:00 pm 8:00 pm | Chamber Choir Practice - Sanctuary Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary |

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| Fri. Dec 21 | 4:00 pm 7:00 pm | Anthony Edmunds Music Lessons – Lacombe Blue Christmas Service - TM |
| Sat. Dec 22 | 9:00 am 6:00 pm | Christmas Eve set up – TM & Sanctuary True Light Church – Robertson Hall |
| Sun. Dec 23 | 10:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:30 am 2:30 pm | Sunday Worship – Sanctuary Faith Quest – Robertson Hall Refreshments – TM Room Christmas Eve Rehearsal & Lunch Iglesia Ni Cristo Church – Sanctuary & TM Room |

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