

Nashwaaksis United Church

Sunday December 17th - Third Sunday of Advent

Joy

Liturgical Colour: Blue/Purple

GATHERING TOGETHER

Prayer Requests

Gathering: We Wait For God (Then Let us Sing, add verse each week.)

Greeting (Responsive):

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you

Acknowledgement of Place

Welcome, Announcements, and Celebrations

Call to Worship (Responsive):

When joy and hope seemed illusive, God made a way.

From distant lands and exile God brought the people home.

From near and far we come together as God's people.

We bring our songs and stories, our struggles and sacrifices.

To build the church, not of bricks and mortar as of old, but with ourselves, the living stones.

**In worship we shout with our ancestors, "God is good, for
God's steadfast love endures forever,"**

and experience the comfort and joy that comes from God's presence.
So come, for now is the time to worship!

Prayer of the Day

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound VU 29

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive):

When darkness grows, Hope reminds us that it only takes a spark to scatter shadows.

**When darkness grows, Peace reminds us that we carry that
spark and shine brightest together.**

(light HOPE & PEACE candle)

And when we share that light with one another, we experience the Joy at the core of our creation.

**Because we were created to be in community, in relationship.
Joy is finding one another.**

It's hearing God's call to serve, giving of ourselves eagerly for the building up of the kingdom.

**It's serving our kindred in this world and knowing that each
hand reaching out is Christ's own hand, that each smile is
Christ's own smile.**

Joy is being a mirror to reflect God's love light on the world,
so that none are lost and alone in the dark.

(light JOY candle)

We light this candle because our Joy in the Lord is overflowing within us and we cannot help but share the news:

Christ is alive in us. Christ is coming soon.

Candle Lighting Verse: A Candle Is Burning VU 6 (vs 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.**

A New Creed (Unison)

Time For The Young And Young At Heart

SEEKING GOD'S WORD

Sung Prayer of Illumination: Kindle a Flame VU 19 (X3)

**Kindle a flame, to lighten the dark
And take all fear away.**

Scripture:

Luke 2:25-32

Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13

Ministry of Music: The Gift

RESPONDING TO WITH PRAISE

Dedication Verse: In the Bleak Midwinter VU 55 (vs 4)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him -- give my heart.**

Prayer of Dedication (Responsive):

For all that we are,

thank you, God of joy.

For all that we have,

thank you, God of joy.

For all that we are becoming,

thank you, God of joy.

Our gifts of time, talent, and treasure we lift to you, from the blessings
you have given us

**Thank you, God of joy. Bless us again, and bless what we bring
for the fulfillment of your word and our Joy. AMEN**

Hymn: Joy to the World

VU 59

Prayers Of The People & The Prayer Of Christ

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE WAY

Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High VU 38

Commissioning (Responsive):

We go from worship to waiting,

but not a passive waiting.

Let your words and actions testify to God's promise, for the joy of God
is coming and is here.

**We are bearers of God's joy,
workers of the promise,
so that hope and peace,
love and mercy may reign.
Amen.**

Benediction

Closing Music: Hope is a Star VU 7 (vs 3)

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Savior 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.**

Postlude