

# St. Paul's United Church

December 13th, 2020 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Joy Sunday

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

*Mission Statement: To glorify God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and serving others in Christ's name.*

**Centering Passage:** *When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'*

-Luke 4:16-21

## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Prelude

### Greeting:

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.**

### Welcome & Announcements

### Call to Worship (Responsive):

We come today to continue on the road.

**It is a journey of faith, of preparation, of Joy.**

We enter into this time to be transformed.

**We enter into this time to ready our hearts.**

Let us open ourselves to a Joy that comes with Christ breaking into our lives.

**Let us worship our God together.**

### Prayer of the Day

### Hymn:

Spirit Open our hearts

MV 79

### Wreath Lighting Liturgy:

Holy Presence, you have led us to this moment in time, reassuring us when we face uncertainty prodding us into action when we become hesitant and fearful, and comforting us when we are in the midst of surprising changes, both great and small Be with us as we continue our journey through Advent. May we be aware of the ways

in which faith is a constant journey, a pathway on which we seek new meaning and new opportunities to experience God. Hear us, God, as we offer our personal prayers at this time.

### Silent confession

Even within the deepening shadows of this season, the light of God abounds. We are a pilgrim people, we set out on journeys that lead to new insights and reveal new experiences, knowing that God will be with us wherever we go.

**Let us not be discouraged.**

**Let us be open to the light.**

**Let us give thanks to God, now and always. Amen.**

**Today's Scripture:** Isaiah 61:1-11

This is the Word of our God.

**Praise be to you, O Creator.**

### Message

Joy in our Calling

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

**This day we give not only of our treasures but our very selves for the building of your kingdom. We do this joyfully knowing that you bless all that we give, all that we are. We thank you for the opportunity to serve you in our lives and our neighbours throughout creation. We offer this and all our prayers in the strong name of Christ our companion on the way. AMEN**

### Welcome of New Members

### Statement of Purpose

### Presentation of Candidates for Baptism & New Members

Jane Banks, Eric Hotte, Tammy Landry, Ron Yateman, Linda Burton, and Rob Burton

### Commitment of New Members

### Congregational Commitment (Responsive)

Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

**As your kindred in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you**

**bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support.**

**With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.**

### Profession of Faith (Unison)

**We are not alone,**

**we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Act of Baptism**

#### **Welcome (Responsive)**

Let us offer a heart-felt welcome to our siblings in faith:

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the  
privileges and responsibilities of membership in this  
community of faith. We give thanks to God for your  
witness among us.**

#### **Blessing (Responsive)**

The grace of Christ attend you,  
**the love of God surround you,**  
the Holy Spirit keep you.

**AMEN**

### **Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:**

Joyful, Joyful

VU 232

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,  
God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you,  
opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,  
drive our fear and doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness,  
fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,  
earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you,  
center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain,  
sound their praise eternally.

You are giving and forgiving,  
ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living,  
ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing,  
let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other,  
lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus  
which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us,  
joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music lifts us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.

### **SENDING FORTH**

#### **Commissioning (Responsive):**

Go now and bring the Joy that comes with Christ to a world seeking relief.

**With the Word we have been given we will go. We will go  
with dancing and with song.**

Be a beacon of Joy in your life and the lives around you.

**With the Joy that Christ brings out in us, we will kindle  
the same light in others.**

#### **Benediction**

#### **Postlude**

## *St. Paul's United Contact Information*

**Eric Hotte Church Manager** is in the church Sunday through Thursday. The office would love to hear from you!

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