

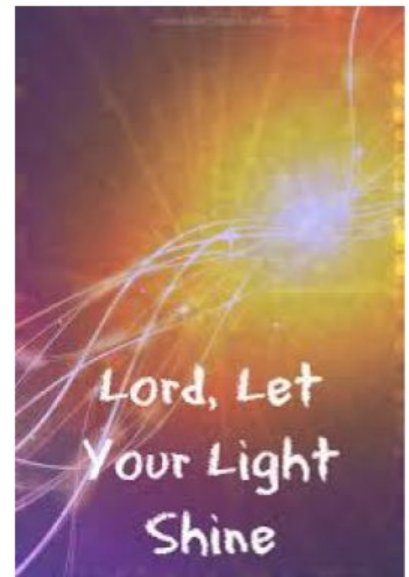


Third Sunday of Advent - B
December 13, 2020

Key Scripture John 1:7

He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

Theme - Others Believe Through You



Sing in the Season

55 "In The Bleak Midwinter" vs 1 and 4

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

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.

62 "Once In Royal David's City" vs 1 and 2

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle-shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.

Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who, with God is over all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Welcome and Announcements

Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

- Trinity is an Affirming Congregation

Congregational Notes -

Christmas Cards are available for sale as gift packs.

Jan Montgomery will be in the front foyer for those who wish to purchase. We ask that if you do wish to purchase cards, that you linger in the Sanctuary until the folk who wish to go straight home have cleared the lower hallway.

The Spiritual Leadership Team is hosting an **Advent Study - *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent***. Wednesdays at 2:00 pm. A few may meet in person if remote is not an option. Please let the Minister know if you would like to participate remotely and an invitation to Google Meet will be sent.

The Longest Night - A Worship Service of Hope, Strength, & Community - Winter Solstice will be held on **21 December, at 6:30 pm**. While the content and intent will remain, COVID-19 will cause us to modify the format. We will meet in the main Sanctuary and your candle(s) will be lit by proxy.

Gift Cards are for sale through the office and can be ready for pickup on Sundays or by arrangement.

Christmas Eve Services

24 December

- Children's Service 4:30 pm will be virtual
- Family Service 7:30 pm will be in the sanctuary
 - o Please pre-register
- Late Night Communion Service 10:30 pm will be virtual

Our Stewardship Team is praying for a Christmas Miracle

Please consider Pre-Authorized Payments (PAR) as a consistent way to support the congregation

If a lunch delivered to your home would be helpful, we will serve as we are able. Our Lunch volunteers pray over each bag. Call Cynthia Sirett or Betty Lou for details

Masks are available at the church Tuesday and Saturday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm and Sunday morning prior to worship.



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and COVID-19 emergency funds.

Two Guys for Lunch are active partners with us in this community service.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Introit 47 "Still, Still, Still" vs. 3

Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!
For through God's holy incarnation
Christ is born for our salvation.
Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!

Call to Worship

In this time of worship, we remember God is with us.

God is with us in joy and in sorrow.

In Jesus, God reshapes the past, present and future.

We wait for something new to emerge.

In this time of worship, we await the birth of Jesus.

We wait with hope, preparing to rejoice.

Lighting of the

Christ Candle

Advent Candle - Joy

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it

We are easily distracted by darkness, despair or pessimism.

**Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with
your life-giving Joy.**

Prayer of Gathering

Loving God, Healing Spirit,

You approach us with kindness.

You look kindly on us.

Your care for this world is greater than we could ask -

You bring order from chaos.

You turn weeping into laughter.

You turn sorrow into joy,
and death into new life.

You redeem all that appears lost,
making all things new.

And so we come to you in joy,
resting from our work and responsibilities,
trusting you to bring peace amid anxiety
and hope in uncertain times.

Receive our worship
as we anticipate the difference your gifts will make to us
through Christ, your Son and our Saviour. **Amen.**

Hymn 18 "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 world 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.

Learning with Children

Children's Prayer

Call to Confession

John the Baptizer called people to repent
and so we join together in confession, seeking God's grace.

Prayer of Confession

We confess these days we easily become preoccupied with statistics and case numbers.

**Opportunities to say thanks, to offer encouragement,
to remember each other in friendship, slip by.**

Anxiety turns us inward and smoulders.

Forgive us for neglecting the joy at the heart of the Advent season.

**Turn our hearts to you,
and inspire us with your love made flesh in Jesus.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are a new creation. There is nothing we have done, nothing we could ever do, that can separate us from the love of God shown to us in Christ.

Know that you are forgiven, and with this joyful truth, have the courage to forgive one another.

Scripture

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11;

Psalm 126 (VU850);

1 Thessalonians 5:16–24; (Benediction)

John 1:6–8, 19–28

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,

and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

Psalm 126 (VU850)

Refrain -

**We praise the One who gave the growth,
with voices full and strong.**

When God brought Zion's captives home,
it seemed to us like a dream.

**But then our mouths were full of laughter,
And our tongues uttered shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations:

“God has done great things for them.”

**Truly God has done great things for us,
And therefore we rejoice.**

Refrain -

**We praise the One who gave the growth,
with voices full and strong.**

Restore our fortunes, O God, as streams refresh the Negev.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying seed for sowing,

**Shall come home with songs of joy,
bringing in their sheaves.**

Refrain -

**We praise the One who gave the growth,
with voices full and strong.**

John 1:6–8, 19–28

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?”

He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, “I am not the Messiah.”

And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.”

“Are you the prophet?”

He answered, “No.”

Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’”

as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, “Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?”

John answered them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”

This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Meditation "Chorale on 'Humility'" (Archer)

Reflection Others Believe Through You

Hymn 76 "See Amid The Winter's Snow"

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
see, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain-

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn; hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Lo, within a stable lies God who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim.

Refrain-

Say, ye humble shepherds, say what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep?

Refrain-

As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth' told us of a Saviour's birth."

Refrain-

Sacred infant, all divine, what a mighty love was thine,
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this!

Refrain-

We Respond to God's Word

Offering Ourselves For The Work And Witness Of The Church

Invitation to Offering

This Sunday, the Advent theme is Joy. Think of this offering as our opportunity to spread joy. Rejoice in the Lord and give thankfully.

Offering Prayer

God of justice and joy, we bring our gifts to you in gratitude for your goodness. Bless these gifts and use them to create justice and bring joy into the world in Jesus' name. Amen.



Hymn 71 "T'was In The Moon Of Wintertime"

Tw'as in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled

That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim
and wondering hunters heard the hymn,
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round
But as the hunter braves drew nigh
the angel song rang loud and high
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

O children of the forest free, O seed of Manitou
The holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come kneel before the radiant boy
who brings you beauty peace and joy.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.

Prayers of the People

Come, Jesus,
Enter our lives with your blessing.
We await the peace you bring.
Draw near to us in friendship and faithfulness
so that in this season which combines celebration in the
face of uncertainty,
we may know your presence...
and sing with all your people -

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come, Jesus,
Be our guide,
show us the way to wisdom and gratitude.
We are thankful for the kindness we know in friends and neighbours,
in warm houses and warm smiles,
which hold off the darkness.
Encourage us to reach out to those who need your embrace
so that together we may sing of your presence -

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come, Jesus,
Be our hope
touch us with your healing and grace.
We remember those we know and those know to you alone
who are living with loss or illness this season,
those who face depression or discouragement,
and all who will find it hard to be merry this year.

Shine the light of your comfort into their lives
as we sing of the hope that dawns in your love -

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Come, Jesus,
Be our king
and claim our hearts.
Our world awaits the justice and mercy you bring.
Draw near to our leaders and all who work for peace and justice,
and those striving to contain the pandemic.
Encourage honourable action and co-operation.

Give hope to people under oppression
and to those who live with fear or hunger.
Hasten the day when the world's peoples will live as neighbours
reconciled in your truth and freedom.
For the coming of this day we pray in the words Jesus taught us -

The Lord's Prayer

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn 59 "Joy To The World"

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding
joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction 1 Thessalonians 5:16–24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;

for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Do not quench the Spirit.

Do not despise the words of prophets,

but test everything;

hold fast to what is good;

abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace sanctify you entirely;

and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Choral Amen

Postlude "In Dulci Jubilo" (Bedard) Variation 4