



Third Sunday of Advent - C
December 12, 2021

Key Scripture - Zephaniah 3:15

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

Theme - Judgement to Joy



Welcome and Announcements

- † Newcomers please sign our guestbook
- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † With a view to lowering risk and lifting capacity limits, Trinity has adopted a Vaccination Mandate. Proof of Vaccination, therefore, is required for all in person activities and gatherings including Worship.
 - Capacity Limits are lifted
 - Masks are still required
- † We continue to pray for those who were impacted by the legacy of Indian Residential Schools.

gifts with **vision**

† Gifts with Vision is a response to member requests to be able to give gifts to relatives, friends, and loved ones that are in direct support of the church's Mission & Service partners. Catalogues at the front door highlight the possibilities.

Salvation Army Christmas Campaign - Our friends at the Salvation Army are requesting that we collect toys for the Angel Tree Program. They are also very much in need of kettle volunteers to stand by kettles for 2 hour shifts.

Christmas Cards will also be available for sale as gift packs.

There are 28 sets of cards that can be sold. Each has six individual cards and envelopes. They will be sold at a price of \$10.00 for the package. All revenue goes to the Church general fund.

Looking Ahead

13 December, 1:00pm - The Spiritual Leadership Team is hosting a book study, **Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey.**

- [Video call link](#)

15 December, 9:30am - The Spiritual Leadership Team is hosting an **Advent Study - *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent.*** We may meet in person and [remotely](#) by computer or by phone. Please let the Office know if you would like to participate.

21 December, 6:30pm - The Longest Night, A Worship Service of Hope, Strength, and Community

24 December -

Children's Service - Remote. You will find it posted to Facebook.

Lessons and Carols, 7:30pm

Candlelight Communion, 10:30pm

The Spiritual Leadership Team is initiating plans for Confirmation this Spring.

Cookie Sales After Church -

The Kitchen Coordinators and helpers are selling cookies by the dozen after church today and next Sunday. There are many delicious varieties. You may leave a free-will offering. All funds raised will go to the life and work of Trinity United Church. Enjoy some scrumdolious cookies.

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

Singing in the Season

62 Once in Royal David's City

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.

60 O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Refrain -

***O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

God of God,
light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb,
very God, begotten, not created:

Refrain -

***O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***

Interlude "Unto Us A Boy Is Born" (arr. Young)

*Lighting of the Christ Candle
Lighting of the Advent Candle*

"The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more." Zephaniah 3:15

When confusion claims us
When we feel unable to do anything right
The Holy invites us to be faithful
And we find Joy

(Joy candle is lit)

Where in the world do we find Joy these days?

Call to Worship

The Lord, our God, is in our midst.

Let us sing out loud and shout our praises!

God rejoices over us with gladness and renews us with love.

We rejoice with all our hearts at what the Lord has done!

With joy, we draw water from the well of salvation in this time of worship.

God is our salvation; we will trust and have no fear.

Opening Prayer

God of Joy and Justice,

We will always rejoice in you.

You are our strength and our song.

You gather those who have strayed from you and welcome them back to your side.

You bring healing to those who are broken in body and spirit,
and draw close to those who walk alone.

Through your great love and mercy,

you transform us all into more than we ever thought we could be.

We will trust in you and not be afraid.

With joy, we sing of your glory

and proclaim your saving power to those near and far.

Receive our prayers and praise this day,

for you alone are worthy, God most holy.

Hymn 213 Rejoice The Lord is King

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your risen Lord adore!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing
and triumph evermore:

Refrain -

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!***

Jesus the Saviour reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our sins,
he took his seat above.

Refrain -

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!***

God's kingdom cannot fail;
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given.

Refrain -

***Lift up your heart, lift up your voice;
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!***

Rejoice in glorious hope,
for Christ, the Judge, shall come
to glorify the saints
for their eternal home:

We then shall hear the archangel's voice;
the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

Time With Children

Joy, Third Sunday of Advent

Mary and Joseph, who was from the family of David, travelled to Bethlehem (the City of David) while Mary was pregnant with Jesus.
Luke 2:4



Children's Prayer

Jesus, you are joy even in the saddest times.

Help us to praise you when we are upset or grieving.

Shine joy into our hearts we pray. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All knowing God,

**We know perfect joy comes through you,
yet we seek it out in lesser ways.**

In search of comfort, we indulge our desires.

In search of love, we hide from our faults.

In search of approval, we spend beyond our means.

Forgive us for seeking satisfaction in wanderings.

**Help us turn again to you, our source of joy,
and guide us to discover what is
honourable,
just, and
pleasing
in your sight. Amen.**

Words of Assurance

The scriptures say, “Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.” The forgiveness we seek is ours through the grace of Jesus Christ. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, be with you.

Scripture Zephaniah 3:14–20
 Philippians 4:4–7
 Luke 3:7–18

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The Lord, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors

at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the Lord.

Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always;

again I will say, Rejoice.

Let your gentleness be known to everyone.

The Lord is near.

Do not worry about anything,

but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving

let your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke 3:7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”

In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”

Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”

He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”

Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?”

He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing

fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Meditation "The Shepherd Pipe" (Martin)

Reflection Judgement to Joy

Hymn 48 Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing ,
"Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain -

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity.
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain -

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.

Refrain -

***Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"***

Invitation to the Offering

We make our offering today with joyful hearts, anticipating our celebration of God's gift to us in Jesus. Know that our gifts may touch lives in deep need this season with the joy we have received in Jesus' name.

Offering Prayer

Just and joyful God, we bring our gifts with hearts that rejoice in your goodness to us, in Christ and in creation. Send your Holy Spirit to bless them and us with the power to shine the light of Jesus into lives where faith can turn despair into joy.

Hymn 8 Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose, e'er blooming,
 from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming
 as seers of old have sung.
It came a blossom bright,
 amid the cold of winter
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
 the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it,
 the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
 she bore for us a Saviour
when half-spent was the night.

Prayers of the People

Our Strength and Salvation,
We come with joy and thanksgiving
 as the beauty of this season unfolds with starry nights and
sparkling snow,
 with faces that smile and generosity that grows
 even after a long, hard year of pandemic struggles.
With the kindness of your Spirit,
 awaken opportunities for understanding to emerge among
those who have differed,
 and refresh our community and congregation with joyful
anticipation
 that your gift to us in Christ can change everything.

Generous God,
 Send joy to the world again.

Tender God,

We delight in the joy you bring into our lives and neighbourhoods
through our life together in Christ, and through the love of
family and friends.

These gifts have sustained us through stressful times
and we thank you.

We pray for those who are finding it hard to be joyful this year,
remembering those facing illness in spirit, mind, or body,
and those waiting for diagnosis or treatment, as anxiety grows.

We pray for those who are lonely or in mourning,
and all who have been touched by tragedy and violence.

We pray for those searching for work,
struggling with rising costs,
worried deeply about their security.

We pray for those working to bring justice
to the discouraged and defeated,

and those doing their best to care for the earth you love, despite
the challenges.

Use us to bring joy to others
through our friendship, generosity and understanding.

Generous God,

Send joy to the world again.

We remember,

those who suffer from any kind of discrimination,

your children, and our brothers and sisters,
who are humiliated and oppressed.

We pray for those who are denied fundamental human rights,
for those who are imprisoned,
and especially those who are tortured.

Our thoughts rest a few moments with them...

And we pray that your love and compassion may sustain them
always.

We offer our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our hope,
our peace, and our joy, who taught us to pray these words together:

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

[EOORC Prayer Cycle](#)

Bishops-Oxford Pastoral Charge

Oxford Mills United Church
St. Andrew's United Church

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

Setting aside our fears and worries, let us go.

**We will go as God's people,
to remind everyone that God is as close
to them as the beats of their hearts.**

Setting aside our prejudices and assumptions, let us go.

**We will go as Jesus' followers,
to gather up the forgotten and bring them home,
to embrace the lonely as sisters and brothers.**

Setting aside our expectations and demands, let us go.

**We will go graced by the Spirit,
to share with others the waters from God's deep well,
to offer joy which never comes to an end.**

Choral Amen

Postlude "In Dulci Jubilo" (de Pearsall)