



TRINITY
UNITED CHURCH
Smiths Falls, Ontario, Canada

Third Sunday of Advent - B
17 December, 2023

“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.” *John 1:20b, 21*

Welcome and Announcements

- † Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.
 - Trinity is an Affirming Congregation
- † Our building is open 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, Monday through Thursday
(Stat holidays on Mondays, the office is closed)

In person Sunday School is the 2nd and last Sunday of each month
Smiths Falls Community Food Bank appreciates donations.

UCW are selling cookies for a minimum donation of \$5 or more for a container of cookies following the morning service.

UCW Emergency Meeting Monday, December 18th to elect the 2024 UCW Executive, make year end distribution of funds and plan the 2024 Budget. Meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Enjoy an hour of beauty, inspiration and fun in **A Musical Celebration of Christmas at St. Paul's United Church Perth** 2:00 PM Sunday, December 17 th . Hear a dramatic rendition of the Christmas Story sung

by St. Paul's Choir; Rev. Don McLean and Brad Mills performing a cello-piano duet; Joel Leblanc's beautiful baritone voice; a barbershop octet; a jazz combo; and of course some carolling; all followed by light refreshments. Admission by freewill offering.

Christmas Services - Mark the following services on your calendars!

December 21st - Longest Night – 6:30 p.m.

December 24th – Regular Sunday Service – 10:30 a.m.

December 24th – Children's Services – 4:30 p.m.

December 24th – Family Service – 7:30 p.m.

December 24th – Communion – 10:30 p.m.

Gifts with Vision - Gifts with Vision is an excellent way to support those less fortunate by providing a secure supply of food, fresh and clean water, reliable power, a support network, clean laundry, and much more. Visit www.giftswithvision.ca for supported initiatives.

Social Time After Church – Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Individuals or groups are invited to sign-up.

Introit 166 "Joy Comes At The Dawn" vs. 2

Joy comes with the dawn;

Joy comes with the morning sun,

Joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song,

Joy comes with the dawn.

Sorrow will turn,

sorrow will turn into song, and God's laughter makes us strong.

Advent Liturgy Third Sunday in Advent **Joy**

The prophets call and an apostle writes to announce that joy comes from God.

“The spirit of the Lord God is upon me...and has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, ...to comfort all who mourn; ...to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning...”

Isaiah 61

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice.”

Philippians 4

Grief, pain and loss are inevitable. But woven into life is the joy of living in a universe that reflects God’s beauty. Advent provides time to nurture joy in our lives and in the world God loves. Advent calls us to share with others the good news that comes into the world with the birth of Christ.

Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

Jesus Christ comes as joy to the world.

We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

We light this candle to glow for joy.

Introit 166 "Joy Comes At The Dawn" vs. 3

Joy comes with the dawn;

Joy comes with the morning sun,

Joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song,

Joy comes with the dawn.

We will rejoice,

we will rejoice, and give praise, to the One who brings us grace.

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

Call to Worship

In worship, we remember that God is with us.

God is with us in joy and in sorrow.

In Jesus, God reshapes our lives, past, present and future.

We wait with God for something new to emerge.

In this season, we await the birth of Jesus.

We wait in expectation, preparing to rejoice in Jesus' name.

Opening Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of God,

Come upon us, that you may send us out in your power.

Fill us with your grace and goodness,

that we may be able to bring the Good News to the oppressed,

to comfort the broken-hearted, and

to bring liberty and freedom to your people;

through Jesus our Lord,

who lives and reigns with you and the Creator,

for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

Prayer of Confession

Generous God,

It is sometimes hard to see beyond our own lives.

Opportunities to offer encouragement slip by.

Anxiety turns us inward and anger can make us harsh.

**Cause us to see Joy and inspire us with your love made flesh in
Jesus.**

Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus, we are part of God's new creation. God's love makes all things new! Know that you are forgiven by this great love. Now find the courage to forgive one another in Jesus' name.

The Peace

The God of peace sanctify you entirely; may your body, soul and spirit be kept sound and blameless.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Scripture Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
 Psalm 126 (VU850)
 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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

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 "Linus and Lucy" (Guaraldi)

Reflection "Selfless"

Hymn 260 "God, Who Gives To Life Its Goodness"

God who gives to life its goodness,
God creator of all joy,
God who gives to us our freedom,
God who blesses tool and toy;

Teach us now to laugh and praise you,
Deep within your praises sing,
Till the whole creation dances
For the goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty,
God who binds each friend to friend,
God who names us co-creators
God who wills that chaos end;
Grant us now creative spirits,
Minds responsive to your mind,
Hearts and wills your rule extending
All our acts by Love refined.

Invitation to the Offering

The Advent theme is Joy. Scripture and song remind us to rejoice. Your offering as an opportunity to spread joy in God's world. Rejoice in the Lord and give thankfully.

Offering Prayer

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

Anthem "Advent Candlelight Carol" (Page/ Shafferman)

Prayers of the People

Holy Lord,
You come to us, you inspire us, you enable us;
grant that we may proclaim your loving presence and

show your saving power.

Let your church be seen to be working for justice and righteousness,
for liberty and peace;

Lord, that we may live at peace and oppress no one.

Make us instruments of peace within our communities and within our
homes.

Lord of freedom,

hear us.

We remember before you all who are seeking freedom:

we pray for nations burdened with great debt,

for families who have lost their homes, peoples denied
justice.

We pray for all who are suffering from violence or tyranny.

We pray for the work of Amnesty International, we remember all
who care for prisoners.

We pray for any who are hostages at this time

Lord of freedom,

hear us.

Lord, teach us to appreciate what we have and to be aware of all that
is done for us.

Let us not take each other for granted.

Let us hold fast to all that is good and abstain from every form of
evil.

May our homes be homes of holiness and hospitality, of grace and
goodness.

Lord of freedom,

hear us.

We remember in your holy presence, God of liberty,

all whose lives have been diminished by poverty or neglect,
all whose confidence has been lost through harsh treatment
or scorn.

We pray for those who have been betrayed, especially those betrayed
by loved ones.

We remember all who have suffered through robbery or slander.

We pray for all who have lost their dignity through illness.

We remember friends and loved ones in their troubles

We pray that all who are bereaved at this time may be strengthened.

Lord of freedom,
hear us.

Lord, you have done great things for us already, and yet, greater
things are to come.

We pray for all who have departed from us.

May they be numbered with your saints and know the glorious
liberty of the children of God.

Lord of freedom,
hear us.

We pray the prayer you taught us -

The Lord's Prayer - Advent Version -

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of
Peace,

hallowed be your name.

Immanuel, God with us

hallowed be your name.

In us, through us, and around us, your kingdom come

where the wolf will live with the lamb and the lion will feed
with the calf.

Bread of life, feed us with your truth.

For our indifference to the wonder of your coming, forgive us.

Protect us from the constant dangers and enticing temptations we face
each day.

Word who became flesh and lived among us,
we have seen your glory, full of grace and truth.
As You come to us now, and You will come to us again in glory,
when we will join all heaven and earth in giving you blessing
and honor and glory and might forever!

Amen

EOORC Prayer Cycle

First United Church, Ottawa

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and
the Mainland of China

We Depart to Serve in Peace and with Love

Time for the Young

Hymn 50 "He is Born"

Refrain -

*He is born, little Child divine;
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
join to song to announce the day.*

Through long ages of the past,
 prophets have foretold his coming;
thru long ages of the past,
 now the time has come at last!

Refrain -

*He is born, little Child divine;
 play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
 join to song to announce the day.*

O how lovely, O how pure
 is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure
 gracious gift to humankind!

Refrain -

*He is born, little Child divine;
 play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
 join to song to announce the day.*

Lowly lodged in a stable poor,
 laid on straw for his infant cradle.
Lowly lodged in a stable poor,
 God come down to our mortal aid.

Refrain -

*He is born, little Child divine;
 play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
 join to song to announce the day.*

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
 coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
 grant to us your heavenly peace.

Refrain -

***He is born, little Child divine;
 play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
 join to song to announce the day.***

Benediction

Rejoice in the Lord: pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances.

Do not quench the Spirit. Hold fast to what is good, abstain from all evil. And the blessing of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life, be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

Choral Amen / Postlude

"White Christmas"

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
 Just like the ones I used to know
Where the treetops glisten
 And children listen
To hear sleigh bells in the snow

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
 With every Christmas card I write
May your days be merry and bright
 And may all your Christmases be white

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
 Just like the ones I used to know
 Where the treetops glisten
 And children listen
 To hear sleigh bells in the snow

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas
 With every Christmas card I write
 May your days be merry and bright
 And may all your Christmases be white

Recurring Events and Activities at Trinity	
Every Monday, 1:00pm	Book Group
First Monday, 9:30am	UCW
Fourth Monday, 9:30am	Property Team / Church Hall
Every Tuesday, All Day	Pastoral Visitation
First Tuesday, 2:00pm - 3:00pm	Van Horne
First Tuesday, 7:00pm	Outreach and Social Justice
Third Tuesday, 9:30am	Stewardship & Finance Team / Upper Room
Third Tuesday, 6:00pm	Potluck and Praise
Every Wednesday, 9:30am	Bible Study / Seasonal Study
First Wednesday, 1:00pm	Healing Pathway, Smiths Falls
Second Wednesday, 7:00pm	Spiritual Leadership Meeting
Third Wednesday, 1:00pm	Healing Pathway, Perth
Last Wednesday, 7:00pm	Council
Second Friday, 6:00pm	Rainbow 101
Every Sunday, 8:30am	Choir Practice

(Except Second Sunday)	
Second Sunday, 8:30am	Early Communion
Second Sunday, 9:00am	Choir Practice
Second Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 10:30am	Sunday School
Last Sunday, 1:00pm	Lanark Drum Circle