

Sunday –December 16, 2018
Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

* indicates stand as able

We Gather as a Community

9:45 am Carol – Sing Sandra Dean / David Donaldson

Opening Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound VU 29

Lighting of the Advent Candle:¹

“A Joyful Spectrum of Colour: Pink”

Acolytes: Wendy Morrell & Alex Price

Reader 1: God’s world is a rainbow world, a joyful spectrum of colour.

Today, God speaks to us in pink, representing joy and angels.

Reader 2: We long for the Christ to bring colour to a waiting world.

Let us gather in this season of joy.

(Light the first and second blue candles and the pink candle)

Sung Response:² “Take Up This Light” (Tune: MV 213)

Take up this light of joy

And share it with the world.

Take up this light of joy and shine it brightly.

In every moment of the journey

We live the light of Christ

Dare to shine with joy in our lives.

This candle of joy.

Welcome and Greeting /The Life, Work and Mission of the Church

Advent Meditation

Wendy Morrell

Special Music: Joyfully Sing, Welcome the King – Davenport/Larson
Bell Canto

The Lord’s Prayer

* Hymn:

There's a song of Joy in my heart;

Joy is a gift from Jesus.

There's a song of Joy in my heart;

Joy is a gift from God.

Alleluia!

Joy in my heart is singing praises.

Alleluia!

Joy is a gift from God. (CCLI license # 11199365)

(Youth and Children may leave for programme)

We Listen for God’s Word

Prayer for Illumination (together) **Show us the way, O Holy Love, to reshape our lives with your Word of wisdom. Open our hearts to rejoice in renewed relationships so we can look forward to the birth of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

OT Reading: “The Wickedness of Jerusalem and A Song of Joy”

Zephaniah 3: 1-5, 11-20

This reading is part of the third section of the book - judgement and deliverance of Jerusalem. Zephaniah 3:1-8 begins with the judgement because the people have neither trusted nor kept in relationship with God. Each of the categories of leaders are condemned, that is, officials, judges, prophets and priests. The purpose of the judgement was to bring the people to the realisation of their behaviour and enable them to correct their wrong ways. Instead they have continued to go their own way and judgement will be on all the earth. God will act in a different way and will remove only the rebellious ones leaving a remnant. This remnant will seek the will of God and live as the people of God in close covenant relationship. The consequence is behaviour which models the righteousness and justice of God. This movement from judgement to a faithful remnant is the precursor to the joyful proclamation of Zephaniah 3:14-20³

Let us find inspiration from these spoken words. **Thanks be to God!**

¹ Michael Brooks, Bev Buckingham and Gord Dunbar, Gathering Advent/Christmas /Epiphany, 2018-2019.

² Words by Rev. Kim & Abe

³ <http://otl.unitingchurch.org.au/index.php?page=book-of-zephaniah>

Ministry of Music: (Choir) Come, Come, Immanuel - Althouse
Sermon: "Who is Zephaniah?"

**Hymn:* There Was a Child in Galilee MV 134

We Respond in Faith

Advent Prayers of the People

Offering and Offertory Music: (Choir) A Christmas Gloria – traditional
Spanish – Larter (flute- Erin Berard)

**Presentation of Offering and Offertory Hymn:* In the Bleak
Midwinter VU 55

**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.**

* *Offertory Prayer (together)*

We thank you Holy Joy, as we offer our gifts with delight. May our gifts be used for the healing and restoration of broken people and wilderness places. Amen.

We Depart in Peace

**Hymn:* Angels We Have Heard on High VU 38

Sending Forth:

Go into the world with joy.
We are not alone. God is with us.
Joy is promised in these Advent days.
God bless you as you wait. God bless you as you work for joy.
Your rejoicing is blessed. Go in joy! **Amen.**

Departing Music: (Abe & Sandra Dean duet) Caroling with Bach –
arr. Asner

Thanks to Those Assisting with Today's Service

Greeter/Ushers: Karen Doxtater, Nora McGee, Ron Knox

Reader: Karen Doxtater

Welcome Information Centre: June Cuthbert

Sound System: Neil Lowes

Refreshments: Jeff Stoate & Marion Dugas