



NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

December 17, 2023

10:30 am

Third Sunday of Advent

~ Joy ~

Welcome!

"As followers of Christ, we are called to be a worshipping and learning, receiving and giving community of faith, hope and love."

Newcastle United Church Mission Statement

As we gather as a faith community, we acknowledge that we are on sacred land rich in the legacy, culture, and spirituality of the Indigenous people. It is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people. We acknowledge that we live and work on land that is under the Williams Treaty, which has been the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee Nations, as well as many other Indigenous nations. These lands today are under the care of the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nations people.

We acknowledge this land, out of respect for the many Indigenous nations who have cared for the lands and waterways from the beginning of time and continue to do so. Today we are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and to worship on their traditional lands.

We are committed to learn and understand the truth of our shared history, confronting our past and present so that we can strive to build a future together upon true reconciliation, living out what the original ancestors of Turtle Island envisioned: sharing the resources of the land and waterways, and to live in harmony with one another as one people.

Approaching God With Praise

Welcome

Announcements

*** Indicates for congregation to stand as you are able.**

Prelude (A centering time) “God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen” – traditional English Carol

**Lighting The Third Candle of Advent – Joy
(Please remain seated)**

(The first and second Candles of Advent are lit – Hope, and Peace)

L : It's the third Sunday of Advent. We are getting closer to the date we are waiting for - the day we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The Advent wreath is clothed in green, symbolizing life and growth found in Jesus.

This Sunday we light the candle that celebrates joy. The joy that we talk about when we think of Jesus is more than just feelings of happiness: it is also the experience that comes from falling deeper and deeper in love with all of God's creation.

Let us quiet our hearts and take a few moments to go deeper into our relationship with Christ that brings us

joy. Close your eyes or focus on the candles. Breathe gently. Look for the joy that lives in all of us, the joy that comes from knowing that Jesus loves and cares for us and offers us hope for better things to come in this world. Let that joy grow spread throughout your being. Relax and be uplifted by that joy right now.

(A few moments of silence for reflection – The sound of a chime will end the silence)

L: Jesus, help your light to shine in us as joy.
The Third Advent Candle is lit, Joy

A: Jesus, help your light to shine in us as joy.

(<https://united-church.ca/worship-liturgical-season/first-sunday-advent> modified by Rev. B Ransom)

Hymn: (*unannounced*) “A Candle Is Burning” vv. 1, 2, & 3 **VU 6**

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

We are encouraged by Paul to “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and to give thanks in all circumstances.” (Thess. 5:16) Our day-to-day life does not always reflect a joyous life. God of Joy, we seek your presence in a world that is often troubled by pain and wrongdoing. Pull back these clouds of darkness, God, to let your light of hope, peace and joy be seen so that our lips may reflect

the joy you had in mind for us to experience through the birth of the Holy Infant, Jesus. Amen

***Hymn: “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” VU 2**

Listening For The Spirit Of God Through The Word

Scripture Readings:

New Testament: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Response

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

A: We give praise for the presence of God through the Word.

**Musical Minute - Oliver & Gwen Osmond
“Carol of the Bells”**

***Hymn: “Arise, Your Light Has Come” vv. 1-3
VU 79**

Minute for Mission

Conversation Time

**Hymn: “Arise, Your Light Has Come” v. 4
VU 79**

Reflection: “Rejoice?”

Ministry of Music: “Do You Hear What I Hear”

Words & Music by Noël Regney and Gloria Shayne

Our Response To The Living Spirit Of God

Invitation to The Offering

***The Offertory Response: “In The Bleak Midwinter”**

v. 3

VU 55

Dedication Of The Offering

Prayers of the People

***Closing Hymn: “Unto Us A Boy Is Born” VU 54**

****Commissioning & Benediction***

***Sung Blessing - “Go Now In Peace”**

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Words can be found on the screens or in front of Hymn book.



*Flowers in the
Sanctuary have been
placed by the following:*

Dave and Dorothy Bowler

*John and Joanne
Smithson*

Family & Friends

Heather Snoxall

Frank and Eva Hoar

*Heather Griffin
and Frances Cook*

Jean and Jack Holmes

Holmes Family

Ron Munro

Hazel May Munro

In Loving Memory of Neil

Diane and Family

Murray Patterson

Marjorie Patterson

Our Parents

*Donna and Don
Scott*

*Our Fathers,
Don Pringle
Frank Jefferson*

*Lynne and
Richard; Marina,
Melanie, Timothy,
Tessa Jefferson*

David Rickard

*Pearl Rickard and
Family*

Frank and Clara Rickard

*Pearl Rickard and
Family*

Glen Stapleton

*Shirley Stapleton
and Family*

Margaret Tait

Warren Tait

Mothers and Fathers

*Wendy and Roy
Thompson*

