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**Claremont United Church**

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Minister: Rev. Lionel Ketola

Minister of Music: Gabrielle Untermann

**Sunday December 12, 2021, 11:00**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**Holy Communion**

**GATHERING**

*Words of welcome*

**Acknowledgement of the Land**

During this season of Advent, we begin our worship by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land where we are gathered for worship today. These lands remain home to a number of Indigenous nations and people. Their relationship with the land remains central to their lives.

Goodwood United Church lies within the area covered by the Williams Treaties of 1923, between Canada, Ontario, and the Chippewas of Beausoleil, Georgina Island and Rama and the Mississaugas of Alderville, Curve Lake, Hiawatha and Scugog Island First Nations.

**God of Advent hope, awaken us to new opportunities to walk in justice and reconciliation with the First People of this land. Amen.**

**Greeting**

The prophet Zephaniah proclaimed: “Sing aloud, O people of the earth! Rejoice and exult with all your heart!

**May the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all.**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath**

Joy can be elusive.

**In shadowed times, it is difficult for us to find joy.**

The night may feel like it is closing in on us on these shortest days of the year.

**Yet, we believe that joy is possible. We believe that the sun’s light and warmth will return.**

Embracing joy in times of trouble is a choice.

**May we find the strength to choose joy.**

May we let God lead us through the tears to the places and people of joy.

**May joy** **be found in a manger and throughout the world.**

*Three candles are lit.*

**Song response: VU # 7, Hope is a Star, v 1, 2, 3.**

Opening Prayer (in unison)

**This Advent, may we be surprised by joy,**

**O God, as it breaks into our world**

**as sight for the blind and healing for the sick,**

**Freedom for the prisoners and good news for the poor,**

**Liberation for the oppressed and justice for all.**

**As the coming of your Kingdom turns our world’s values inside out, may we discover new life, new wholeness, and deep joy, through Jesus, the one who is to come. Amen.**

**Hymn: VU # 29 Hark the Glad Sound**

**WORD**

Time for the Child in all of us

Song: **I’ve got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy ….**

1. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy... down in my heart to stay

**Refrain:** And I'm so happy, so very happy,

I've got the love of Jesus in my heart (twice)

2. I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus...Down in my heart to stay

3. I've got the peace that passes understanding...Down in my heart to stay

4. I've got the wonderful love of my blessed Redeemer...Down in the depths of my heart to stay

**Scripture Readings:**

Epistle: Philippians 4: 4-7

Canticle: VU # 22 Wait for the Lord (4 X)

Hebrew Scripture reading: Zephaniah 3: 14 – 20

Communion reflection: Rev. Lionel

**Hymn: VU 45 Joy is Now in Every Place**

Minute for Mission

Invitation to the Offering

Sung Offertory: VU # 55, verse 4

***What shall 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 can give him - give my heart.***

Prayer of Dedication

**Loving God, By your coming to dwell among us, as Emmanuel, You help us see and experience the sacred and the holy in everyday life.**

**Bless these ordinary gifts of our lives,**

**May they be used to make your love manifest.**

**We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

Blessed are you, God of Promise,

**During these shortest days of the year**

**you come to us …**

For the moonlit snow - Blessed are you!

**For the stars of night - Blessed are you!**

For the cry of the prophets - Blessed are you!

**For Mary’s openness to your call - Blessed are you!**

For the gift of a fragile newborn child - blessed are you!

**For your Love made flesh - Blessed are you!**

Through Jesus, you guide us in the path of wholeness, even when hope seems distant.

**And though we often grow weary of waiting,**

**you call us to keep watch for that day when**

**all creation will be restored and made new.**

And so with all the company of heaven and earth, we join in their happy song: *VU 38 verse 3*

***Come to Bethlehem and see***

***Christ whose birth the angels sing;***

***Come adore on bended knee***

***Christ the Lord, the newborn King.***

***Glo - - - ri -a, in excelsis Deo!***

We remember that on the night that Jesus was betrayed …

Remembering your great love for us through Jesus,

we offer our very selves to you in joyful gratitude.

May all that we say and do

proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Loving God, Send your Life-Giving Spirit upon

us and upon us and these gifts of bread and cup.

**May we who share these gifts be Love-Made-Flesh for our world!**

God of all who watch and wait, as we gather at your table, we remember all who have asked us for our prayers … *Prayers of intercessions are offered*

*God in your love****, hear our prayer.***

*Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus, who taught us to pray, as we say together:* ***“Our Father…”***

*At the breaking of the bread:*

Holy things for holy people!

**Thanks be to God!**

Prayer after Communion

**Loving God, you have fed and refreshed us at your table of grace. Send us from this table to tables throughout the world, to love and serve in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: VU # 59 Joy to the World**

**SENDING**

Blessing and Commissioning

Announcements

**Sung Blessing: MV # 214 May God’s Sheltering Wings**

May God’s Sheltering Wings

Her gathering wings protect you,

May God’s nurturing arms,

Her cradling arms sustain you,

And hold you in her love.

And hold you in her love.



***Sunday’s announcements*** *were sent out*

*with the emailed version of this bulletin.*