



Welcome to worship!
Sunday December 13th, 2020
Advent 3: “Joy”
10:30 am Zoom Service

***A joint online Zoom worship Service with
Claremont, Fairbank & Goodwood United
Churches and friends.***

Worship Leaders: Rev. Lionel Ketola, BA, M Div,

and Pastor Steven Loweth, DLM

Musicians: Gabrielle Untermann, Jane Plewman, Julia Shatford, Barb Gilbert, Steve May,
and Alexandra Hyunh Do.

Onelicense # A-723979 CCLI # 11550809

We Joyfully Gather in God’s Presence

Words of Welcome

In the name of the triune God in whose presence we wait,
The Holy Parent, fulfilling the promise,
the Holy Child, waiting to be born,
the Holy Spirit, illuminating the way. **Amen.**

Acknowledgement of the Land

During this season of Advent, we await the celebration of Jesus’ birth – the Word made flesh -
who called us to walk on the earth with love and justice. We acknowledge the gift of the land,
and the First Nations who are the traditional custodians of the land where each of us gather
today.

**God of Advent hope, awaken us to new opportunities for reconciliation with our First
Nations. Amen.**

Lighting the Advent Candle – Video

Lee and John Fisher

We light our First and Second Advent Candles in our homes

O Come O Come Emmanuel

VU # 1 Verses 1, 2, 5 VIDEO

**O come, O come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here**

until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Wisdom from on high,

Who orders all things mightily,

To us the path of knowledge show,

And teach us in her ways to go.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O Key of David, come

and open wide our heavenly home.

Make safe the way that leads on high

And close the path to misery.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Call to Worship

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

And our spirits rejoice in you.

Our song of praise will rise up to you

A song of gratitude our whole life long.

We will not trust in the powerful of this world,

But will trust in you—Creator of heaven and earth,

the One who gives food to the hungry,

the One who enacts justice for the oppressed.

Our souls proclaim your greatness, O God.

And our spirits rejoice in you.

Opening Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound

VU # 29

VIDEO

Prayer of the Day

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

upside down and inside out,

may we discover new life, new wholeness and deep joy.

Amen.

We Open our Hearts to the Spirit's Voice

One: Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story, listen now to these words for the meaning they hold in your lives today.

All: May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder, as we ponder the meaning of these words in our lives.

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; ²to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to 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. ⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

⁸For 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. ⁹Their 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.

¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For 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.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word

Thanks be to God

Reflection: Rev. Lionel

Scripture Song: He came down that We Might Have Love

VIDEO

John 1:6-8, 19-28

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²²Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. ²⁴Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." ²⁸This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word Thanks be to God

Reflection: Pastor Steve

Musical Reflection: *"Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord"*

VIDEO

Invitation to the Offering

Minute for Mission: The Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada

[Prayer of Dedication for the Gifts:](#)

God of hope, during this season of waiting and anticipation, you call us to stay awake for the coming of your Son. Jesus' love often comes into our lives in quiet, unexpected ways. In joyful gratitude we respond with the gifts of our time and talent, our resources and our lives; through Jesus, your beloved son. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Keeping awake as we watch for Christ, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
(a brief silence)

Tender God, we give thanks that you fulfilled your promise to take on flesh in Jesus. Grant patience to your church awaiting fulfillment of your reign of justice and peace. Restore in us the same hope that we called to proclaim to the world. God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Life-giving God, we rejoice that you coax flowers from the desert and springs of water in the wilderness. Send rain to parched fields and sun to flooded plains. Nurture all that lies sleeping under frozen ground. God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Transforming God, we rejoice in gift of Christ, the Prince of Peace. Deliver us from those who wield power through unjust and oppressive ways. Raise up prophets to speak for your truth in this and every nation. God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we rejoice that you dwell in human bodies. Renew signs of your joyful presence in people of all shapes, sizes, ages and abilities. Empower all to embrace their callings and the gifts of your spirit. God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of Advent waiting, we know in ways beyond words that you are present in all of the struggles of life. Be with all who are ill, grieving or suffering in any way. We claim for them, in the words of the Prophet Isaiah, our gift from you: comfort for those who mourn; the oil of gladness instead of ashes. God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

At this time we lift up all who are in our prayers.....

Loving God, you hear the cries of our hearts. Fill us with hopeful expectation, that in each day and hour we may love and serve our neighbours, in Jesus name.

As our Savior taught us, we pray together: **God, our Mother and Father in heaven...**

Closing Hymn: Joy to the World VU # 59

Music: The Masked Bandits



We Go Forth to Serve our Neighbours

Blessing:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon us!
We have been called,
we have been anointed,
we have been given a task.

So go out from this place with good news:
freedom for the oppressed
Healing for the afflicted
Hope for the despairing.
The time of the Lord's favour is now!

May the blessing of God;
Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,
be with us now and always. Amen.

Go Now in Peace

VIDEO



NEW Start Time for Worship: Sunday worship on Zoom begins at **10:30 am** this Sunday.

Wednesday December 16, at 7:30 PM – A BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The holiday season can be a difficult time for those whose hearts are hurting. A “Blue Christmas Service” is a gentle contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. Join us for this special service. The Zoom info is the same as your Sunday morning Zoom link.

Goodwood United Church: Online Community Check-in: Tuesdays at 10:00 AM, on Zoom. Once our check-in time has come to a conclusion, the group will proceed with our weekly Bible Study / “Conversations about Life”, so feel free to join us for this as well.

Claremont United Church: Wednesdays @ 12:00 noon - Join us for a Zoom “drop-in” meeting Everyone is invited to join us for these “Virtual Brock Café” Zoom gatherings to connect with our congregational community.

Joint BOOK STUDY GROUP for all 3 Churches & friends: Friday Mornings at 10:00 am
Fri Dec 18 - We will watch a **video lecture from a progressive Christian biblical scholar talking about the birth of Christ**, and enjoy discussion about it. Bring your eggnog!
After Dec 18th, we will break until Christmas is over.

New Year Book Study Sessions

Beginning January 8th to Friday February 12th we will read:

Unsettling the WORD: Biblical Experiments in Decolonization, Steve Heinrichs Editor.

(Available online through a variety of bookstores).

Lent Book Study (5 weeks)

Beginning the first week in Lent (Friday Feb 19th) we will read:

The Death of Christ for Progressive Christians, by Donald Schmidt.

You can order your copy through: www.woodlakebooks.com

YOUTUBE – Watch worship LIVE, Sunday Mornings at 10:30 am on YOUTUBE, or watch recordings of our Sunday service anytime during the week. See this Link (Fairbank United’s Youtube channel): <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1HPD2ai10bo-qbNaXvNVtw>

Continued Financial Support for our Congregations

Please prayerfully consider how you can continue to support your congregation’s ongoing ministries during this time.

- Offerings can be **mailed to the church address** itself
- **PAR forms** (for pre-authorized debit) are available from your church treasurer
- You can send your offering by **E-TRANSFER** through your online banking. Here is where to send them:

For **Claremont United** send to: treasurer cuc@outlook.com

For **Goodwood United** send to: goodwooductreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support of our congregation’s ministry.

Find us online! Check out our websites!

Check out our church websites for **new updates** during this time, including Sunday devotions, and information about coping with stress during COVID-19.

www.claremontunitedchurch.com

www.goodwoodunitedchurch.com



Find us on Facebook!

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PLEASE SHARE THE POSTER BELOW!



**Computer Savvy?
Looking for a
Volunteer opportunity?**

Need Co-op / Volunteer Hours for School?

Claremont, Fairbank and Goodwood United Churches
are seeking a

Geek Squad / Tech Volunteer

to help out with the technical aspects
of our Joint Sunday morning Zoom Worship Services at 11:00 am.

Your time, efforts and skills will help ensure that the
technical aspects of our Zoom Worship Service run smoothly.
Your role could be carried out remotely, from home, if needed.

In return, you would get volunteer hours
& the satisfaction of knowing you made a difference!
Knowledge of MS Word, PPT, and Zoom would be helpful.

Interested? Get in touch!

Contact Rev. Lionel Ketola at: lionelketola@gmail.com

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