Riverbend United Church
Exploring Faith, Engaging Community

December 15, 2024

The Third Sunday of Advent: JOY

We Gather Together in Joy

Prelude — Sherry Steele

Welcome and Announcements — Rev. Valerie Oden

Advent Candle Lighting: The Candle of Joy

Music: "Gesu Bambino" by P. Yon; words and arr. by Joel Raney

Sung: *O come, O come, Emmanuel,*
And end this gloom of night.
Bring hope to the world,
Bring peace to the earth,
And fill us with love's pure light.

Litany:

In this season of Advent, we celebrate with joyful hearts.
Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We count our blessings and give thanks for God's goodness and grace.
Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We strive to search for the good in neighbours near and far.
Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

We remember that God has promised us full and joyful lives.
Christ is our light and the source of our joy.

Advent Prayer (Unison) — Dawn Power, Lay Leader

Who are we, O God, that you should come to us? Yet you have visited your people and redeemed us into new life.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Christ, may our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word. Move us by your Spirit to bless your wonderful works.

We worship today honouring the One whose coming is certain, whose day draws near. Amen.

*Opening Hymn — *Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness* — VU 28
Vss. 1, 3, 4

Reading — Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7

Anthem — *The Advent Rose* (J. Martin)

Homily — "Living Joy"

Hymn — *A Candle is Burning* *vss. 1 and 3* — VU 6

Our Children Share the Story

Krystal Manuel and Ayla Sevigny, Directors
Sam Bucerius and Joey Tessier, Youth Narrators

Luke 2: 1-20

O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 1 VU 64

Away in a Manger vs. 1 VU 69

What Child is This vs. 1 VU 74

Angels We Have Heard on High vs. 1 VU 38

O Come All Ye Faithful vss. 1 & 4 VU 60

**Joy to the World VU 59*

Special Appreciation

*Song *Go Tell it On the Mountain* Please see screen

Prayers of the People (Sharing our Joys and Concerns)

Prayer Hymn *Joy is Now in Every Place* *vs. 1* VU 45

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer VU 921

Offering our Gifts

Offering plates can be found in the narthex. Electronic gifts are welcome by e-transfer to: contactus@riverbendunited.org or on the church website. We give in gratitude for God's grace and in hope that peace may spread to all.

*Closing Hymn *Oh How Joyfully* VU 57

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction *Grant Us Peace* *(arr. D. Hart)* RUC Choir

Postlude Sherry Steele

denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined

"VU" refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*

Community Christmas Carol Sing is 4:00 today
with the Choir, the Handbells, and the Ensemble. Join us!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

5:00 with the Choir and soloist John Tessier
6:30 with the Choir and Handbells
8:00 with Holy Communion

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