



December 14, 2025

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 Peitro Yon; words and arrangement 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.

An Advent Prayer (In unison)

Nathan Schoenhardt, Lay Leader

Holy One, we gather in this season of joyful expectation. Open our hearts to your light that is already breaking in. May this space be filled with wonder, laughter, and childlike hope today as our children share the sacred story. May they know they belong, just as they are. May they remind us of your joy that cannot be contained. Come, Emmanuel - our joy and our light. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness

VU 28

Vss. 1, 3, 4

We Listen for the Spirit Stirring

Scripture Readings

Psalms 146

VU 868

Luke 1: 46b-55

Anthem

'Tis A Season for Singing, Traditional Shaker

melody, arranged by Joseph Martin

RUC Choir

Homily

"Dear Mary"

Rev. V. Oden

*Hymn

Hope is a Star vss. 1, 2, 3

VU 7

Our Children Share the Story

Alec Gallant and Kaylee Emslie, Directors

Written by Alec Gallant, based on This is the Stable by Cynthia Cotten

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

The First Nowell vs. 1 VU 91

We Three Kings vs. 1(See Screen)

Go Tell it on the Mountain VU 43

Prayers of the People (Sharing our Joys and Concerns)

Prayer Hymn (Joy) *Shines as the Solitary Star* MV 220

Silent Prayer / Pastoral Prayer / The Lord's Prayer

Offering our Gifts

Offering plates are in the narthex (foyer.) E-transfers are also welcome to:
contactus@riverbendunited.org. We give in gratitude for God's grace.

*Closing Hymn *Oh How Joyfully* VU 57

*Benediction

*Choral Benediction *An Advent Blessing* (M. Faith & J. Paige)

Postlude Sherry Steele

*denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined
"VU" refers to the red hardback hymnal *Voices United*
"MV" refers to the spiral bound songbook *More Voices*

Welcome to Riverbend United Church!

We're glad you're here. Please feel free to introduce yourself, and fill out a Welcome Card in the narthex if you'd like to receive our weekly e-mail newsletter.

Upcoming Events:

- **Community Carol Sing** today - Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 p.m. held at RUC, led by RUC musicians
- **Christmas Eve:**
 - 5:00** - Flame-free service with Choir and Handbells
 - 6:30** - Candlelight service with Choir and John Tessier, soloist
 - 8:00** - Candlelight service with Communion

