



## FIRST UNITED CHURCH

Swift Current, SK  
December 17, 2017

### Advent Three - Joy

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor  
Reader: Pat Palmer  
Pianist: Mary Anderson



### GATHERING

#### Moment for Reflection

*“Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy.”*  
- Psalm 126

#### Welcome and Announcements

#### Sharing of Peace/Prelude

#### Lighting of the Candles

**Advent Hymn: VU #6 A Candle is Burning** (verse 3)  
(please remain seated)

#### Call to Worship

**ONE:** Come, people of God, holy creations, wholly God’s,  
with our holey and ragged lives.

**ALL: We come, seeking God’s grace  
to make us whole.**

**ONE:** Come on this third Sunday of Advent.

**ALL: We continue our journey towards Christmas.  
shedding tears of grief, singing songs of joy  
preparing our homes and our hearts  
for the birth of the Christ child.**

**ONE:** Come to trust, listen, believe and imagine  
what is possible with God incarnate  
in our lives and in our world.

**ALL: We come, O God, we come.**

Adapted from: Susan Lukey, *Gathering*, A/C/E 2017-2018, page 26.

## Worship Schedule

*Journeying Through Advent with Leonard Cohen*

Dec 24	Advent Four – Love - Amen	- Rev. Annette Taylor
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (7:00 pm)	
Dec 31	First Sunday after Christmas	- Norma Hain
Jan 7	Epiphany	- Rev. Annette Taylor

### Recent Events

Thursday, December 14 - Renee Steele Memorial Service

## Moderator’s Advent 2017 Message



***Sometimes we need to  
tear down the walls  
so we can allow God’s  
light to shine through.***

It’s Advent once again. The time of waiting and watching for the in-breaking of God’s Spirit in our world.

Sometimes, it can be hard to believe that God is present in the midst of all the tumult and chaos and uncertainty.

Recently, the church offices here at 3250 Bloor Street have undergone a massive renovation—talk about chaos. But in the midst of all of the construction and everything being hither and thither, there was a stained-glass window that had always been present in the old configuration. But where it was, there was no light that could shine through it, and as the old walls came down, light emerged. (see back of bulletin)

**Opening Hymn: VU #1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel**  
*(verses 1,2,3,6,7) (please stand as you are able)*

**Opening Prayer and Jesus' Prayer**

**Ground of our Being,**  
**this Advent season is a reminder**  
**of your coming amongst us.**

**To us, you are a mystery,**  
**and yet we often experience your presence**  
**in the midst of ordinary life.**

**In our despair, you are the source of Hope.**  
**In our turmoil, you are the birthplace of Peace.**  
**In our sadness, you are the font of Joy.**  
**In our heartache, you are the cradle of Love.**

**As we enter this time of worship**  
**may our hearts be open to your abiding grace.**

Adapted from: Kim Falls, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany  
2017-2018, page 27.

## WORD

**Hymn: Come, Christmas Child** *(verses 1,2,3) (remain seated)*  
*- Words by Shirley Erena Murray &*  
*Music by Ron Klusmeier*

**Community Learning Time** - Melanie Davis

**Hymn: Come Christmas Child** *(verse 4)*  
*(please remain seated)*

**Scripture Reading: Psalm 126 (VU p. 850)**

ONE: We read this text so that in it we may find wisdom for life.  
ALL: **May we be open to the Wisdom we understand and hear.**

**Song: Hallelujah** *(see insert)* - Mary Anderson,  
*- Leonard Cohen* Marie Andrews,  
Jessie Hanna &  
Janet Keene

**Reflection: A Broken Hallelujah**

**Choral Offering: Christmas Sanctus**  
*- Words by Susan Naus Dengler &*  
*Music by Lee Dengler*

## RESPONSE

**Minute for Mission: Supporting Local Churches**

**Offering**

**Offertory Hymn: These Gifts We Bring**  
*- Pat Mayberry (please stand as you are able)*

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Through these gifts, may we be agents of joy**  
**in your world,**  
**lifting people up in love**  
**so they can experience an abundant future.**

**Amen.**

Adapted from: Karen Boivin, *Gathering*, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany  
2017-2018, page 30.

**Prayers of the People**

**Closing Hymn: VU #62 Once in Royal David's City**  
*(please stand as you are able)*

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Choral Closing: MV #220 Joy Shines as the Solitary Star**

**Postlude**

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**Lectionary Readings for December 24, 2017**

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Psalm 89 :1-4, 19-26 9VU p.804) or Luke 1:47-55  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

*(from previous page)*

And we discovered that this window first of all had been put in backwards and so we were never able to see the true beauty of it. But now where it stands, the light is able to come through and the beauty that was always there but invisible is able to shine.

So it is in our world. God is always present. But sometimes we need to look closely; sometimes we need to break away from the old to tear down the walls so that we can allow God's light to shine through and to see the beauty of what is right in front of us.

That's what Advent is. The in-breaking of God's Spirit that allows us to see what is already there.

May you have the eyes to see, this Advent, Christ already born among us.

Jordan Cantwell  
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

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