

**December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 10:15 am**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*Contemplative Worship*



**WE GATHER & GROW IN WORSHIP**

*"We come from many places, held in one Spirit of joy."*

**Carols in Advent**

*VU59 Joy to the World*

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| <p><b>1</b> Joy to the world! the Lord is come:<br/>let earth receive her King!<br/>Let every heart prepare him room,<br/>and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and<br/>nature sing,<br/>and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.</p>     | <p><b>3</b> No more let sins and sorrows grow,<br/>nor thorns infest the ground:<br/>he comes to make his blessings flow<br/>far as the curse is found, far as the curse is<br/>found,<br/>far as, far as the curse is found.</p> |
| <p><b>2</b> Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:<br/>let all their songs employ,<br/>while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains<br/>repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding<br/>joy,<br/>repeat, repeat the sounding joy.</p> | <p><b>4</b> He rules the earth with truth and grace,<br/>and makes the nations prove<br/>the glories of his righteousness<br/>and wonders of his love, and wonders of his<br/>love,<br/>and wonders, wonders of his love.</p>     |

*VU38 Angels We Have Heard on High (vv1-2, 4)*

1	Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.	2	Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? R
R	Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!	4	See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. R

*TLUS131 Child of Spirit, Child of Light (vv1-3)*

1	Child of spirit, child of light, warming hearts in coldest places, bringing joy to cheerless faces, born to love this Christmas night, child of spirit, child of light:	3	in the tent of poverty, with the frightened refugee:  for the children of the world, you come cradled, you come crying where the hawks of war are flying, where earths miseries unfold for the children of the world.
2	with the frightened refugee, little one, among the nameless you have joined the hurt and homeless		

**Prelude:** *Joy to the World/St. Anne's Reel Medley* by Daniel Moore (Daniel Moore, guitar)

**Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory**

Lynne Brennan

As we gather in this holy place during the season of Advent joy, we remember that long before we lit these candles of hope and expectation, this land was a meeting place, a home, and a sacred trust for many Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island. We give thanks for the stewardship and wisdom of the First Peoples and offer particular recognition to the Mississaugas of the Credit, on whose traditional territory we worship today. Even in this season of light, we hear the ongoing cries for justice from Indigenous communities across these lands. Advent joy does not turn away from this truth; it calls us toward it. And so, as treaty people,

**we commit to listen with open hearts,  
to learn with humility,  
and to work for healing, justice, and right relationship,  
believing that every act of reconciliation  
is part of the joy God longs to birth in our world.**

**Advent Wreath Lighting: Candle of Joy**

Lynne Brennan

In the midst of our waiting and longing for God to make the world right again, we cling to the truth that God has saved, God is saving, and God will save. So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God's salvation.

**We choose to believe that the day is coming when "the ransomed of the God shall return  
and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." (Isaiah 35:10)**

We light this candle of joy as a sign of the Truth that sets us free  
to live in joy as we wait and work for the day when all creation will flourish together. *[Light the third  
candle – pink]*

**Come, Jesus, Joy of the world.  
Be born in us again.**

## Words of Welcome

Welcome to this contemplative worship service on the third Sunday of Advent. Whether you are joining us here in the sanctuary or online from home, we greet you in the spirit of Joy. This is a space of stillness and song, Scripture and silence, prayer and presence. Today, we journey with Mary through the wisdom of the prophet, the gospel and epistle as they remind us: even in uncertain times, joy is not frivolous; it is faithful. Let us breathe deeply and prepare to receive joy, not as emotion alone, but as a sign of the nearness of God.

## Centering Prayer

God of joy, we gather in your presence,  
bringing all that we are, our weariness and wonder, our questions and our hope.

**Meet us in this stillness.**

God of Mary's song and Isaiah's vision,  
teach us to rejoice not only when we feel happy,  
but because we know your promises endure.

**Let your joy take root in us, O God.**

## *Silent Joy*

**Hymn:** *VU 7 Hope is a Star (v. 3)*

**3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Saviour is born.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.**

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2-7

Ann Russell

Herein is wisdom.

**Thanks be to God.**

## *Reflection & Silence*

## Contemplative Exercise

As you breathe in, whisper: "**God of Joy.**"

As you breathe out, whisper: "**Be born in me.**"

## Advent Joy & Sharing of the Joy:

In the waiting, we find joy not in what is, but in what shall be.

**We rejoice in the promise of new life, even when the world groans.**

Joy is born in unlikely places, like a manger, like a young girl's song.

**With Mary, we magnify the Lord, who fills the humble with good things.**

Let us share this joy now, not only with words, but with presence and peace.

**The joy of Christ be with you.**

*(Turn and greet one another, saying: "May joy find you today.")*

## The Prayer of Jesus ( VU959, sung to the Caribbean Tune with Inclusive language)

- |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Our Creator, which art in heaven,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.              | <b>4</b> And lead us not to the devil to be<br>tempted,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>But deliver us from all that is evil,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.          |
| <b>2</b> On the earth as it is in heaven,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>And give us now our daily bread,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.                  | <b>5</b> For Thine is the kingdom, the power,<br>and the glory,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>Forever, and ever, and ever, and ever,<br>Hallowed be Thy name. |
| <b>3</b> And forgive us all our trespasses,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>As we forgive those who trespass<br>against us,<br>Hallowed be Thy name. | <b>6</b> Amen, Amen, Amen,<br>Hallowed be Thy name.<br>Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.<br>Hallowed be Thy name.                                                     |

*Silence*

**Anthem:** *Pat-a-Pan*, Traditional French Carol, arr. by Mark Burrows

### Contemplative Exercise

As you breathe in, whisper: "**God of Joy.**"  
As you breathe out, whisper: "**Be born in me.**"

### *Sorrowful Joy*

### Offering and Thanksgiving

Joy opens our hands and hearts.  
As we have received, so let us give,  
with gladness, with gratitude, with grace.

**Let this offering be a song of joy,  
a gift of love,  
a seed of hope,  
a sign of God's abundance.**

*(In the sanctuary, you are invited to come to the front and place your offering in one of the offering plates and Na-Me-Res gifts in the box. For those online, you are welcome to donate to the work of TSP with the QR code below.)*



**Offering Hymn: MV 120 *My Soul Cries Out* (vv. 1-2, 4)**

- 1**            **My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?**
- Refrain*            ***My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn!***
- 2**            **Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. *R***
- 4**            **Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. *R***

**Offering Prayer**

**Joyful God,  
Bless these gifts we bring.  
May they echo Mary's song and Isaiah's hope.  
Use them to lift the lowly and nourish the hungry. Amen.**

**Scripture: *Luke 1:46-55 (Magnificat)***

Lynne Brennann

**Herein is wisdom.  
Thanks be to God.**

***Reflection & Silence***

**Contemplative Exercise**

**As you breathe in, whisper: "God of Joy."  
As you breathe out, whisper: "Be born in me."**

**Prayers of Joy of and from the People**

Yvonne Stewart

**WE GO TO GOD'S WORLD**

*"With Scripture, silence, and song, we go into the world with the joy of Christ."*

## *Jubilant Joy*

**Hymn:** *VU 9 People, Look East* (vv. 1-2, 5)

- 1      **People, look east. The time is near  
         of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
         trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
         Love the guest is on the way.**
- 2      **Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
         one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
         that in course the flower may flourish.**

- People, look east and sing today:  
         Love the rose is on the way.
- 5      **Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
         Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
         with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
         Love the Lord is on the way.**

**Scripture:** *Philippians 4:4-7*

Yvonne Stewart

Herein is wisdom.  
         **Thanks be to God.**

*Reflection & Silence*

### **Contemplative Exercise**

As you breathe in, whisper: "**God of Joy.**"  
As you breathe out, whisper: "**Be born in me.**"

### **Life and Works of the Community**

#### **Benediction:**

Go now with joy,  
not as escape but as resistance to despair.  
         **We go, rejoicing in God our Saviour.**  
Carry joy like Mary, deep, strong, and surprising.  
         **We go, bearing light in every step.**  
And may the joy of God go with you,  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and always.  
         **Amen.**

**Closing Song:** *VU 884 We Shall Go Out With Joy*

- 1      **You shall go out with joy  
         and be led forth with peace;  
the mountains and the hills  
         will break forth before you;  
there'll be shouts of joy,  
         and all the trees of the field  
will clap, will clap their hands!**
- 2      **And all the trees of the field will clap their  
hands,  
         (clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands,  
         (clap, clap)  
the trees of the field will clap their hands  
         (clap, clap)  
while you go out with joy.**

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Thanks to Lynne Brennan, Yvonne Stewart, Gabrielle Earnshaw, and our minister, Hewitt for planning and participating in this contemplative worship today.



*See this week's e-newsletter for the full announcements. You can sign up to receive the announcements by scanning the QR code above, or by emailing Sarah.*

## **Upcoming Dates**

**December 16:** New Members Session - Online - 7PM

**December 21:** Carols by Candlelight - 7PM

**December 24:** Christmas Eve Service - 7PM

**January 18:** New Members Session - 11:45-1:15PM

**January 20:** Deep Listening Session - 2-4PM

## **Trinity-St. Paul's Season of Commitment**

*As we travel through Advent and our time of intentional waiting for what is to come, our Season for Commitment will be drawing to a close. If you have not done so already, during the next few weeks please consider how you might share your gifts in the year ahead – gifts of time, talents and resources. At Trinity St. Paul's our giving is an expression of our shared call to faith, justice, and the arts. We share our gifts knowing that TSP values inclusion and community. We welcome people of every background, gender identity, and life story, and we celebrate the many ways each person contributes to our common life. Whether you participate in worship, choir, social justice initiatives, hospitality events, governance or give financially to sustain our ministry, your participation strengthens our presence and witness in the neighbourhood. Together we nurture a vibrant, compassionate community where faith, art, music, outreach, and spiritual growth all find a home. Please take time to pray and reflect on how you feel called to participate this year — every offering of love makes a difference.*

## **Closed for the Holidays**

The TSP building will be closed for the holidays from **December 24th-January 2nd, 2026**. It will be open for our Christmas Eve service at 7pm on December 24th, and regular Sunday Service on December 28th. It will reopen following the holidays on January 3, 2026.

## **Registration Forms**

We are asking all congregants and adherents to please fill out a [Church Registration Form](#). Hard copies of this form will be available at the Welcome Table throughout the Sundays in December, and can be accessed digitally by checking your Weekly Announcements email. These forms contain additional information which will support our ministry team in connecting with our community. Thank you!

## **PAR Cards and Nametags at the Welcome Table**

Those who give through PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) are now able to pick up a "PAR Card" from the Welcome Table to place in the collection plate during the offering. And, stop by the Welcome Table this morning to pick up a nametag – **Blue** if you consider yourself a visitor or new to the TSP community, and **Red** if you're a longstanding member/ regular attendee. This will make it easier to strike up conversation during coffee hour.

## **Connecting with Hewitt in December**

Hewitt will be in the building at Trinity-St. Paul's for three Sundays each month to lead worship and share in the life of our congregation. During those weeks, he will also be in the church office Monday through Wednesday. On Thursdays, Hewitt will be working from home and is available for online meetings or conversations. Fridays are his Sabbath day off. One week of each month will be Hewitt's reading and research week and he will be available for pastoral emergencies only. **In December and January, Hewitt will be away December 28 to January 10 (2026)**. If you would like to connect with Hewitt for pastoral care, conversation, or to discuss church life, you are welcome to reach out during his office hours, schedule an online meeting, or meet with him following Sunday worship. His email is [hholmes@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:hholmes@trinitystpauls.ca) and 416 9228435 ext. 24

**New Members Sessions - December 16, 7PM and January 18, 11:45AM** \*Please note the date change from December 10th to December 16th for our online session.



If you have been worshipping with us in person or online and are sensing a desire to make Trinity-St. Paul's your spiritual home; we warmly invite you to join one of our upcoming New Member Sessions with our minister, Hewitt. We will meet online on Tuesday, December 16, from 7:00–8:30 pm and in person on Sunday, January 18, from 11:45–1:15 pm. You are welcome to attend either session, whichever you prefer. A follow-up time will also be arranged for you to meet with church leadership as part of our shared discernment. We look forward to welcoming you, hearing your story, and walking together in faith, justice, and community.

## **Carols by Candlelight – December 21, 7PM**

Our beloved Carols by Candlelight service is on the horizon! Join us for an evening of Christmas carols, music, and joy of the season. Candles provided! This is a free event, open to all, and no tickets are required. An offering will be collected to support the Trinity-St. Paul's music ministry.

## **Deep Listening Session – January 20, 2-4PM**

As Trinity-St. Paul's begins a new chapter of ministry, you are warmly invited to join in a series of Deep Listening Sessions. These gatherings provide an opportunity to pause, share, and hear one another's stories as we reflect together on life, community, and the church. All are welcome, members, adherents, newcomers, and friends of TSP. In-person at Trinity-St. Paul's (Minister's Office). Please confirm your attendance with the church office by emailing [church-admin@trinitystpauls.ca](mailto:church-admin@trinitystpauls.ca)



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*Trinity-St. Paul's is an inclusive and Affirming congregation of the United Church of Canada. We seek to be a centre for faith, justice and the arts: **a centre for faith**, where the Gospel is lived and shared; **a centre for justice**, where voices are raised for peace and equity; **a centre for the arts**, where beauty, imagination, and creativity reveal God's presence.*

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