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Sunday, December 27 2015, 10:00am
Theme: Christmas 1 – Unbridled Joy
Ugly Christmas Sweater Day

✚ indicates stand as you are able
Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRELUDE

WELCOME & GREETING VISITORS (*Leader*)

✚GREETING ONE ANOTHER (Please feel free to move around)

SPIRIT LINES (Announcements)

SILENCE & TONE BOWL

HYMN BEFORE CANDLES OF ADVENT: *This Joy (on-screen)*
(sung to *This Little Light of Mine*)

This Joy* that I have,
the world didn't give it to me;
This joy that I have,
the world didn't give it to me;
This joy that I have,
the world didn't give it to me;
The world didn't give it,
the world can't take it away!

(*Hope, Peace, & Love)

CANDLES OF ADVENT (*Responsive*)

What is hope?

Hope is not a dream but a way to make dreams become reality.

One day someone is going to hug you so tight that all of your broken pieces will stick back together.

(light 1 blue candle)

What is peace?

Nothing can bring you peace but yourself.

Peace cannot be kept by force. It can only be achieved by understanding.

(light 1 blue candle)

What is joy?

Joy does not simply happen to us. We have to choose joy and keep choosing it every day.

Find joy in the little things in life for, one day, you'll look back and realize they were big things.

(light 1 pink candle)

What is love?

If grass can grow through cement, love can find you at every time in your life.

Love and compassion are necessities, not luxuries. Without them, humanity cannot survive.

(light 1 blue candle)

How is Jesus hope, peace, joy, and love?

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one *hope* of your calling

Peace I leave with you; my *peace* I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but *joy*, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance;

and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.

I give you a new commandment, that you *love* one another.

Just as I have *loved* you, you also should *love* one another. **Amen**

(light Christ candle)

Quotes from: L.J. Suenes, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Albert Einstein, Henri J.M. Nouwen, Robert Brault, Cher, Dalai Lama, Ephesians 4:4, John 14:27, James 1:2-4, John 13:34

OPENING PRAYER (*In Unison*)

We praise you this day, O God, remembering all that you have done. Especially in this Christmas season, we give you thanks for sending Jesus to be our friend, our teacher, our guide, and our Saviour. As a new year begins, we ask you to be with us each day, helping us follow the example of Jesus to make our world a little more loving. Amen

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (*children to gather around the font*)

The Baptism today is for Norah Schrattner Powell

~ the daughter of Mark Powell and Stacey Schrattner

†HYMN: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (on-screen)

VU#35

Open Minds

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 148, VU pg. 871 (***Responsive***, on-screen)

Scripture Reader: Pauline Watson

Affirmation:

One: This is the witness of The Church,

Many: **thanks be to God!**

THE MESSAGE: *“Over-the-Top Praise”*

†HYMN: *It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker* (on-screen)

MV#30

Open Hands

MINUTE FOR MISSION: *“Body and Soul”*

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS (*Leader*)

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Tithes, Offerings, & Prayers.

(Please print clearly and place your Prayer Slips in the Prayer Baskets.)

†OFFERTORY: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Tune: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (on-screen)

VU#541

†OFFERTORY PRAYER (*Unison, on-screen*)

Take these gifts we offer, O God, and use them to enhance your presence in our world. May they bring voice and hope and new life to those who have none. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER: *All Who Are Thirsty (on-screen)*

MV#4

PASTORAL PRAYERS & PRAYER OF JESUS

Open Hearts to Each Other and the World

†COMMISSIONING and BENEDECTION: (Leader)

†HYMN: *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy (on-screen)*

VU#73

POSTLUDE

Participating in worship leadership today: Rev. Tracy, Barb Tetzlaff, Kristin Raugust, Diane Paley, Elaine & David Gray, Pauline Watson, Brian Shewan, Marj Aucoin.