



St. Thomas United Church
Open Hands – Open Hearts – Open Minds

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Sunday, December 10, 2017, 10:00am
Theme: Joy & Love Sunday

† Indicates stand as you are able
Bold indicates participation by the people

MV = More Voices
VU = Voices United

We Gather With

PRE-SERVICE CAROLS – *The Stutters*

What Child is This?

VU#74

I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

VU#43

PRELUDE: “*He Shall Feed His Flock*” by G.F. Handel

WELCOME to our Livestream Worship Service

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY 7 LAND

GREETING ONE ANOTHER & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A wicker prayer basket will be sent around. If you have a prayer request, please print clearly on a prayer slip, place it in the wicker basket, and pass the basket along.

INTROIT: *A Candle Is Burning* (vv. 3&4)

VU#6

Advent 1 & 2: (Candles of Hope & Peace)

Candle Lighter – Laura & Claire Messer

As people of faith we light candles to remind us of the presence of the Holy & the Divine.

God in all creation calls to each of us; in this time of year let us pause to reflect on that call in our lives.

This morning we pause to hear God's call of Joy being born in a darkened world; yet we know God calls forth joy in the midst of pain and laughter in the midst of tears.

For truly God's joy is in this place.

This morning we pause to hear God's call of love being born in the most unlikely places; overlooked and unexpected love catches us by surprise and takes our breath away.

For truly God's love is in this place.

Through God's light in the world, we hear the voice of Advent possibilities. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: **(Responsive)**

May the joy of Advent be upon you,

A joy that surpasses understanding and overcomes hardship;

May the love of Advent be upon you,

A love that calls to action and overcomes hatred;

joy and love be with you,

and also with you, Amen.

OPENING PRAYER: *(Leader)*

Holy God, we are an impatient and busy people that can easily be propelled into Christmas and swept away by the buzz of activity. Help us now to slow down and savour this Advent season. In the midst of excitement, help us to seek the deeper meaning of Joy. In the midst of the commotion, help us to know the love we long for in our lives. Teach us in this rhythm of heightened expectation to see you at work in our lives and in the world. Amen.

†HYMN: Hark the Glad Sound

VU#29

SCRIPTURE: *Luke 1:26-38*

Reader:

One: This is the witness of The Church,

Many: thanks be to God!

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Adult Choir – “Calypso Lullaby”*
- by Hairston/Raney

CHILDREN'S TIME

(Children and Youth are invited to join with their leaders at one of the entrances to the Sanctuary.)

THE MESSAGE

✠HYMN: *What Child is This?*

VU#74

MINUTE FOR MISSION:

Conflict Resolution in the Midst of Violence

INVITATION TO OPEN HANDS

OPPORTUNITY TO OPEN HANDS

with our Offerings & Prayers.

MINISTRY OF MUSIC: *The Strummers – Winter Star*

- by J. Reid, M. Selby, B. Ezrin

✠OFFERTORY: *In the Bleak Midwinter (v.4)*

VU#55

✠OFFERTORY PRAYER: ***(Unison)***

Holy God, may these our gifts be symbols of our longing for you in our lives. Symbols of your joy and your love made whole through the holy. May these symbols be a blessing to others as you have been a blessing to us; now and forever, Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER: *Of the Father's Love Begotten (v. 1)*

VU#61

PASTORAL PRAYERS (Leader) & PRAYER OF JESUS

COMMISSIONING and BENEDICTION: ***(Responsive)***

As we leave to continue our Advent journeys,

May the joy of faith go with us, the love of your grace enfold us, and the presence of the Holy always surround us. Amen.

†HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

VU#60

POSTLUDE:

We give great thanks to all who participated in making today's
worship service a reality.