

St. James United Church

December 13, 2015/Advent 3, Joy
Sunday School White Gift

Minister: Rev. Terrie Jackson
Minister of Visitation: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Choir: Senior
Music Directors: Amy Dalziel
Sophia Werden Abrams
Soloist: Victoria Smith, flute player

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.
Please turn off your cell phone during the Service.

Musical Prelude

Welcome & Life & Work of St. James



Passing the Peace

Introit: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel, v. 5-6*

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Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: Imagination ignites the world with dancing and laughter.

All: Anxiety dreams of a day when all worries are cast aside.

One: Wisdom reflects how to build a world where joy and sharing prevail.

All: Gratefulness gives thanks for today's bounty and trust in the promise of tomorrow.

One: Courage moves into unknown places searching for God.

All: Compassion searches out need.

One: And we, gathered in the name of Christ, celebrate and sing to praise and pray, to rejoice and renew, all the while seeking a glimpse of hope, peace and love.

Opening Prayer (Together): Stand, sit, listen, sing, pray, celebrate and love with us now, O God of the past, the present and the future, as we share our deepest thoughts, prayers, and feelings with You in this hour of worship and praise. Touch our hearts, our minds and our bodies to open them all to You so that we may prepare in this Advent time for Your coming in the joyous season of Christmas. Amen.

Hymn: *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

43

The Circle Song & Children's Time

Lighting of the Advent Wreath: The Candle of Joy

(Sung Invitation to the tune of *Silver Bells*)

*It's a story, quite a story that began long ago,
When the prophets foretold a messiah.*

*Line of David, it was stated would bring forth a new son,
Who would change the world – turn upside down!*

Chorus: *Angel's words, angel's wings--
New life is growing, my heart sings:
Peace on earth, good will for all!
So we'll be living God's way!*

*Then there's Mary, not yet married, gave her "yes" to the plan,
With her love, she became co-creator.*

*Child of Wisdom, Child of Promise, here comes Emmanuel!
And with that joy she sang out her song... (chorus)*

Prayer: (together) For the mothers that are ready to tear tyrants from their thrones, so that their children may live and love; for the fathers that stand beside them, to offer strength and support—alleluia, God! May the joy that we feel in Your Presence fill us with life abundant, so that when the time is right, that joy can be birthed, new, into Your creation. Alleluia and amen!

Sung Response: *Hope is a Star, v. 3*

7

Solo: *Huron Carol*

Victoria Smith

Invitation to the Offering and Minute for Mission

Offertory Anthem: *Joy Shall Come*

Choir

Offertory Hymn: *In the Bleak Midwinter, v.4*

55

Offertory Prayer: (together) You, O God, breathe love into our every souls, motivating us to see the world with the eyes of kinship. Bless these gifts of

love we bring in these plates, through PAR, with our time and talents, to do
Your work in the world: healing, restoring, encouraging and building. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Hebrew Scripture:	Zephaniah 3:14-20	
Anthem	<i>God Bless Us Everyone</i>	Choir
Responsive Reading :	Isaiah 12 : 1a-6	880
Gospel:	Luke 3 : 7-18	
Hymn:	<i>Rejoice in the Lord Always</i>	249
Sermon		
Hymn:	<i>It Came upon the Midnight Clear</i>	44
Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern		
Closing Hymn:	<i>Joy to the World</i>	59

Blessing & Sending

Postlude

Ushering this week is provided by:

Ushers in Charge: Eric King

Greeters: Gilbert & Lillian Thomas

Ushers: Peter & Shirley Barbour, Melvin & Betty Burt,

Ron & Lorraine Robbins, Don Blackmore

