

Port Williams United Baptist Church

www.pwubc.org



Sunday, December 17, 2017
10:00 a.m.
The Third Sunday of Advent

Interim Ministers:

Rev. Barbara Bishop

barbarabishop@ns.sympatico.ca

Rev. Liz Johnson, Pastoral Care

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Student Minister: Susan De Mont

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Music Director: Dr. Christianne Rushton

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Church Administrator: Vanessa Gennette

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Custodians: Marilyn & Michael Beatty

Welcome to Port Williams United Baptist Church.

During this season of Advent, we pray that our worship services will bring to you the hope, peace, joy and love that light the way toward Christmas. Visitors are encouraged to sign our guest book (at the back of the sanctuary) or to fill out a Visitor Card (in the pew) before leaving. Thank you.

* indicates that the congregation is invited to stand

WE APPROACH GOD

As John the Baptist gave witness to the light of the world that would follow him, may we too give witness in this season of Advent. May we give witness to Your holiness, O God, Your mercy, and Your astonishing decision to break into the darkness of our world with the joy of Jesus' birth. May we rejoice in our Saviour, and may joy come to live deep within us for all the days of our lives. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prelude

Dr. Christianne Rushton

* **Welcoming Each Other**

Rev. Dr. John Churchill

Announcements

Prayer and Preparation

WE PRAISE GOD

Call to Worship

Rev. Barbara Bishop

Introit Joy to the World

* **Hymn of Praise** "Joy to the World" **59**

The Lighting of the Advent Candle of Joy:

Reader One: Isaiah the Prophet announced it. The Spirit of God is with me, because I have been chosen to bring good news to the abused, to bandage the wounds of the heartbroken, and to release those who are in prisons of all kinds.

Reader Two: I am here to proclaim a good year in God's sight, a time when things will be set right. I am here to comfort the grieving and to dress them for happy times instead of sad ones.

Reader Three: The people who are healed and comforted will be like strong trees, upright and loyal to God. They will be like a forest planted to show God's glory. They will rebuild the world and show everyone God's power.

Reader Four: We wait for the day of God's joy, and live in God's peace and hope, as we light these candles.

(Please pause as we light three candles, then respond.)

All: Loving God, come and shine your light in the world!

Advent Song: "A Candle Is Burning" (vs 3) 6

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

* **Prayer of Approach (Unison)**

Ministry in Music "Christmas Is Coming" (with chimes)

* **Children's Hymn** "Star Child" (in pew) vs 1,2

Children's Time

* **Children's Hymn** "Star Child" vs 3,4,5

WE GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD

The Offering

Offertory "Ding Dong Merrily on High" (with chimes)

* **Offertory Response** "In the Bleak Midwinter" (vs 4) 55

What shall I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what can I give him--- give my heart. Amen.

Preparation for Prayer

“Gloria”

37

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia. (X3)

Prayers of the People

- * **Hymn of Preparation** “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” **75**

GOD SPEAKS TO US

The Scriptures

Susan De Mont

Reading from the Old Testament: Isaiah 61: 1-3; 10,11 (p. 536)

Reading from the Gospel: John 1: 6-14 (p.70)

Sermon: “*Born of God*”

Rev. Barbara Bishop

GOD SENDS US FORTH

- * **Hymn of Response** “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” **73**

- * **Benediction**

- * **Choral Benediction**

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” (vs 2) **35**

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice!

Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this!

He hath opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Postlude and Quiet Reflection

Today’s Candle of Joy is lit by the Rushton/Caines family. We are thankful for each of the families in our church. Today’s families are diverse in their nature, and we welcome all. We give thanks for our church family which wraps its love around us all.