

**Mill Woods United Church
December 12, 2021, at 10:30 am
Advent Three -- Joy**

Worship leader: Rev. Ian Kellogg

Music leader: Bryan LeGrow

PowerPoint: Gordon Hodge * **Facebook Live:** Tim Burton

Music as we gather

Welcome and announcements – Carol Hickmann

Lighting the Advent Candles – Carol Reid

as we sing "Dream a Dream"

MV #158 verse 4

Gathering Prayer

* **Opening hymn:** "I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

VU #644

Baptism of Elizabeth Grace Watton

This Is Us: Cathy Bayly and Kathy Poechman (*The Mitten Tree, etc.*)

Anthem: "There's Still My Joy"

We listen to a reading – Carol Hickmann

Luke 1:26-38 (*the birth of Jesus foretold*)

Reflection: Advent, Christmas, and Joy

... **music for meditation** ...

* **Hymn of response:** "To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary"

VU #14

Offering prayer

Sharing joys and concerns

Prayers of the People . . . The Prayer of Jesus (*Bob Heatherington paraphrase*)

* **Closing Hymn:** "There was a Child in Galilee"

MV #134

* **Blessing**

"Joy to the World" verse 2

VU #59

* Extinguishing the Advent Candles – Carol Reid

This Sunday

On December 12, we will celebrate Joy for the third Sunday in Advent with a reflection on a story about the conception of Jesus (*Luke 1:26-38*). The choir will sing "There's Still My Joy" (*in person!*) and we will celebrate the sacrament of Baptism.

"One tiny Child can change the world; one shining Light can show the way. Beyond my tears for what I've lost, there's still my joy for Christmas Day" – Melissa Manchester

Join the service in-person (preferred, if you are vaccinated!) or via the church's [Facebook site](#). A video of the service will also be available later in the day via the [church's website](#) and its [YouTube channel](#).

Missed last Sunday? Click to read [Silence, preparation, and peace](#)

Next Sunday

On December 19, we will celebrate Love for the fourth Sunday in Advent with a reflection on a story about Mary's song of love and justice (*Luke 1:39-56*). The choir will sing "Lo How a Rose" (*in person!*).

The Prayer of Jesus

paraphrase by the Rev. Bob Hetherington

We open to the sacredness at the heart of all, called by many names.

We open to a deep mystery that we trust to be Love.

May we be faithful to the vision
of building a beloved community on earth.

May there be daily bread to nourish all hunger,
forgiveness for the harm we have done
and the capacity to forgive those who have hurt us.

May we not feel abandoned in hard times
but find the strength to meet each moment
and the wisdom to walk in the light of deep gratitude.
For the light of love is with us now and forever. Amen.

There's Still My Joy

Words and music by Melissa Manchester, Matt Rollings, and Beth Chapman

I brought my tree down to the shore,
the garland and the silver star,
to find my peace and grieve no more,
to heal this place inside my heart.

On every branch, I laid some bread,
and hungry birds filled up the sky.
They rang like bells around my head,
they sang my spirit back to life.

One tiny Child can change the world;
one shining Light can show the way.
Through all my tears for what I've lost,
there's still my joy, there's still my joy
for Christmas Day.

The snow comes down on empty sand,
there's tinsel moonlight on the waves.
My soul was lost, but here I am,
so this must be amazing grace.

One tiny Child can change the world;
one shining Light can show the way.
Beyond these tears for what I've lost,
there's still my joy, there's still my joy
for Christmas Day.

One tiny Child can change the world;
one shining Light can show the way.
Beyond these tears for what I've lost,
there's still my joy, there's still my joy
for Christmas Day.

There's still my joy for Christmas Day.

Baptism of Elizabeth Grace Watton

One: Friends, we gather now to celebrate the sacrament of baptism. Out of baptismal water, we rise with new life as members of the church.

All: **Baptism is a sign of belonging. To be baptized is to belong to one another and to God.**
At the font, all of us – whether infants, children, or adults -- are embraced by Love's presence.
Then, with the sign of the cross, we are called to lives marked by Love and Grace.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The United Church of Canada Creed

All: We are not alone; we live in God's world.
We believe in God, who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OVER THE WATER

One: We give thanks for Love. In the sign of water, we remember Love's power

All: **In the beginning, a Spirit of Love was at work, brooding over the waters of the earth, bringing forth life.**

One: Over and over again, God's Grace has been revealed by water: cleansing the earth, parting waters for slaves, flowing from a rock in the wilderness.

All: **And in the stories of Jesus, we are reminded that all who thirst are given Living Water.**

One: May those who are given to the waters of life, live in the light of grace.

ACTION OF BAPTISM

CHORAL BENEDICTION