

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2018

## Third Sunday in Advent

Please stand at items marked \* if you are able.  
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison  
Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Organist: Carol Wehrstedt

Music Director: Kendall House

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

### Prelude

### \*Entry of the Bible

### Introit

### Lighting the Candle of Joy (see insert)

\*Hymn: "Joyful, joyful we adore you" #410

### Opening Prayer:

Glorious God, with joy we sing of your glory and proclaim your saving power. You gather those who have strayed far from you and offer them freedom; you bring healing to those who are broken in body and spirit; and you transform us all into more than we thought we could be. Recognizing your goodness, we confess that while we know perfect joy only comes through faith in you, we seek it out in lesser places. In search of comfort, we indulge in excess. In search of warmth, we fabricate illusions of perfect relationships. In search of love, we hide our faults. Help us to turn to you, our true source of joy. During this season of Advent, keep our minds on what is true, what is honourable, what is just, and what is commendable. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

### Choir Anthem

## WE CELEBRATE GOD'S CHILDREN

\*Praise Song: "I've Got the Joy" insert

### Exploring God Together

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation: #119 v.3

"Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born. When God is a child, there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

### Bible Readings:

2 Chronicles 5:11-14 pg. 391 OT

Psalms 95:1-6 pg. 550 OT

Colossians 3:12-17 pg. 201 NT

"Be Still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10)  
Please take the time before the service as an opportunity to quietly prepare your heart and mind for worship.

Gloria Patri: #594

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen, amen.

"The Twelve Days of Christmas" insert

Introduction

SING: "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (v 1-4)

Reflections

SING: "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (v 5-8)

Reflections

SING: "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (v 9-12)

Reflections

\*Hymn: "Creator of the stars of night" #111

## WE RESPOND TO GOD

### Tithes and Offerings

\* Offertory Response: #141 v.2

"Good Christians, all rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now you hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this. He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this."

### \*Prayer of Dedication:

Lord of Light, you gave yourself to this world by the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thankfully rejoice and praise you for your peace and light shared with all nations. Now, center us on the King of Glory during these prayerful moments of giving. We present these gifts as your humble and willing servants in the name of the One who comes to us anew, Jesus the Living Christ. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer #535

## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\*Hymn: "Go, tell it on the mountain" #133

Blessing #168 v.1

"See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below; see, the Lamb of God appears, promised from eternal years. Hail, O ever bless-ed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn! Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem."

Postlude: (Please maintain a reverent silence and stillness during the postlude.)