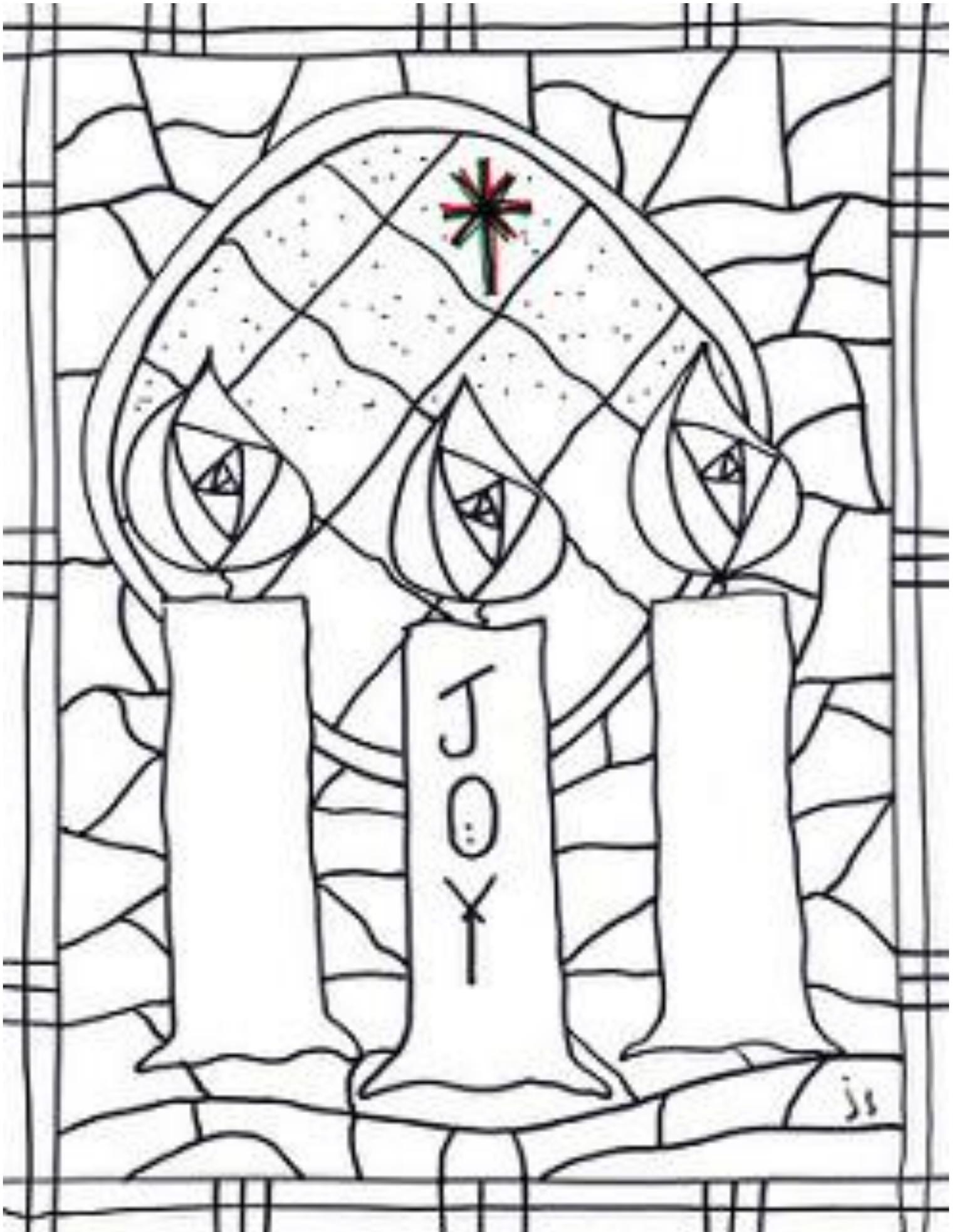


PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Advent 3 – JOY

Rev. Heather Power & Rev. Joe Gaspar





PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH
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LARGE PRINT Bulletins, Voices United Hymn Books and Bibles are available from the ushers.

BULLETIN NOTATIONS:

★ Signal to stand, for those who are able.

VU~Voices United Hymn book **MV**~More Voices Hymn book

Welcome Visitors! We're glad to have you worshipping with us at Parkminster and would like to make sure you feel connected. Please take a few minutes to fill out one of the white information envelopes found in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or put it in the mail slot outside the office. Whether you'd like more information about Parkminster's programs, want to request offering envelopes, or have a question about becoming a member – or whatever else is important to you, we'd love to hear from you! Welcome!

GATHERING

Prelude: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” *arr. by Larry Shackley*

Welcome

Statement of Welcome

One: Today, we remember our relationship with First People which has not always been healing and empowering. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home, the Anishnawbe (A-nish-NA-bay) the Haudenosaunee (Ho-di-no-SHOW-nay), and the Neutral. We acknowledge with regret, that this history has not always been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

All: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning. Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.

One: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends. Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.

One: Welcome to each who is searching for meaning, who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

All: As we come together as church, we turn to one another with gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek blessing as we welcome the great gift of spirit in us, through us, and among us.

Joys and Concerns

Advent Candle Lighting:

Week Three – JOY

One: This is the third Sunday of Advent. On this day we light again the candles of Hope and Peace.

Today we continue our journey by lighting the third Advent candle: the candle of Joy. This candle reminds us that Jesus came to bring good news of great joy for all people. “A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse...and a little child will lead them...with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation...Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy.”

As we light this candle, please join in singing our Advent song,

♪ I am walking a path of joy,
I am walking a path of joy,
I am walking a path of joy,
lead me home, lead me home.

One: Let us pray together,

All: Holy One, as we continue our Advent journey, may we celebrate this day and this season in hope, peace and joy. Let us celebrate the source of joy, the spirit of life who will be born in our midst. May the light of this candle ever brighten our path and help us to prepare and wait for the fulfillment of your promises. Our journey continues, Amen.

★Hymn: “Joyful, Joyful We Adore You” ♪ VU #232
(vs. 1 – 3)

Passing of the Peace

One: God is the source of peace within us.

All: In humility and surrender let us claim it.

One Jesus is the way of peace among us.

All: With courage and faith let us live it.

One: The Holy Spirit is the unity of peace between us.

All: With generosity and joy let us share it.

One: May the peace of Jesus, the Christ be with you...

All: And also with you.



EXPLORING

Ministry of Music: “We Shall Light a Thousand Candles”
by David Rasbach

* * * * *

Pageant ~ “Mattie and Lucy’s Version Births”

There are four "canonical" gospels in the Bible. While Matthew and Luke are the only gospels to tell the story of Jesus' birth, their stories are very different from one another.

Our play opens as Mattie & Lucy volunteer to help with this year's Christmas pageant. Little do they know that the Director will give them each a different script and leave them to work out how to put on a play with conflicting story lines, characters, and settings.

As the play ends, the Director explains how having two stories gives us an appreciation of the diversity of ways early Christians expressed their understanding of who Jesus was.

A Living the Questions resource and based on “Matt and Lucy’s Version Births”
written by Rev. Dot Saunders-Perez
Adapted for Parkminster by Rev. Heather Power

Thank you to all who are participating in our Pageant today!
Thank you to the all of the wonderful volunteers behind the scenes who have helped with today’s pageant. Special thanks to Abbie Hicknell, Grace Murray, Shadow Power and Owen Rudolph for all of their hard work and enthusiasm.

* * * * *

Act 1: The Magi

Hymn: “People Look East”  VU #9 vs. 1, 4, 5

Act 2: The Shepherds

Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High”  VU #38 vs. 1 - 2

Act 3: The Angels

Hymn: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”  VU #48

Act 4: The Animals

Instrumental Music – “Jesus Our Brother” (VU #56)

Act 5: Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus

Hymn: “Away in a Manger”

♪ VU #69 vs. 1 - 2

Act 6: The Finale

★ Hymn: “Joy to the World”

♪ VU #59

RESPONDING

What Parkminster Means to Me – Laura & Bruce Mutton

Men’s Chorus:

“Mary Sat a Rockin”

by Greg Gilpin

Offering – invitation

As our offering is being collected this morning, children and youth will be helping to collect the white gifts to bring forward during the dedication.

Offertory: “Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow” *arr. by Lloyd Larson*

★ Dedication:

“What Can I Do?”

♪ MV #191

What can I do? What can I bring?

What can I say? What can I sing?

I’ll sing with joy. (I’ll sing with joy.) I’ll say a prayer.

I’ll bring my love. I’ll do my share.

★ Offering Prayer

Prayers of the People

One: God of angels caroling through the heavens,

All: with cotton-ball wings and coat-hanger frames;

One: God of shepherds in the fields,

All: God of three-year-old lambs searching for their mummies;

One: God of wise men from the East,

All: God of magi whose headgear keeps falling to one side;

One: God of a Bethlehem stable and of a Waterloo sanctuary,
we pray to you this morning.

All: Thank you, Loving God, for Christmas.

One: Thank you for the gifts and decorations.

All: Thank you for friends and visitors.

One: All: Thank you for turkey and good food and drink.

All: Thank you for the opportunity to give to others.

One: Thank you for Jesus who shows us Your ways of love, acceptance and justice.

All: We have come in from the cold, into a warm church,

One: and so, God, we pray we pray for all who are poor and cold and hungry like the shepherds,

All: that they may hear good news of comfort.

One: We pray for all who are searching like the wise ones,

All: that they may find the place to leave their gifts and their troubles.

One: We pray for all who are busy, hurried, distracted like the innkeeper,

All: that they may know the peace that comes from welcoming the stranger.

One: We pray for all like King Herod who have power,

All: that they may use it for the good of all people.

One: We pray asking to help us see the world as you see it...

All: As a play, as a pageant,

Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer in various ways this Sunday:

Ushers:.....Sheril Stinson, Don Pendlebury,
.....Kristen Pendlebury and Marjorie Eveleigh
Greeters:Jack & Jean Wilson
Lay Reader:.....Max Cohen
Chancel Arrangements:.....Chancel Committee
Candle Lighters:.....arranged each Sunday morning in Advent
Pageant:A big thank you to those who starred in & helped
.....behind the scenes with our Christmas Pageant!
Accompanist:Bob Hudgins
Musical Talent:Our wonderful Choirs!
Counters:Jim Bowman, Bill Spall
Coffee Hour:Darlene Basse, Delores Benedik
Coffee Hour Dessert:Margo Foster Cohen

The Ministry of Parkminster:..... All of us
Ministers:..... Rev. Heather Power (x 22) and
.....Rev. Joe Gaspar (x 23)
Music Director:.....Neil Murray (x 25)
Office Administrator:.....Melanie Chisholm (x 21)
Custodian:.....Allen Switzer (x 26)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For full details please refer to the weekly "What's UP" email.

(If you would like to receive "What's UP", please contact the church office.)



ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SERVICES & PROGRAMS

Inserts are available from an usher & also in the weekly "What's Up" email.



~ MINISTERS' MESSAGES ~

Pastoral Care – Rev. Joe Gaspar and Rev. Heather Power: If you or anyone in the congregation requires pastoral care or you become aware of someone who might be ill, in hospital or in need of some support, please contact Heather or Joe at church by phone at **519-885-0935 (Heather at ext. 22 or Joe at ext. 23)**. Voicemail messages will be checked regularly.

Ministers' Day Off: Rev. Joe and Rev. Heather take Friday as their day off during the week. For urgent matters that cannot wait until their Sunday to Thursday work schedule, please contact the church office and they will be contacted for you.

This week let us pray for: **World Council of Churches Focus – China, Hong Kong and Macau;** **Hamilton Conference Prayer Cycle - First United Church, Cambridge**

~ UPCOMING SERVICES ~

THE LONGEST NIGHT - Thursday, December 21 at 7:00pm: For some it is difficult to partake in the feelings of good cheer expected of us during the Christmas season. Christmas can bring with it reminders of pain, loss and emptiness. It is helpful to know we are not alone in these times. Please join us at Parkminster to gather in worship, share fellowship, and light a candle acknowledging our grief and loss.

CHRISTMAS EVE – Sunday, December 24:

10:00am - morning worship and for the children ... Christmas activities and celebrations with Rev. Heather!

7:00pm** – Family Service that is child friendly with lots of music

10:00pm** – Quiet & reflective service with Communion, candlelight & carols

*(**A few more volunteers are needed for these services, especially a Lay Reader for both 7pm & 10pm services. The sign-up sheet is in the Upper Hall.)*

EPIPHANY - Sunday, December 31

10:00am – morning worship with Rev. Heather

~ UGO IGO CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER ~

UGO IGO women are invited to a "Sweet and Savoury" evening on **Tuesday, December 19th at 7:00 pm** Where: 272 Ferndale Place, Waterloo; Hosts: Carolyn Rudolph and Kathy Hagedorn Hehl; What to bring: your favourite holiday treat and the recipe to share with friends; Punch and Christmas cheer provided. RSVP khagh64@gmail.com or 519-886-1272

~ AUDIO / VISUAL HELP IS AVAILABLE! ~

Please contact our A/V coordinator Sandra Quehl, should you require help with the Sanctuary projector for your group's next event or meeting. Operators are standing by! You may reach Sandra by email at quewat1@outlook.com

FINANCIAL UPDATE

NEARING THE FINISH LINE - HELP IS NEEDED

December is both an exciting time and a nerve-wracking time. It is extremely humbling and gratifying to see the generosity of so many giving special gifts to help us achieve a balanced budget; but nerve-wracking, not knowing what the final result will be over the next few weeks. It is vitally important that we end the year on a positive note financially. Please help if you can, thank you. Jack Reynolds, Treasurer

Our Progress as of December 12th:

We are at 87% for the Local Fund budget. A further \$43,150 is required to meet our projected operating costs for the year of \$342,300. For Outreach, we are at 82%. A further \$14,660 is required to meet our year-end Outreach goal of \$80,000.

Outreach Goal - \$80,000



Local Fund - \$342,300

