
St. John's United Church



**An Affirming, Fully Inclusive Ministry
December 23, 2018**

Welcome to all worshipping with us today.

You are invited to come downstairs to share in a cup of coffee or tea and some conversation after the service. If you are visiting with us this morning, please sign the guest book in the church entryway and include your email address if you would like to receive our weekly newsletter.

St. John's Welcomes Children into Worship

Families with babies/toddlers are invited into the Family Room (opposite the main entrance to the Church, at the back of the Sanctuary). Older children are welcomed into Worship with the rest of the congregation. Activity packs are available for them to take into Worship.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Hymnals indicated by: **VU**–Voices United & **MV**–More Voices

**You are invited to stand, if it is comfortable for you.*

Prelude

Ken Dagleish

Welcome, Acknowledgement, Announcements

Rev. Alan Claassen

Invocation

Gathering Song

People Get Ready

by Curtis Mayfield

People, get ready, there's a train a-coming
Don't need no ticket, you just get on board
People, get ready, there's a train a-coming
Don't need no ticket, you just thank the Lord

Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love *Carol Mathews*

From the smallness of Bethlehem
comes something ancient and mighty.
The littlest family will stand in majestic strength.
People will live in safety.
God will come to heal the earth.

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Le the fires of your justice burn.**

Advent candles are lit

Monique & Jason Michaeli

Listen for God's blessings.
Feel how your heart leaps for joy.
Believe that what God has promised even now is starting to come true.

**Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn!**

Come let us worship together,
So that we might be carried by love! Allelujah!

***Hymn**

Canticle of the Turning

MV# 120

***Opening Prayer**

Carol Mathews

**Love shines from a stable in Bethlehem.
As we arrive at the manger of this moment,
may love come from hearts broken open:
a love that will encourage hope,
a love that will open the doors of peace,
a love that will bring joy to our common home.
For all our relations, may it be so. Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace of Christ saying:** *Rev. Alan Claassen*

May the peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbours
with a handshake, a hug, or with hands together in prayer.*

Regathering Song *Gloria (Taizé)* **VU# 37**

Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

Spirit Sightings: *When have you taken a risk for love?*

Scripture Reading **Luke 1:39-55** *Carol Mathews*

May the Spirit bless us with wisdom and wonder,
as we ponder the meaning of these words for our lives.

Thanks be to God.

A Song for Christmas *A Child is Born*
Trudi Diening, Kelly Smith, Ken Dalgleish

Sermon **Soul Magnified** *Rev. Alan Claassen*

A Moment for Silent Reflection

Hymn *Still, Still, Still* **VU# 47**

Pastoral Prayer

The Prayer of Jesus in Song **VU# 959**

Presentation of Our Gifts and Offering

Offertory *I Saw Three Ships* *Trudi Diening*

***Doxology** *Don't Be Afraid* **MV# 90**

***Prayer of Dedication** *Rev. Alan Claassen*

Bless now these gifts, Holy One.

**Help them to become instruments of your grace
that help us to fill the hungry with good food, to lift up the poor,
to help all your children show mercy so that we will all embody
your promise that this world is about to turn. Amen.**

***Hymn** *Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1, 2)* **VU# 38**

***Benediction**

***Benesingin'** *Angels We have Heard on High (refrain)*

Glo - - - - - ria, in excelsis Deo!

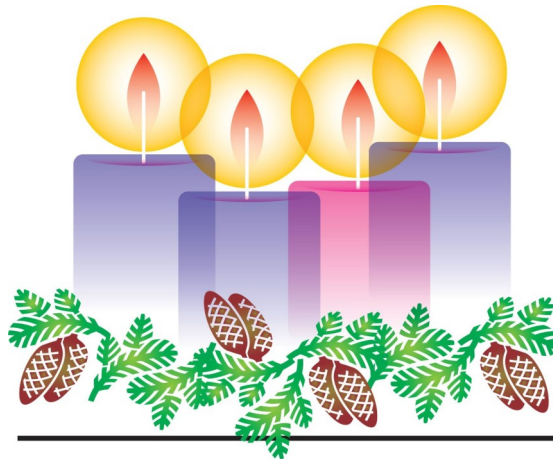
Glo - - - - - ria, in excelsis Deo!



Thank you to those who contributed to our worship service this morning: readers, greeters, refreshment makers, musicians, to name just a few!

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES:

- ♦ The chairs **do NOT need to be put away** after the service today.
- ♦ Clean-up brought to you by the letters: **D, J, R, Y**
Those whose last name begins with these letters are asked to help with cleaning up after our time of coffee, tea and fellowship together.
- ♦ **REMINDER** 'Tis the season....if you have turned the heat up, please remember to turn it back down!



We gratefully acknowledge that we are gathered on the unceded ancestral lands of the shíshálh First Nation.



St. John's United Church
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St. John's Announcements

December 23, 2018

♦ **Christmas Eve Services**

Our two Candlelight Christmas Eve services this year will be a time of experiencing the Christmas story through the singing of our favourite carols, hearing the Scriptures, and sharing the beauty of Silent Night.

Our **7:00 pm Carol Service** will appeal to everyone, including children and their families. This service will include of a short drama written by Rev. Jim Hatherly entitled "Signs and Wonders." It provides us with a humorous twist on what it was like for a shepherd couple, Virgil and Elaine, to see and hear angels.

Our **10:00 pm Service** is a quieter time of contemplation and communion, along with the carols, scriptures and candlelight,. Ken Dalgleish will provide special music for this Holy Night Service.

♦ **Food Bank:** Please remember to support our Food Bank, especially this time of year. They need particularly the following items: Tins of salmon, Tins of pork and beans, Packages of Kraft dinner

♦ **Annual Reports Are Due!** Calling all Team and group leaders!! The due date for submitting 2018 Annual Reports is Tuesday January 15, 2019. This report should highlight your Team/groups activities for the calendar year 2018, and anything else you'd like to share. Please talk to Cathy if you have any questions, and email your submission in Word document format to Cathy and Ian Poole. Don't wait for spring – do it now!!

♦ **Christmas Cookie Caper** I would like to acknowledge how it takes a whole church to make an event like the Cookie Caper come together, and even though some of the people change from year to year the results remain the same. What a fabulous event we had, starting with the 'choir' singing in the kitchen and oohing and ahing about the number of cookies that kept coming in on Friday afternoon. It was so nice to have enough cookies that there were some still available for people coming at 12:00, some to sell at the Search and Rescue event and some for after church on Sunday for those who were unable to make it on Saturday.

Thanks to all the bakers , table setters, cookie tray assemblers, music providers, leaf blowers, money takers, supervisors keeping the trays filled up and to the tireless workers in the kitchen who kept busy the whole time cleaning and organizing the trays to be put away in the freezer room. A big thank you also to people who bought cookies.

This is truly a gift to the community who's appreciation is very evident in the faces of both the adults and the children who come to choose their special cookies year after year and also some who were there for the first time. Thank you one and all. Hope everyone had as much fun as I did.

- *Val Marus*

Cookie Caper yielded the best results ever. Total sales were \$4196, of which \$420 will go to the Sechelt Food Bank, \$200 to UCW for their pie sales, leaving us with net proceeds of \$3576 toward our operations budget general fund raising goal for the year! Many thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a resounding success! - *Cheryl Palm*, Keeping the Lights On

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,

'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'



And Mary said,
'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour
on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations
will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud
in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

♦ **Call to Care & Membership Team** is experimenting with providing meals for those of us who are in need of relief from cooking for whatever reason. The meals have been lovingly prepared by congregants and/or purchased with donations made possible through our Benevolent Fund. The food is stored on the left hand side of the freezer and the freezer is in the downstairs Furnace Room. If you find yourself in need, please follow the instructions on the freezer lid.

♦ **The Prayer Shawl Group** will be meeting Fridays only from 10:30 - 12 at the McElroy home, 4459 Stalashen Dr. Contact Sharon for directions or information at 604 885 7717 or sassee222@gmail.com Beginning Jan. 18, we will be meet on Fridays at the church, in the Family Room by the Sanctuary

♦ Jazz has found a place to live in Wilson Creek! Thank you all for your prayers. If any of you would like a guinea pig friend, Jazz needs to rehome his girl, BB King, as there are no pets aloud at the new place. She is perfect for people who like daily cuddles and like feeding critters vegetables. Contact Jazz by email if interested at michyron83@gmail.com.

WIDER CHURCH COMMUNITY

♦ **Sing and Stand with Land Defenders**

Saturday January 5 at 7:00 pm at St. Hilda’s Anglican.

STORIES, FOOD, DRINK, MUSIC, CONVERSATIONS

Land Defenders from the T’seil-Watuth Nation on Burrard Inlet—to the Neperara Nation in Colombia are fighting for their Holy Lands and Waters. How can we stand with them?

The Rev Emilie Smith, Anglican Priest, will be speaking about her recent trip to Colombia, up the Naya River, and linking this with her experiences with the pipeline resistance. Patti Powell, a gifted teacher of singing, (check out pattipowellchoirs.com) will teach us songs that are about connecting with one another and with the source of all life.

WIDER COMMUNITY EVENTS

♦ **MOTET Concert** Friday January 4, 2:00 pm at St. Hilda’s Anglican.

♦ **Vocal Intent Concert** Sunday January 6, 3:00 pm at St. Bart’s Anglican. Admission by donation.

What’s Happening This Week			
Sun	23	9:20 am 10:00 am	Contemplative Prayer Worship Service Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary
Mon	24	7:00 pm 10:00 pm	Christmas Eve Carol Service Candlelight Service Sanctuary Sanctuary
Dec	25-27		OFFICE CLOSED
Sun	30	9:20 am 10:00 am	Contemplative Prayer Worship Service Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary