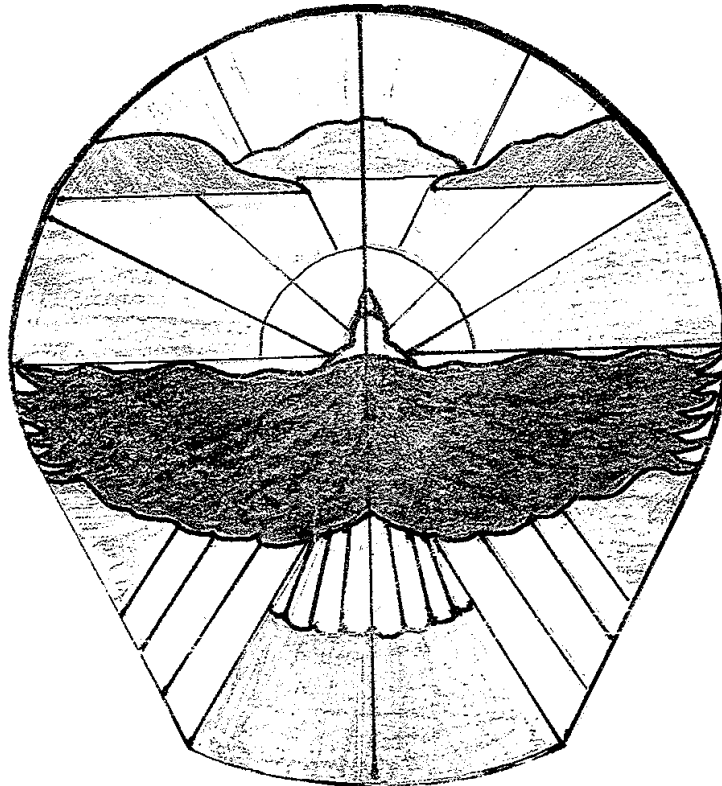


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# St. John's United Church

An Affirming, Fully Inclusive Ministry



**December 30, 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.

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# First Sunday of Christmas

## Last Sunday of the Year

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

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

### Prelude

*Ken Dalglish*

### Welcome, Acknowledgement, Announcements

*Rev. Alan Claassen*

### Centering Silence

### Lighting the Christ Candle

*Rev. Alan Claassen*

May the Light of Jesus Christ

**become the light in our hearts.**

May the light in our hearts,

**become the peace in our world.**

### Gathering Song

*Behold, I Make All Things New*

**MV# 115**

### Call to Worship

*Donna Currie*

We are here, now, this day

to keep faith with the Christmas spirit.

**Grateful for those we love most dearly.**

We are here, now, this day

to embrace the Spirit of Christmas,

**and so to keep it with us throughout the year.**

We are here, now, this day,

letting go of what has been,

**open and hopeful for what may come.**

May we move forward with hope, peace, joy, and love,

**for ourselves, for our neighbours,**

**and for the light of Christ that is born within all creation.**

### \*Hymn

*Jesus, Our Brother*

**VU# 56**

### \*Opening Prayer

*Donna Currie*

**With faith to face our challenges,**

**with love that casts out fear,**

**with hope to trust tomorrow,**

**may we receive this day as the gift it is - a reason for rejoicing.**

**Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life,**

**at the closing of this year. 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**    *Behold, I Make All Things New*                      **MV# 115**

Behold, behold, I make all things new,  
beginning with you and starting from today.  
Behold, behold, I make all things new  
my promise is true, for I am the Christ the way.

**Spirit Sightings:**    *What angelic message did you receive?*

**Scripture Reading**                      Psalm 148                      *Donna Currie*

**Poetry Reading**                      *A New Beginning* by John O'Donohue

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

**Song**                      *He Is Born (Il est né)*                      **VU# 50**

**Sermon**                      We are Born                      *Rev. Alan Claassen*

**A Moment for Silent Reflection**

**Hymn**                      *Born in the Night, Mary's Child*                      **VU# 95**

**Pastoral Prayer**

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

**Blessed to Share**

**Offertory**

**\*Doxology**                      *This Little Light of Mine*

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

This is the day that that Love has made,  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
For the gifts that we have received  
and for the gifts that we have shared,  
we give thanks.  
For all our relations, may it be so.

**\*Hymn**                      *Go Tell It on the Mountain*                      **VU# 43**

**\*Blessing**

**\*Departing Song**                      *Go Tell It on the Mountain (Refrain)*  
Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.



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



**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: **I, N, O, Q, S**  
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!

**St. John's United Church**

5085 Davis Bay Road Sechelt, BC V0N 3A2

Phone: 604.885.9822 Email: [stjohns.sunshinecoast@gmail.com](mailto:stjohns.sunshinecoast@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stjohns-united.org](http://www.stjohns-united.org)

Minister: Rev Alan Claassen..... [alan.claassen@gmail.com](mailto:alan.claassen@gmail.com) ..... 604-989-7687

Minister's work week is Sunday to Thursday.

Office Administrator: Karen Weatherington..... 604-885-9822

Office Hours: Tues - Thurs 1:00-3:30 pm

## St. John's Announcements

December 30, 2018

♦ **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!!

♦ **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.

♦ **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](mailto:sassee222@gmail.com) Beginning on January 18, the group will meet at the church, in the Family Room by the Sanctuary

### 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](http://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: Twelve Days of Christmas

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.

## Psalm 148

*poetic translation by Nan C. Merrill*

Praise the Blessed One!

Give praise from the heavens, and from the ends of the earth!

**Give praise all you angels, angels of earth and of heaven!**

Give praise, sun and moon, give praise, all you shining stars!

**Give praise, all universes, the whole cosmos of Creation!**

Praise the Blessed One! For through Love all was created

**And firmly fixed for ever and ever; Yes,  
the pattern of creation was established.**

Give praise to the Beloved, all the earth, all that swim in the deep,

**And all the winged ones in the air!**

Give praise all mountains and hills, all trees and all minerals!

**Give praise all four-legged and all the creep on the ground!**

Leaders of the nations and all peoples, young and old,

**Give praise! United together in all your diversity,  
that peace and harmony might flourish on earth!**

Let all people praise the Beloved,

**who is exalted in heaven and on earth;  
whose glory is above heaven and earth.**

For all are called to be friends,

**companions to the true Friend,**

giving their lives joyfully

**as co-creators and people of peace!**

Praises be to the Blessed One, the very Breath of our breath,

**the very Heart of our heart.**

## **A New Beginning**

*by John O'Donohue*

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play with the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

What's Happening This Week				
Sun	30	9:20 am 10:00 am	Contemplative Prayer Worship Service	Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary
Tues	Jan 1		OFFICE CLOSED	
Sun	6	9:20 am 10:00 am	Contemplative Prayer Communion Worship Service	Ross Armstrong Rm Sanctuary



May God's love light your way  
and lead you into a new year  
that shines with joy.  
Happy New Year!