

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

WWW.EPPC-UCC.COM

Ministers: All of God's People

December 13, 2020

Advent III: Joy

✦ *indicates please stand in body or spirit*

WE GATHER

Prelude "The First Noel" (Portland Pealers quartet)

Welcome - Community in Action – Announcements

God in My Week – Sharing & Caring - Birthdays & Anniversaries

Spiritual Focus:

"Advent: What Sparks Joy in You"

✦ **Gathering Song MV 40 "Never Ending Joy" (PUC)**

✦ **Acknowledging the Traditional Territory**

WE APPROACH GOD

Call to Worship

One: When the Spirit of God calls upon us

All: We are called out of the ordinariness of life

One: Into a life of passionate possibilities

All: We are called to right wrongs, to mend and build

One: We are called to see what lies before us

All: To imagine new ways of being.

All: Holy One, help us to envision a new future, enflame us with your passion for a joy-filled people. Come let us worship God and receive God's blessing.

Prayer of Approach

Come into our lives Holy One, and lift us from the everydayness of life. Show us good brave work to do and stir in us a desire for our best selves. Take our hands and feet and to where you need us to be, bringing joy, mending broken spirits, holding reaching hands, comforting those who mourn. Let us be your good news to all we meet. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Ministry of Music "Huron Carol" (Instrumental)

(PUC)

Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy – Jan and Bruce Haskin

WE SEEK WISDOM

Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word passed from generation to generation to guide and inspire; that we might wrestle a holy revelation for our time and place from the human experiences and cultural assumptions of another era. God calls us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. (From United Church Song of Faith)

Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalm: 126 Voices United

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Hymn: VU 30 "Hail To God's Own Anointed"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Our Offertory - Supporting God's Ministries

✦ **Offertory Song VU 542 "We give you but your own"**

✦ **Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication**

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

✦ **Hymn: VU 35 "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"**

✦ **Commissioning & Benediction**

✦ **Choral Blessing "I've Got Peace Like a River" (PUC)**

Postlude "We Three Kings" (Portland Pealers quartet)

Announcements

Rev. Betty Davey (Betty Sangster) has been emailing out a daily short reflection, "Morning Connection", during this pandemic. If you would like to be added to her email list, please contact her at bettydavey18@gmail.com. If you think you would like to receive a little positive inspiration each morning (Monday – Friday) this might just be the way!

As you know year end is fast approaching which means as **treasurer**, I am responsible for publishing the financial reports. One of the year end tasks is to have an independent review done of the books and procedures to ensure the annual report is an accurate reflection of what happened. This is not an Audit. Unfortunately, during last years upheaval, I forgot to have this task done as a result there are two years in need of review. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact me at dpick@kingston.net Thanks
Duncan Pickard

CHRISTMAS EVE - Portland United Church will be holding two services on Christmas Eve – 4 PM & 7 PM – attendance at each service is limited to about 35 people depending on the number of families vs. individuals attending. We anticipate that more than 70 people will want to attend Christmas Eve services so advance reservations will be required. Please contact Hansen Downer at hansen.downer@gmail.com to book your time. You will receive a follow up email confirming your reservation. If we are cancelled, you will receive a phone call.

As we move forward, please submit your announcements to Annette Clarke (office@eppc-ucc.com) by Wednesday at 4 PM to be included in the Sunday bulletin.

Elgin Portland Pastoral Charge

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Web site: www.eppc-ucc.com

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Office Hours: Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.,

Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Secretary: Annette Clarke,

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Chair of the Official Board: Cam McKay 613-284-0216

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Elgin: Clint Halladay 613-359-5607

Portland: Hansen Downer 613-799-3440