

December 11, 2022
Third Sunday of Advent

Welcome

Gathering Hymn: VU 6 A Candle is Burning (vs 1-2-3)

Lighting the Candle of Joy

With this one light, we pray:

**O God, we place this light in this holy space
as a reminder that we are on this journey together.
Be light along all our paths. Lead us to a more just world
and help us to stay awake and present to your joy in
each ordinary day. Amen**

**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. (MV 221)*

Call to Worship

God of Justice, as we gather for worship today, help us hear
Mary's song as a song for us today. **May we sing it loudly
and boldly as we seek your justice and peace. Amen.**

Opening Prayer

**Great Spirit of Joy, fill our minds and our hearts with
miraculous laughter and help us rejoice as Mary did.
Lead us on the path to new life. We are ready to feel
your presence for we are your people, longing to be
renewed. Amen**

Hymn: VU 7 Hope is a Star (vs 1-2-3)

Prayers for Grace and Transformation

Words of Assurance

**May we lift our voices as we sing a new song! Even in
our brokenness and imperfection, God never leaves us.
May we sing praise as Mary does, steeped in the
assurance of this truth: We are forgiven and cherished
through and through. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

The Peace

Peace for the Children ...

Exegesis/Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Isaiah 35:1–10

Luke 1:47–55

**** Prepare the way of the Lord! Prepare the way of
the Lord! Make a straight path for him, make a
straight path; prepare the way of the Lord!
(VU 10)***

Reflection

Hymn: VU 380 She Comes Sailing on the Wind

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology: Gloria!

Offertory Prayer

**We dedicate ourselves to Joy this day and ask that
God bless our offering of money, time and talent
so that others too may know God's love. Amen.**

Announcements

Prayers of the people/Lords Prayer

Extinguish the Candle

**** Joy shines as the solitary star. Faith is the inner
light. You and I together mirror the Light of
Lights, and illumine the pathway home. (MV 220)***

Blessing

Closing hymn: VU 20 On Jordan's Bank (vs 1-2-3)

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The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples. SouthWest United worships on the traditional territory of the Mohawk, members of the Six Nation Confederacy, including Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga Seneca and Tuscarora peoples.

Pastor: Beryl Barraclough, DLM
Director of Music: Sarah Fraser
Clerk of Session: Dennis Brown
Office Administrator: Amy Barratt

SouthWest United Church
December 11, 2022
Advent 3 – The Candle of Joy



Isaiah 35:10 and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.