

Fourth Sunday of Advent - *The Gift of Joy*

**WELCOME**

(▲ Please rise in body or in spirit)

Prelude

Welcome and Life & Work of the Church

Birthday Coins for the Birthday Church!

***Happy Birthday to you. To Jesus be true.***

***May God's richest blessings abide over you.***

**Be Born in Me ~ Peggy MacLean, dance**

**FOURTH SUNDAY – *The Gift of Joy***

**Advent Candle Lighting – “Light of Hope”**

Choral Introit

Responsive Litany

In a world where we often seek personal happiness, Advent beckons us to a deeper expression of our faith.

**For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**

Advent beckons us to remember God's unconditional love, even when we stumble.

**For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**

Advent beckons us to remember God's invitation to the human heart to be still in the face of strife.

**For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**

Advent beckons us to remember we always have hope, even when it seems as if our world is caving in around us.

**For the Lord our God is with us both now and forevermore.**

Candle Lighting (Brenda James, Rylee & Jaxon Shupe)

This morning we light four candles. The 1<sup>st</sup> candle reminds us of the hope that God's light never ceases to shine. The 2<sup>nd</sup> candle reminds us that in a world of discord, we hear again the calming words of our Savior, “Peace, be still.” The 3<sup>rd</sup> candle reminds us of the matchless love God has for us. The 4<sup>th</sup> candle reminds us that our joy abides in God who gently whispers to each human heart, “Come follow me, for I have come that you might have life and have it to the fullest measure!”

Sung Response (*melody line on insert*)

***Light of life, Maker of day,  
Gather our shadows and cast them away,  
Beacon of truth, gleaming and bright,  
Shine in our hearts, shatter our night.***

Prayer (*together*)

**Gracious God, in a world where the message is “be happy,” we are reminded that only you grant the gift of true joy. This morning let us hear again with joyful hearts and proclaim with elated voices the wondrous refrain of your coming. “The Lord, our God, is with us both now and forevermore.” We pray this in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

▲ Hymn **VU 1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v 1,2,6,7)**

Growing in Faith

**We Hear the Word of God**

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

For the word of God in scripture, among us and within us...

**Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: *Jesus, O, What a Wonderful Child*

Reflection

Rev. Sean Handcock

Prayers of the People and **the Lord's Prayer**

▲ Hymn **VU # 17 O Ancient Love**

**We Offer Our Gifts**

The Presentation of Our Offering *Silent Night ~ piano duet*

▲ Sung Response **VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter (v.4)**

***What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet, what I can I give him – give my heart.***

▲ Prayer of Dedication

**We Journey Forth**

▲ Hymn      **VU 38 *Angels We Have Heard on High***

▲ Commissioning & Benediction

▲ Song of Dismissal    **VU 7 verse 3**

***Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Saviour is born.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.***

Postlude

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**Thanks to Today's Participants:**

**Greeters:        Mary Morrison & Kathy Morris  
Announcer:     Ron Butler  
Elevator:        Matthew Riley  
Audio/Visual:   Bruce Jarvis  
Bulletin Folder: Kathy Morris**

A warm welcome is extended to all.

Visitors are invited to sign the guest book in the church entry.

Newcomers, please fill out a WELCOME card and place it  
on the offering plate so we can get to know you.

There is a Social Time in the Lower Hall following worship.

**Mission Statement: Hope United is a welcoming,  
inclusive family of faith, committed to a life of love and  
serving God in the community and throughout the world.**

# Light of Hope

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by  
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:



Light of life, Mak-er of day, gath-er our  
sha-dows and cast them a-way. Bea-con of  
truth, gleam-ing and bright, shine in our  
hearts, shat-ter our night.

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## Announcements for December 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Christmas Services

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm: Christmas Eve Family Service  
Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 8:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Dec 29<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas

Condolences are extended to Tracy Dodge and family on the death of her mother Margaret Gentleman on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Hope United gratefully acknowledges donations:  
In memory of Catherine Lambert from Ron Herold  
In Memory of Margaret Gentleman from Marian Johnston

2020 offering envelope sets are available for pickup at the back of the sanctuary. Special envelopes for PAR givers will be sent with Income Tax Receipts in early January. If you plan any changes to your giving in the new year, please contact Nancy in the Church office: 455-0261 or office@hopeunitedchurch.ca.

Anyone with items to donate for any of our outreach work or projects who may have difficulty transporting your donated items to Hope, please contact Jana Forgrave at forgravejana@gmail.com or 705-994-5262 or on Hope's Facebook page. Jana will be happy to come pickup items & deliver them to Hope. We recognize that some of our members are unable to carry heavy/bulky items, and we want everyone to be able to participate.

Advent Canned Christmas Tree: Once again throughout advent we have built a Christmas tree of canned goods collected for Parker Street Food Bank. The tree started on Sunday Dec 1<sup>st</sup> with 1.36 L juice cans and finishes today with 284ml or 10oz cans. Thank You!

Haven't tried Fundscrip yet? This easy-to-use program allows our church to turn your everyday spending into ongoing fundraising. Simply buy gift cards from us or on-line for participating retailers and up to 15% is donated back to the church. Many of these are retailers you already use - plus cards can be used as a great gift alternative on special occasions or as a donation. Use invitation code **3M3RWE** at [www.fundscrip.com/retailers](http://www.fundscrip.com/retailers) and or contact Barb 457-1112 for info. Order day is the first Sunday of each month.

### Coming up in 2020!

Coldest Night of the Year walk: Hope will be participating as "Hope United for Change." All funds raised will be going to The Souls Harbour Rescue Mission. Please join our team to walk on Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. You can participate in body, or in spirit, financially, or in prayers for those less fortunate (or, all of the above). Sign up at <https://cnoy.org/home>

### Community Announcements for December 22<sup>nd</sup>

Out of The Cold Halifax, an emergency homeless winter shelter, will open again this season and is reaching out to Halifax congregations for volunteers who are open to working frontline evening, overnight, and morning shifts with guests, prepare meals, provide daytime assistance, or maybe ferry clothes to and from the laundromat. If interested, please contact Liam Power, Volunteer Coordinator, Out of the Cold 902-210-5426 [volunteerotcs@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerotcs@gmail.com). There are sheets with further information on the sanctuary bulletin board.