

**Sunday December 14, 2025,  
Advent 3, 10:30am,  
Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church**

*We will have a pieces of paper this morning giving you a chance to write your dearest hopes for our world. If you are comfortable sharing, please place your paper in the offering plate when it goes by you, and we will post our desires on a tree at the front, where we can all be reminded of our hope in Christ.*

**Prelude/Announcement Video**

**Greeting**

May the joy of Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

**Acknowledgement Of The Traditional Territory**

This morning we are gathered on the traditional territory of Alderville First Nation, situated in the treaty territories of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, specifically the Gunshot Treaty which is part of the Williams Treaties Settlement Agreement of 2018. May those of us, of settler heritage, strive to learn about these Treaties and develop good relationships with First Nations.

**Moment To Gather Ourselves**

**Song:** MV16, Come And Fill Our Hearts

Come and fill our hearts with your joy.

You alone, O God, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your joy, alleluia! (repeat)

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**Silence**

**Call To Worship**

Praise be to God!

**Who has made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them.**

Praise be to God!

**Who is watching over the strangers and upholding the downtrodden**

Praise be to God!

**Who will transform our deserts to lush lands blooming with joy and singing**

Praise be to God!

**Praise be to God, O my soul, let us worship God now!**

**Hymn:** VU 232, Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you, God of glory, life and love;  
hearts unfold like flowers before you, opening to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away;  
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

- 2 All your works with joy surround you, earth and heaven reflect your rays,  
stars and angels sing around you, centre of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird and flowing fountain, sound their praise eternally.
- 3 You are giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,  
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!  
Source of grace and fount of blessing, let your light upon us shine;  
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.
- 4 Mortals join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;  
God's own love is reigning o'er us, joining people hand in hand.  
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;  
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

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### **Advent Candle Lighting**

First reader: Our joy is found in God  
Second reader: and God is our joy.

First reader: The world may not always know joy,  
Second reader: but we trust.

First reader: Our own families may not know joy,  
Second reader: but we trust

First reader: Our own hearts may need joy,  
Second reader: but we know God is always with us, guiding us  
toward a better path, that leads us to joy.

First reader: So we light a candle of joy, trusting in that  
better world that is still to come.

Second reader: We light a candle now, grateful that the light of  
joy guides us in shadowy times.

Together: please pray with us.

**God, you are the source of all hope, peace and joy. We know that all creation sings  
with joy for all you have given us. Help us to join our own voices to the chorus of wild  
wind, chirping birds and roaring bears. Help us to be humble enough to feel your joy in  
unexpected places. Amen.**

**Sing:** One Flame at a Time

*by Wanda Stride*

**Angels and mangers and prophets of old  
Stories alive in the way they are told  
Make room once again for the truth that we know**

That Jesus loves dearly, so clearly we show  
Joy, as we light up the world with a flame we show  
Joy, as we promise to love in his name we show  
Joy, as we learn once again the true meaning of  
Joy, as we light up the world, one flame at a time.

## **Holy Wondering: Word Search**

### **Ukulele Hymn: VU 59, Joy To The World**

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.
- 2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.
- 4 He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

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## **Repeat After Me Prayer**

Dear God  
Thank you for Joy,  
And thank you for Jesus.  
Some day  
We trust  
That we will always  
Feel joy in our hearts.  
Show us how that will happen!  
In Jesus' name  
Amen

## Prayer Of Confession

Beloved Christ, forgive us for the times we can't find patience.

**Help us to be like the farmer who waits for the precious crop from the earth.**

Help us when we need to grumble, and help us feel grace instead.

**Help us when we make easy choices,**

**forgetting the sacrifice of those who came before us.**

Help us to be servants like Mary and Elizabeth.

Help us...

Words of silent confession

Jesus told his disciples to forgive each other 70 times 7 times. Imagine how often Jesus has forgiven us?

*\*adapted from Advent Unwrapped 2025: weekly advent service*

## Sing: TLUS 78, Trust These Words

Trust these words: you are forgiven!

Through Christ's mercy, broken hearts can be restored;

Trust these words: you are forgiven!

Live in peace, beloved, know you are adored;

Trust these words, trust these words, trust these words.

Trust these words: we are forgiven.

Through God's mercy broken lives can be restored;

Trust these words: We are forgiven!

Live in grace and peace, oh, love and serve the Lords;

Trust these words, trust these words, trust these words.

Words and music: Lisa Waites, 2021.

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## Prayer For Illumination

Loving God, we are about to read the Bible together. Bless our understanding of these holy words, and help us to hear your voice loud and clear. Amen.

## Scripture: Luke 1: 46b-55 Mary's Song of Praise

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said,

**"My soul magnifies the Lord,**

<sup>47</sup> **and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

<sup>48</sup> **for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.**

**Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,**

<sup>49</sup> **for the Mighty One has done great things for me,**

**and holy is his name;**

- 50 **indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.**
- 51 He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
- 52 He has brought down the powerful from their thrones  
and lifted up the lowly;
- 53 he has filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.
- 54 **He has come to the aid of his child Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,**
- 55 **according to the promise he made to our ancestors,  
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”**

Response: Let us hear what the spirit is saying to the church! **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem: Calypso Lullaby**

*words and music by Jester Hairston*

**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 11: 2-11

Response: This is the Gospel of Christ.

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Message: Dreaming Of Mary**

**Invitation To The Offering**

\*we will have a pieces of paper this morning giving you a chance to write your dearest hopes for our world. If you are comfortable sharing, please place your paper in the offering plate when it goes by you, and we will post our desires on a tree at the front, where we can all be reminded of our hope in Christ.

**Offering Hymn: MV 134, Dreaming Mary**

1. There was a child in Galilee who wandered wild along the sea.  
A holy child, alone was she, and they called her Dreaming Mary.  
And she dreamed, rejoicing in her saviour; she dreamed of justice for the poor.
2. One holy day an angel came with voice of wind and eyes of flame.  
He promised blessed would be her name when he spoke to Dreaming Mary.  
Then she spoke, rejoicing in her saviour. She spoke of justice for the poor.  
She spoke that kings oppressed no more when she spoke, that Dreaming Mary.
3. And did she dream about a son? And did he speak, the angel one?  
We only know God's will was done in the son of Dreaming Mary.  
Then she prayed, rejoicing in her saviour. She taught him justice for the poor.  
She taught that kings oppressed no more when she taught, that Dreaming Mary.

4. Then Jesus grew in Galilee, they wandered wild along the sea.  
Now he calls to you and me to dream with Dreaming Mary.  
And we dream, rejoicing in our saviour. We dream of justice for the poor.  
We dream that kings oppress no more as we dream with Dreaming Mary.

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### **Prayer of Dedication**

**For the opportunity to give freely, we give thanks.**

**For the privilege to worship openly we give thanks**

**For the blessings we have received, we give thanks accept these offerings God with our thanks and love. Amen**

### **Prayers of the People**

**Scott, Brian Burke, Rick, Denyse, Allen....**

*(time of silence, as we also please hold these people in your ongoing prayers:*

*Henry; Rebecca; Chris; Bill; Nancy; Larry; Ken; Mike; Danny Li; Alexandra; Ron; Margaret Knight; Barb; Lori; Patti.)*

### **The Lord's Prayer:**

**Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever, Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn: MV 120, Canticle Of Turning**

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

#### *Refrain*

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.

Let the fires of your justice burn.

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

2. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shames, and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears, ev'ry tyrant from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
there are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.
4. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
'til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

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## **Commissioning and Benediction**

Go now, magnifying the Lord and rejoicing in God our saviour who has done, and will continue to do great things. Receive God's blessing, feel God's favour and share it with the world! Amen.

## **Sung Blessing: MV 222, May The Peace of God Be Your Peace**

May the peace of God be your peace.  
May the love of God be the love you show.  
May the joy of God be the joy you know,  
and may the hope that God would see be found in you.

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## **Postlude**

### **Announcements**

Please join us in person and on Zoom and Facebook, Dec 14, 2025 at 10:30am for our worship service. You are welcome to wear a mask. Please wear your nametag and if you don't have one, contact Pamela (613-475-1311) in the church office to arrange one. If you wish to donate towards your nametag, our cost for ordering is \$9 per nametag.

**Scent Free Environment** –Please be mindful that many people suffer from scent triggered reactions to personal products (such as fragrances, colognes, hairsprays, lotions and powders, laundry detergents and fabric softeners, which can linger on clothing) that are perceptible to others and these should be avoided. Changes have already been made to ensure that the sanctuary, hall and other areas are scent free. With your support, we are creating a scent free environment that is welcoming for all.

**The church office is open**

**Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 10am -12:30m.**

**Pamela works from home on Mondays and Tuesdays.**

**The church office will be closed Dec 25- Jan 7. Messages will be monitored**

### **Happening this week:**

Sun. Dec 14: 10:30am Worship, Advent 3  
12:30pm Youth & Young Adults  
Mon. Dec. 15: 2:30 pm Homework Club  
Tues. Dec 16: 1pm Coffee and a Book (welcoming homeschooling families)  
7pm M&P mtg  
Wed. Dec 17: 5pm Supper's Ready  
5:30pm Kid's Crafts  
6pm, Christmas Movie  
Thurs. Dec 18: 10am Choir  
Fri. Dec. 19: Jingle All The Way Concert, 7pm  
Sat. Dec 20: 3-4pm Advent Time Apart

### **New Announcements:**

#### **Longest Night service, Sunday December 21 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm.**

If you are struggling this Christmas, for any reason, please come to this service. It is an opportunity to light candles for loved ones or situations that are weighing on you. It is a chance to express how you truly feel this season, without worrying about burdening loved ones. For more information reach out to Reverend Wanda.

#### **Christmas Eve Services, Wednesday December 24**

7:00 pm a fun-filled, faithful adaptation of the Nativity story  
9:00 pm contemplative, Christmas communion worship.

**Coats and Hats....**Please check the back of the church and the cloak room at the entrance to the hall to see if you have left any coats behind. What ever is still present at the end of the month will be donated to the Clothing Depot.

#### **"Why I come to church"**

Have you ever had a neighbour ask you why you come to church, and didn't know what to say? Join us **Saturday January 17 and January 24 at 2:00 pm** in the church hall as we dig deep into our faith, and with a soul-searching process discover why Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church is so important to us. Here's the cool part: we have engaged the services of a video producer who will document our time together, and create short promotional videos for us to use on social media in the months to come. If you are curious, please see Rev. Wanda or Pamela in the office to sign up. Let's perfect our elevator speeches!

**Donations for 2025....**Thank you for your generous support of our church! Any donations to be considered for the year 2025 should be into the office by Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> (apart from offerings at regular scheduled services of Dec 21 and Dec 24.) This includes etransfers. Thank you.



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## **From The Stewardship/Fundraising Committee**

### **From the Stewardship team**

As we continue to walk together in faith, I want to share an important opportunity to support both our vibrant community and our historic home.

Your financial gifts enable us to uphold our mission of being a welcoming, inclusive community rooted in Christ's transformative love. As part of this effort, we invite you to review your PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) contributions or other giving commitments, and consider making any adjustments or joining us in this way for the first time. Your ongoing generosity helps us fund outreach programs, support and uplift lives, and care for our historic building.

Our beloved church building, which has stood for 177 years, is a treasured heritage site that requires ongoing maintenance and care to preserve its beauty and significance.

Together, let's continue to fulfill our vision of being a welcoming spiritual centre that embodies inclusivity, justice, and adaptability. Thank you for your faithful generosity and support. PS - You may call the office at (613) 475-1311 or email

Pamela [admin@trinitystandrews.ca](mailto:admin@trinitystandrews.ca) for information on PAR - to join PAR the application form is attached and will need to be returned to the office.

## **From The Worship Committee**

### **Time apart during Advent**

Are you like me, and find the madness and expense of Christmas become so overwhelming, that you forget the deep truth of this season; that God loves us so much, God entered into our lives, breathed our air, touched our skin and walked with us on dusty roadways. Do you forget amid all the commercialism, that Jesus was born into poverty, during a time of oppression?

If you are longing to set aside some time and for just an hour each week, breathe slowly, rest in God's presence, and remember the gift that is ours, please come to church on Saturday afternoons, December 6, 13 and 20, from 3:00 - 4:00, and take a break from the chaos of Xmas, to rest in the beauty of Christmas. We will offer guided meditations, labyrinth walks, music and spiritual writing for adults, while your little ones enjoy a program of their own with our team of children's story-tellers and crafters. For more information please reach out to the office.

Quinte Transit is picking up residents from Applefest Lodge and Brighton Retirement Living to come to church. If you know someone who might benefit from this service, please let them know to advise their Activities Director.

**Bible study** started September 10 at 10am in the quiet room. Everyone welcome. Email office for more information. Watch for an email with discussion starters from Rev Wanda. After the Christmas break, Bible Study will resume Jan. 14

**Lectio Divina** ....Please reach out to Irene Robb ( eneri1414@gmail.com) or the office (admin@trinitystandrews.ca) if you are interested in coming together once a month (or so!) to practice an ancient way of listening for God's voice in scripture. You can learn more about Lectio Divina or sacred readings here: [https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/253799/1-What-is-Lectio Divina.pdf](https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/253799/1-What-is-Lectio-Divina.pdf) . We are gathering Wed. Jan 14th, at 2pm in the Quiet Room.

**Caregivers Peer Support Group:** once monthly at Trinity-St. Andrew's the fourth Wednesday of the month, 3:00 - 4:00 in the Quiet Room.

Next meeting Wednesday Jan 28, 2026 Open to anyone caring for a loved one who would benefit from sitting with other caregivers in a supportive, safe, and confidential space. Limited openings now. For more information, please reach out to the office.

### **Ordering new hymn books**

You may have noticed some unfamiliar hymns and service music in our worship since September. This past summer the United Church of Canada introduced its first new hymn resource since *More Voices* was published in 2009. Our world has changed a lot since then, and the new songs in this resource reflect the theology and diversity of United Church folks. We would like to place a bulk order of hymn books for those who would like to have their own copy. There is a slight discount in price, and we would save on shipping fees. They are currently reprinting books, so we cannot guarantee they would arrive before Christmas. The cost would vary from approximately \$32.00 to \$37.00 each, depending on the number we order. If you are interested, please reach out to Pamela in the office. We do not have plans to order hymn books for the pews at this point.

### **From the Youth and Christian Education Committee**

**TSAUC After School Drop-in Program** ... Mondays from 2:30-6:30pm we will have snacks and activities in the hall for youth ages 10 and up. We hope to provide a safe, welcoming space after school. Please let Bets or Stephanie know if you are interested in helping either regularly or occasionally as a substitute.

**Coffee and a Book** (welcoming homeschooling families) ... Tuesdays from 1:00-2:30pm Everyone is welcome to drop in and share a coffee with us. Borrow a book, do a puzzle, make crafts and enjoy some fellowship.

**A family Christmas Movie**, Dec 17 in the Sanctuary, 6pm (after Supper's Ready). Everyone welcome.

### **From the Affirm and Accessibility Committee**

**Affirm Terminology for December:**

#### **How to Be an Ally to and within the LGBTQ+ Community, Part 3**

An LGBTQ+ ally is a person who supports and advocates for the rights and acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals, regardless of their own sexual orientation or gender identity. Allyship is vital to our mental wellness: The actions taken by those outside the LGBTQ+ community can

serve to save the energy and well-being of those within it. This month, we conclude our series on how to be an Ally.

**Believe Others' Identities.** Someone may say they are trans, gay or asexual, and another person will remark that they "don't look it." Surprisingly, this happens even within LGBTQ+ communities.

Know that other people's identities are theirs to discern, and they know best who they are. Whether or not a person appears to be what you consider typical of a certain gender or sexual identity does not actually mean anything except that we carry stereotypes in our minds. Keep those thoughts to yourself, because they succeed only in making it uncomfortable for those you remark upon.

**Just Listen.** There is so much to be gained by simply hearing what others have to say. If an LGBTQ+ person is offering to tell you about their experience, open your ears—and close your mouth unless you're prompted for feedback. Listen without judgment, with an open mind, and without assumptions. You will learn so much more if you are willing and able to listen to people's stories. This can be challenging when you want others to know that you stand with them, but listening closely is actually the best way to display that.

**LGBTQ+ Family Support Group.** This group is for parents, grandparents, friends and loved ones of LGBTQ+ family members who would like to share their experiences and learn how to support their loved ones. Join us the first Tuesday of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the Quiet Room at the church. The next meeting is Tuesday, Jan 6. For more information, speak with Jeanette Cournoyer or email: [brightonlgbtggroup@gmail.com](mailto:brightonlgbtggroup@gmail.com).

**Exciting news!** We now have a lending library of books related to trans, non-binary and queer issues such as parenting, self-care, transitioning and more. You don't have to attend the group to borrow a book - just ask Jeanette and she will show you all of the titles available!

### **From the Hospitality Committee**

**Coffee Time...**After our worship service we are blessed with a small group of volunteers who make sure that coffee and treats are ready for you to enjoy each week. Please consider assisting this group that needs your help. We need more people to be involved. If you can help out, please contact Sharon McMullen at 613-475-2928 or see her after church.

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**Jingle All The Way, Ian Simpson and Stephanie Bird concert,** Dec 19, 7pm.  
Tickets \$30 available at the church office or Lighthouse Books. Cash only.