

# Trinity United Church

December 13, 2020

Third Sunday of Advent

**Welcome to Trinity United Church. We strive to be a safe community for all; regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background, religious affiliation, sexual orientation or gender identification. We are all invited guests of God.**

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**This pandemic has continued to highlight how connected we are to each other. Our history and present is also linked to the indigenous people of Turtle Island who still walk on this land. May we find a shared way of healing the worst of what has happened and foster the best of what might come. May our future relationships bring health, justice, forgiveness and wellness to all.**

**Lighting the Third Advent Candle (Hope Is a Star)  
*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.***

## **Announcements**

**Welcome Morning (Anne Sexton)**

There is joy  
in all:  
in the hair I brush each morning,

in the Cannon towel, newly washed,  
that I rub my body with each morning,  
in the chapel of eggs I cook  
each morning,  
in the outcry from the kettle  
that heats my coffee  
each morning,  
in the spoon and the chair  
that cry "hello there, Anne"  
each morning,  
in the godhead of the table  
that I set my silver, plate, cup upon  
each morning.

All this is God,  
right here in my pea-green house  
each morning  
and I mean,  
though often forget,  
to give thanks,  
to faint down by the kitchen table  
in a prayer of rejoicing  
as the holy birds at the kitchen window  
peck into their marriage of seeds.

So while I think of it,  
let me paint a thank-you on my palm  
for this God, this laughter of the morning,  
lest it go unspoken.

The Joy that isn't shared, I've heard,  
dies young.

**Hymn 79 Arise, Your Light Is Come**  
**Arise, your light is come!**  
**The Spirit's call obey;**  
**Show forth the glory of your God,**  
**Which shines on you today.**

**Arise, your light is come!**  
**Fling wide the prison door;**  
**Proclaim the captive's liberty,**  
**Good tidings to the poor.**

**Arise, your light is come!**  
**All you in sorrow born,**  
**Bind up the broken-hearted ones**  
**And comfort those who mourn.**

**Arise, your light is come!**  
**The mountain burst in song!**  
**Rise up like eagles on the wing;**  
**God's power will make us strong.**

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

**Hymn 12 Come Touch Our Hearts from *More***  
**Voices**  
**Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,**  
**From failing embers build a blazing fire;**  
**Love strong enough to overturn injustice,**  
**To seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless**  
**our hearts.**

**Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,**  
**Your quiet presence all our fears dispel;**

**Create a space for spirit to grow in us,**  
**Let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our**  
**souls.**

**Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,**  
**Set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;**  
**Help us to open doors of understanding,**  
**To welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless**  
**our minds.**

**Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,**  
**And in our weakness your great strength reveal;**  
**That we may rise to follow and to serve,**  
**Steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.**

**Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,**  
**To break the bread and share the cup of peace;**  
**That we may love you with our heart, our soul,**  
**Our mind, our strength, our all, come touch us with**  
**your grace.**

**Epistle 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 (pray)**  
**Gospel John 1: 6-8, 19-28 (John testifies)**

**Sermon "Saying Grace" Rev. Brian Goodings**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Invitation and Acknowledgement of Offerings**  
**Prayer of Dedication**

**Hymn 232 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You**  
*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*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 lifts us sunward  
in the triumph song of life.*

**Benediction Hymn 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**  
**Verse 1**

*O come, O Come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lowly exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

**Postlude**