



Stettler United Church  
Advent III: Joy  
December 16, 2018  
White Gift Sunday

**Welcome, Gathering and Announcements**

*(Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation. The asterisk (\*) indicates congregation stands, but please feel free to sit at any time. Children are always welcome at our services. Books/toys are available at the front and back of the sanctuary.)*

**Lighting the Christ Candle & Centring:**

*"This Advent, may we not only receive the gift of God's grace freely offered to us but also generously share it with others".*

From "The Gift of the Nutcracker", by Matt Rawle

**Call to Worship:**

In anticipation we gather.

**With expectation we wait.**

We gather to hear Good News.

**Open our ears and hearts, O God,  
that we may hear with joy the word you speak.**

In this spirit let our praise begin.

**Let our prayers be lifted.**

Let our celebration bring new life.

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## **Gathering Song: *What Can I Do?* #191 MV**

### **Advent Candle Lighting: *(Christa & Kyler Cornelssen)***

*Two blue candles are lit.*

Reader 1: As increasing light colours the skies in a chorus of pinks and reds, birds, too, raise their song of greeting for the coming day.

Reader 2: Like that coloured sky, these flames remind us of the growing light that announces Jesus' birth with a chorus of angels' songs proclaiming a new day.

Reader 1: May we pause to hear the twitter of that song and join our voices to the joyful cries of praise at Jesus' birth. Amen.  
*The pink candle is lit.*

Written by James Ravenscroft. Reprinted, with permission, from page 69 of gathering A/C/E 2018

### **Sing: *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* #48 VU (1<sup>st</sup> verse & chorus)**

### **Prayer of Confession:**

### **Music is the Message:**

*In the style of a Cantata, choir Anthems, instrumentals, duets & solos will flow one to another, with Sarah Stratulate as narrator.*

- Music: *"Come and See the Light"*, by David Goodwin, accompanied by Barbara-Lynn Goodwin
- Music: *"Let It Be Christmas Everywhere"*, by Alan Jackson, played and sung by Malcolm Fischer
- Music: *Silent Night*, piano solo by Jaden Norman... and Advent Alphabet Review as presented by children & youth
- Music: *"Mary Did You Know"*, Stettler United Church choir

- Music: “O Holy Night”, instrumental duet, Jenny Munholland and Isaac Hernando
- Music: “Ring the Bells”, sung by Evelyn Shursen,
- Music: “Oh, What a Wonderful Gift”, by Linnea Good, shared today by Jan & Bob Richardson

## Presenting our Gifts:



*Bringing gifts on White Gift Sunday is an example of an act of giving love in the name of Jesus, God's gift of love to the world.*

Let us gather our gifts together and present them as an offering to God.

## Offering Prayer:

**To the stable, each brought what they could, and each gave what they had:**

**the animals, warmth;  
the shepherds, awe;  
the magi, gifts.**

**To this world and its people, we offer our gifts:**

**our faith, which seeks to do as well as to believe;  
our joy, which persists even in times of trial;  
our love, freely offered, as it was to us. Amen.**

Intergenerational Christmas Service <http://www.adventunwrapped.ca/at-church/>

## Prayers of the Gathered Community & The Prayer Jesus Taught

## \*Blessing and Sending Forth:

We go into the world, to extend Christ's love  
**Remembering our neighbours who live here  
and those around the world.**

In the joyful times, share the celebration.

In the difficult times, share the hope.

In all times, remember this: we are not alone.

**Thanks be to God!**

Written by Richard Bott. Reprinted from *Mandate*, summer 2018.

**\* Parting Hymn: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” #43 VU**