



## *Welcome to Grace*

**Sunday, December 14, 2025 @ 10:30 a.m.**

Order of Service – Third Sunday in Advent - Joy

**Lead Elder:** Brian Wilson

**Preacher:** Paul McKechnie

**Music Ministry:** Kimberley Allen-McGill and the Grace Worship Team

**Prelude:** Joyful, joyful we adore thee (Kim- Instrumental)

**Welcome and Announcements** (Brian Wilson)

**Call to Worship/Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (Maher Family)

Reader 1: Today we light the Joy Candle. Please join in the reading on the screen.

Reader 2: Advent is a waiting time. When we're in the dark, stressed out, anxious, we wait for God's word.

Reader 1: To all who wait in trust, God's word is *Joy*. God's joy is on the way.

Reader 2: Isaiah shares a vision of joy to the world. Picture it: Rescue! Help for oppressed people. Healing for the broken hearted. Freedom for captives. Comfort for those who mourn.

**All: We long for it: joy for people living with poverty or injustice. For those who suffer or are abused. We long for joy for people who are scared or bored. We seek God's rescue and healing for our neighbours. *We seek joy for the world.***

Reader 1: God's joy comes to those who wait in trust. We wait eagerly, anticipating....

Reader 2: We light the candle of joy, because God is the God of Joy.

Reader 1: God's joyful rescue has come in Jesus, God's Word made flesh. Through Jesus, God is replanting, rebuilding, making all things new. Abundant joy throughout the whole earth!

**All: Let's open ourselves to God's joy in Jesus. He is *with* us. He delivers us from all that weighs us down. Even here; even now. *[A reader lights the candle of joy]***

Reader 2: So, let's pray in trust and anticipation:

**All: O Lord, You are the Joy of the whole earth. Yet sometimes amid life's challenges, sometimes because of our own selfishness, we are overcome by sorrow. Or fear. Or cynicism. We long for your Joy to set us right. *[Silent prayer]* Joyous One, come meet us now. Set us alight by your Holy Spirit. Rekindle in us your vision of joyful rescue, where sadness and suffering and injustice are no more. Release us from all that holds us captive. Inspire us to acts of joy, in the name of Jesus, the Joy-Giver, Amen.**

**Advent Candle Lighting Song:** Hope is a star BP119 vs. 1, 2, 3

**Song 1:** All the earth is waiting BP109

**Song 2:** Come O Divine Messiah (*Venez Divin Messie*)

**Second Reading:** Luke 2:8-14 (John Adams)

**Offertory Carol:** It Came Upon a Midnight Clear BP148 vs.1-4 (Worship Team+ Congregation)

**Doxology:** In the bleak mid-winter BP145 vs. 4

**Prayer of Thanksgiving** (Paul McKechnie)

**A Prayer for the Children** (Majelle Guillemette)

**Song 3:** Light One Candle *vs. 1, 2, 3 by Natalie Sleeth*

**Pastoral Prayer** (Brian Wilson)

**Third Reading:** Philippians 4:4-9 (Paul McKechnie)

**Sermon:** "How Does this Thing End?" (Paul McKechnie)

**Song 4:** Joy to the World *BP153*

**Benediction** (Paul McKechnie)

**Sung Blessing** I am walking a path of joy (hope, peace, joy, love)

**Postlude** (Kim)

*Please join us after the service for coffee/tea in St-Andrew's Hall!*

