



TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 13, 2020

We acknowledge that we meet and live on the traditional territories
of the Mississauga Anishinaabe People.

We give thanks for their care for the land over thousands of years
and for their deep spirituality and honouring of the Creator and the creation.
May we live with respect in God's creation and in harmony with our neighbours

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH

December 13, 2020

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*Welcome to 'in person' worship...and welcome also
to those of you worshipping with us via YouTube.*

*May these offerings of word, music and prayer
help you attend to what the Spirit is sharing with you today.*

Note: *Due to present restrictions, congregation is NOT permitted to sing.
You may hum softly with masks on.*

PRELUDE: "Grazioso"

Arnold B. Sherman

(Note-a-Bells)

"Giga" from Sonata in F+ (Fred Cory, flute)

J.C. Pepusch

CHOIR INTROIT: "An Advent Proclamation"

Olaf G. Malmin

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING¹

Hymn: VU6² v.3

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Prayer: (In Unison softly)

J: Let us join together in prayer:

**As we come to worship, we hold images
of the baby Jesus in our mind's eye, O God.**

**We imagine the boundless love,
which Mary and Joseph offered this child,
just as we imagine some colicky nights
and diapering days.**

**Teach us to stop drawing boundaries
between joy and labour.**

**Help us to see the gifts
in the wholeness and in the complexity of life.**

**Bless us this morning with an openness to
and curiosity about ALL of life's realities,
knowing that we are never alone in the struggle,
nor in the celebration. Amen**

WELCOME

GREETING ONE ANOTHER (non-verbally from your places)

◆ HYMN: VU17³(1&3) “O Ancient Love”

O ancient love, processing through the ages;
O hidden love, revealed in human form;
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:

Refrain: O living Love, within our hearts be born,
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.

O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow: R

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING: The Call to Isaiah Isaiah 6:1-8

GOSPEL SHARING & TIME for the YOUNG AT HEART:

The Call to Elizabeth and Zechariah Luke 1: 5-25

HYMN: VU23⁴ (twice) “Joy Shall Come”

Joy shall come even to the wilderness,
and the parched land shall then know great gladness;
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts blossom,
deserts like a garden blossom.

For living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow.

REFLECTION: “*Elizabeth Speaks*”

Sheelah Megill

◆ **HYMN: VU2⁵ “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

HANDBELL MEDITATION: "I Wonder As I Wander" arr. by Dave Howland

LIFE and ACTION of the COMMUNITY OF FAITH

PRAYER OF DEDICATION OF OFFERTORY:

*Your offering may be placed in the plate, as you enter or leave the sanctuary.
Thank you for your donation.*

CHOIR CANTATA:

"THE CHRISTMAS STORY" – Music of Johannes Petzold

(Soloists: Karla Buckborough, Dave Freeman, Margaret Marris, Fred Cory, flute)

Instrumental Prelude

*Choir: Praise God the Lord, all humankind, with joy give thanks this day.
Today God opens heav'n again and gives us His own Son.*

*Ladies: Caesar Augustus did decree that his whole world should
numbered be. Then Joseph, too, with Mary mild did journey forth, though she was
great with child. From Nazareth's domain they came to a city, Bethlehem by name.
And thus it came to pass, while there, that Mary did the Infant bear.*

*Duet: She laid him in a manger crib. In swaddling clothes His glory hid.
There was no room for them in the inn; her faith the angels' aid did win.*

*Choir: Christ leaves His heav'nly Father's throne, is born an infant small, and in a manger,
poor and lone, lies in a humble stall.*

*Solos: The shepherds watched their flocks by night when lo, they saw a heavenly light.
Behold! God's angel did appear, and they were filled with awe and fear. "Fear not!"
the angel said to them.*

*"Glad tidings of great joy I bring. To you this day is born a Child of Mary,
chosen virgin mild."*

*Trio: "This Child is born in David's town, as Micah long ago made known.
Now by this sign to Christ be led: He lies in lowly manger bed."*

*Choir: Christ veils in flesh His pow'r divine a servant's form to take;
In want and lowliness must pine who heav'n and earth did make.*

Solo: Then sang the angels in the sky:

*Ladies: "All glory be to God on high; to folk on earth peace and good will;
great gladness now their heart shall fill!"*

Choir: A wondrous change which God does make! Christ takes our flesh and blood, and He conceals for sinners' sake His majesty of God.

*Duet: As then to heaven the angels sped, one shepherd to the other said:
"To Bethlehem now let us go that we may there our Saviour know."*

*Solo: They came with haste and found the Child with Joseph and with Mary mild.
There lying in a manger stall was He who came to save us all.*

*Choir: Christ serves that I alive may be; A great exchange indeed!
Could Jesus' love do more for me to help me in my need.*

*Solo: This saying then the shepherds told, made known abroad to young and old,
and all who heard of Jesus' birth were filled with wonder, joy and mirth.*

*Duet: But Mary kept what she had heard, and pondered in her heart their word.
With joy the shepherds did depart and praised their God with grateful heart.*

*Choir: Christ opens us again the door of Paradise today;
the angel guards the gate no more. To God our thanks we pay.*

BENEDICTION

◆ **Refrain from VU38: "Gloria"**

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

POSTLUDE: Chorale Prelude on "Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen, Allzugleich" Healey Willan

Please feel free to take your Order of Service home. Please remain seated until a greeter comes and indicates that it is your turn to leave the Sanctuary. Please proceed directly to the exit. If you require the lift, remain seated and a greeter will let you know when to proceed to the lift. We appreciate your cooperation in moving directly outside. We ask that you maintain social distancing even in the parking lot.

Leading in worship today are Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie; Robert Grandy, Minister of Music; Peter Darling, Worship Leader; COVID Choir this week is Chris Freeman, Glynis-Hilton-Devitt, Karla Buckborough, Wendy Price-Brown, Margaret Marris, Jane Darling, Peter Darling, Barb Diceman and Dave Freeman. Our sound operator is Mark Legon and the Sunday custodian is Shawn Loucks. The ushers this week are Elizabeth Powell, Jane Darling, Lyn Braun and Sherry Oldham.¹Candle lighters are Amy, Patrick, Elizabeth and Ben Cooper.

Credits:

¹ Adapted from Gord Dunbar, Gathering, 2020 ACE, 70.

² Words: © 1986 Sandra Dean. Used by permission *Voices United*, United Church of Canada..

³ Words and Music: Michael Joncas ©1994, CIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission *Voices United*, United Church of Canada.

⁴ Arrangement: © 1987 Songs for a Gospel People. Used by permission *Voices United*, United Church of Canada.

⁵ Charles Wesley, 1707–1788. Music: Christian F. Witt's *Psalmodia Sacra*, 1715; adapt. by Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876. All rights reserved reprinted under One License A-726544.

TODAY'S MUSIC

PRELUDE: Note-a-Bells, under the leadership of Nathalie Poirier-Cox will open the service with a heart-felt rendition of Arnold Sherman's beautiful "Grazioso", commissioned in memory of Norma Taubert Brown, a handbell ringer who lost her brave fight with cancer. When Sherman wrote the piece, instead of focusing on mourning her death, he instead focused on celebrating her life. The result is a powerful piece of music. The texture of this expressive work starts simply and then builds to a strong fully-scored section. This section is abruptly followed by a passage of ethereal sound by special bell techniques. After this, the opening material returns and builds to a strong finish.

Guest flautist Fred Cory joins us in the prelude with a "Giga", the fourth movement of the Flute Sonata in F Major by Johann Christoph Pepusch (1667-1752). Born in Germany, Pepusch spent most of his adult working life in England. His main claim to fame is his arrangement of the music for John Gay's "The Beggar's Opera".

INTROIT: "An Advent Proclamation" by the Minnesota composer Olaf G. Malmin, features several familiar Advent texts from Isaiah and John, set to beautiful music. Listen for the cascading alleluias halfway through the piece.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. The light has shined on the nations who live in the shadow of death. Arise, be clothed in light, your light has come. Alleluia! Though darkness covers the earth, the Lord will shine upon you. Alleluia! Jesus Christ is the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Let your light scatter the darkness, and illumine your church. The people who walked...

HANDBELL MEDITATION: "I Wonder As I Wander" was set by Dave Howland for handbells and piano and published in 2013. His haunting harmonies add to the pensiveness of this popular folk-carol, first collected by John Jacob Niles in 1933 from a young travelling evangelist Annie Morgan.

CHORAL CANTATA: Johannes Petzold (1912-1985) was a German composer, music lecturer and church organist. He wrote many hymns and anthems, some wind music and numerous organ preludes. His Cantata, "The Christmas Story", was published in 1956 and is scored for a small choir, organ and flute. We welcome back Fred Cory as guest flautist today. Petzold used three German hymns as the basis for this work: "Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen, Allzugleich" (Praise God, the Lord, Ye Sons of Men), verses of which the full choir sings, and "Kaiser Augustus Leget An" (Caesar Augustus Did Decree), which is given to soloists or small groups, and "Vom Himmel Hoch Da Komm Ich Her" (From Heaven Above to Earth I Come), which is in the accompaniment to the verses about the angels bringing good news. The language from the original 1956 version has been updated. Other than a few pauses, the music and narrative is continuous.

POSTLUDE: Concluding the service is a prelude by Healey Willan, based on "Lobt Gott, Ihr Christen, Allzugleich", one of the hymn-tunes in today's Cantata. This joyful tune was composed by Nikolaus Herman in 1554 originally for his song for children on the life and office of John the Baptist. In 1560, he coupled the tune with the words of his Christmas hymn. Willan's setting places the tune in the top voice against a continuous run of sixteenth notes. You will also hear a counter melody in the pedals.

OFFERING

All donations for the 2020 tax year must be received at Trinity no later than December 31.

Your donations are appreciated and used carefully to further Christ's work in the community.

4 ways to Donate

1. **Envelopes** on plate at entrance to sanctuary.
2. Cheques placed in **secure mailbox** beside main door of church
3. **PAR** (pre-authorized remittance monthly). Contact church office and they will make arrangements.
4. Electronically through **e-transfer** or by using **Canada Helps**, a Canadian not-for-profit organization. Just go to Trinity's web page <http://trinitypeterborough.com> and click on the 'Donate Now' button located at the upper right hand side of the page. Canada Helps will issue a tax receipt in Trinity's name.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The videos of our services are posted Monday on our Facebook page and our website, www.trinitypeterborough.com.

Christmas Appeal for YES Shelter

The YES Shelter is a social services organization for youth and families. Their Christmas wish list includes a number of items which we are hoping the congregation of Trinity will contribute to. Items include toiletries, socks, underwear, art supplies and blank journals. Please drop your items in box containers and they will be delivered to the YES shelter no later than Monday, December 14. If you wish to bring a donation into the church during the week, please call ahead to make sure that someone will be here to receive it. Office hours are Monday – Thursday from 9 am – noon.

Christmas Carol Sing-a-long – Live Online

Join Bob and the choir to sing our favourite Christmas Carols on Thursday, December 17 from 7 – 8 pm via Zoom. A document with full instructions was sent out via email on November 30 and will also be sent out again in tomorrow's Monday Update. In the Update you will also find an attachment with a booklet of all of the Carols being sung. Hard copies are available in the lobby this morning. It will also be posted on the Trinity website Home Page. Friends and Family are invited too. Let them know about it. Open Zoom, push your meeting button and put in meeting ID 242 284 2021 and Passcode TUC360PTB.

Christmas Services

Today is the last in-person worship until January 3. The *Light in the Shadows* service is now available to watch online. The links to the services for Advent IV, December 20 and Christmas Eve on December 24 will be sent to you in advance and will be available via FaceBook and our website. An alternative worship will also be sent to you via email for December 27.

Church Givings Envelopes

Envelopes for 2021 are available for pick-up in the church lobby.

THE TRINITY STAFF WISHES YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A VERY BLESSED CHRISTMAS. MAY YOU FIND A SPECIAL WAY TO CONNECT IN THIS EXTRAORDINARY YEAR TO MARK THE BIRTH OF JESUS AND TO CELEBRATE THE JOY OF FAMILY.

- Joanna, Bob, Sherry, Gladys, Trevor & Shawn



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