

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
December 14th, 2025

Praise Medley: Come on Ring Those Bells, There Is Joy in the Lord

Greeting and Sharing the Peace

Announcements

Introit: A Candle Is Burning **VU 6 vs 3**

Call to Worship:

This is the third Sunday of Advent. Are you ready? We have walked in hope; we have prayed for peace. Let us worship God in a spirit of joy. Let us sing and listen to God's story.

Maranatha. Come, Lord Jesus. We open our hearts and our lives!

Gathering Prayer: (unison)

We look to you, God, for the hope that dawns with each new day, and for the light that shines in the darkness of despair. Brighten the pathway of our journey this Advent season. Remind us that through you, the peace of Christ attends us, the love of Christ surrounds us, and the presence of the Spirit rejuvenates us, day by day. May we be a people of Christmas Joy, one to the other. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: Make A Joyful Noise **VU 820**

Lighting the Advent Candle – the Candle of Joy

1: The third Sunday of Advent has arrived.

We join the dance of dark and light.

2: Imagine the northern lights, greens and blues, oranges and reds, leaping and swirling across the dark northern sky.

1: Northern lights dancing as night falls and cold embraces the earth.

Darkness makes possible the wonder of northern lights.

2: Colourful displays held in the beauty of darkness.

And the wonder of dark and light dancing astounds us.

1: Light and dark, friends and companions.

One cannot exist without the other.

2: And out of the dance of northern lights bursts forth joy: the joy of God revealed.

May joy dance among us, the joy we know through Jesus.
(Light the pink candle)

Sung Response: (unison)

**Give me dark northern skies
and the dancing of the light.**

Give me dark northern skies, I pray.

**Give me dark northern skies
and the dancing of the light.**

Let the dark and light dance today.

Joy is coming. Joy is coming.

Joy is coming on Christmas Day.

Christ is coming. Christ is coming.

Christ is coming, shout "Hooray!"

A Time of Confession:

**Faithful God, you sent your prophets to preach a new path
and your beloved child to teach us the ways of shalom.**

**We confess that we have often failed to be the church of
Christ. We have not done your will, we have rebelled
against your love, we have cherished our angers and not
loved our neighbours as ourselves. (Silent reflection)**

God knows us through and through. God realizes our potential for good and calls us to meet the needs of others. In the intent to change, and in the process of change, God promises pardon and peace.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn: Let the Valleys Be Raised

Offertory: A Gift from Your Children

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

**Loving God, receive our gifts of money and our heartfelt thanks
for the depth of your love revealed in Jesus. We commit
ourselves again to your ways of justice, peace, and compassion.
Amen.**

Scripture Readings:

Luke 1:46b–55 (**VU pp. 898–899**)

Matthew 11:2–11

Hymn: Down in My Heart

Christmas Cantata

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Jesus Came Bringing Us Joy

Hymn: Joy to the World **VU 59**

Blessing