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*Office Hours~ Wednesdays & Thursdays 10am-2pm*

Donations can be made by simple e-transfer to  
donations@tecumsehunited.com

### Third Advent

On this, the third Sunday of Advent, as we light our third candle, we concentrate on the emotion of joy. And that is an easy thing to do, sitting in the peace and tranquility of the pews at Tecumseh United Church, or watching electronically in the isolation of our homes. But can we still feel that joy, hunting for a vacant parking lot at our local mall? Do we greet with joy the fact that so many people will be without homes this winter? As we mentioned last week, does it give us joy to realize that young men and women around the world are, at this very moment, being killed by other young men and women? Clearly, the answer to all these questions is a resounding "NO!" But hopefully, we can still find joy in the things we are able to do for those who are less fortunate than we are. Perhaps we can find joy in contributing to our local food bank, or volunteering with a charity of our choice. Perhaps we can find joy by impacting on the happiness of a young child or a shut-in senior. There are many, many sources of joy in this world, but surely none can be more satisfying than doing God's work by helping someone else.



Tecumseh United Church  
~ *An Affirming Congregation* ~  
Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.  
Advent Three

*We are a fragrance-free environment.*

*We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Attawandaron, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples.*

### *We Gather in God's Love*

Welcome and Announcements  
Land Acknowledgement  
Lighting the Christ Candle  
Third Sunday of Advent - see *back of bulletin*

### Advent Three

(Sung to the tune of the chorus of MV 79 "Spirit, Open My Heart")

*Will you come, gather in?  
Come in joy and with rejoicing,  
with those sad and those lonely.  
Songs of life we'll be voicing.  
Will you come, gather in?*

### Call to Worship:

Joy, in the midst of sadness-is such a thing possible?

**We come weary but full of hope that this is true,  
full of love for one another and God.**

Joy, even when things are hard, this joy we seek today.

**Let us gather from the four winds seeking God-with-Us.**

Let us pray for Emmanuel, for joy, for wisdom to find those glimmers of joy like stars in the night sky.

**\*Hymn # 20 "On Jordan's Bank"**

### Opening Prayer

Loving God, speak to us gently at this Coming-of-Jesus-time, for his presence touches our hearts.

**Tell us of his lowly birth.**

**Remind us of his healing touch for the distressed.**

Speak to us gently, we pray.

**Bring to our minds his heartening words to the poor,  
his comfort to those despised and rejected.**

Speak to us gently, we pray.

**Recall for us how Jesus weaves people together in faith-community.**

Speak to us gently, we pray.

**Bring home to us his message of joy for our own tough times.**

Loving God, speak to us gently at this Coming-of-Jesus-time.

**And grant to us all, faithful listening. Amen.**

**\*Hymn # 232 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"**

Affirmation of faith (<http://worshipwords.co.uk> adapted)

We do not stand against. We stand for...

**Love, inclusion, life and dignity, offering a hand to those in need, or a shoulder to those who weep.**

We do not stand against. We stand with...

**The fearful, the oppressed, the rebels, the truth-tellers, those who take action.**

We do not stand against. We stand for...

**More truth, more justice, the right to be yourself, to choose, deny, or claim.**

We do not stand against. We stand as...

**Lovers, parents, children, accountants and word-weavers, and the numberless advocates of unending love.**

Faith Friends Time / Lord's Prayer

**Hymn MV # 104 "Know That God Is Good"**

*We Listen to God's Word*

Scripture Reading: Luke 3:7-18

**\*Hymn # 879 "The Race That Long in Darkness Pined"**

Meditation: "Bringing Joy to the World"

*We Respond to God's Word*

**Choir Anthem**

The Offering

Offering Prayer (by Jim Burklo adapted)

**Creator God may these our gifts which we freely give, serve to demonstrate to you, our deep desire for your Love to transform our time, effort, and substance into works**

**of creative compassion for each other, for our wider community, and for the world beyond, through this church. So may it be. Amen.**

**Offertory Hymn # 542 "We Give You But Your Own"**

Prayer Book is read / Community Prayer (by Bronwyn White)

*We Go to Love and Serve God*

**\*Hymn # 326 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"**

**\*Commissioning**

(Sung to the tune of the chorus of MV 79 "Spirit, Open My Heart")

*May you go now in joy,*

*bearing fruit worth the glory.*

*May God bring forth abundance,*

*bring us home-to the story.*

*May you go now in joy.*

Benediction

*\*Music & Lyrics used under CCLI License # 11323634*

**Thanks** to Ian Phillips for writing the Advent messages each week and for leading the service this morning, to Joan Provencher for reading and to Chris & Nancy Morand for hosting Coffee Hour this morning.

**Happy Birthday TODAY** to Charlotte Cortese and this coming week to Lisa Brown, Roy Symons, Rev. Robin, Ashton Rivait, Dave Patterson and Donna Marsh

**TWO MORE SUNDAYS TO DONATE FOR STREET HELP** *On the entry table*, please find out how we can add Street Help to our List for Christmas Gifts. **Financial donations** to Street Help enable them to buy needed food and cooking supplies. Please forward financial donations as in the past: **cash donations should be made out to Tecumseh United Church, if paying by cheque write "Street Help" on the memo line of the cheque. Or e-transfer your donation to [donations@tecumsehunited.com](mailto:donations@tecumsehunited.com) and state "Street Help" in the comment section. Thank you.**

**Join us at 6:30pm** before the worship service at 7pm on **Christmas Eve** for a **Special Musical Presentation** featuring flute, organ, piano, soloists and full choir, under the direction of Henry Boon.