

*We Go to Love and Serve God*

**\*Hymn # 59 "Joy to the World"**

Commissioning & Benediction

*Music & Lyrics used under CCLI License # 11323634*

**Thanks** to John McIntosh for reading this morning.

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

**Happy Anniversary** this week to Karen & Harry Devries

**Thanks** to Jasmin Gault for sharing her artistic talents with us  
by providing the paintings for the Advent table.

**Sunday December 24<sup>th</sup>** - Advent 4 service with a children's play

led by the Sunday School 10am

Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve service 7pm

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

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Tecumseh United Church

~ An Affirming Congregation ~

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

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

ADVENT Three \*Please stand as you are able

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

Lighting of the Advent Candles: (Mark, Megan, Parker, Micah, Arlo Luckhardt)  
*(light two candles)*

The third Sunday of Advent has arrived.

#### **We join the dance of dark and light.**

Imagine the northern lights, greens and blues, oranges and reds, leaping and swirling across the dark northern sky. Northern lights dancing as night falls and cold embraces the earth.

#### **Darkness makes possible the wonder of northern lights.**

Colourful displays held in the beauty of darkness.

#### **And the wonder of dark and light dancing astounds us.**

Light and dark, friends and companions.

#### **One cannot exist without the other.**

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 a third candle)*

#### **All sing:**

*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!"*

#### Call to Worship:

During the Advent-Christmas season, we can feel so far away from God.

#### **We can feel distanced**

**from the very reason Jesus was born into this world.**

The emptiness could be likened to the depth of the night sky before God placed the moon or stars.

**When these lights came into existence, the sky was suddenly multi-dimensional, ablaze with light and hope.**

With the salvation offered through Christ's birth, that same hope-filled peace bursts into our lives with the singing of heavenly hosts filling the skies.

**It is reflected through us and beckons**

**others to come closer and experience what we know in the baby born in Bethlehem.**

#### ***\*Hymn MV # 40 "Never Ending Joy"***

#### Opening Prayer:

**We joyfully gather this day, O God, in thanksgiving for what this time of year means to us. The ornaments on the tree, the lights on our houses, eating more chocolates than we probably should: they all celebrate the coming light of Christ in the depths of winter. Through your grace, help us to overcome the feelings of stress or despair we may experience in this season. May our feasting and merriment, and the gifts we give to friends and family, be an expression of joy in this most wonderful time of the year.**

**Be with us as we worship, that our lives might be transformed with joy by Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

#### ***\*Hymn # 45 "Joy Is Now in Every Place"***

*Faith Friends Time/The Lord's Prayer*

#### ***Hymn # 400 "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"***

#### *We Listen to God's Word*

Scripture Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

#### ***\*Hymn # 71 "Twas the Moon of Wintertime"***

Meditation

#### *We Respond to God's Word*

#### ***Choir Anthem***

Offering Prayer / Prayers of the People / Prayer Book is read