

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ADVENT LITURGY:**

One: As we prepare for Christ's coming, we remember your calling to be filled with joy.

**All: We come knowing that our actions can help alleviate the burdens of others.**

One: We light the third candle of Advent, a symbol of joy that uplifts the spirit. \* **Light the candle of joy.**

One: May the warmth and brightness of this candle encourage us to act with compassion and courage.

**All: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to being people of joy and justice. Fill us with all joy and peace as we trust in you, so that we may overflow with hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN: #119** Hope is a star Verse 3 only

**Responsive Call to Worship:**

One: The Lord, your God, is in your midst.

**All: Let us sing with loud shout of praises!**

One: God rejoices over you with gladness and renews you with love.

**All: We will rejoice with all our hearts at what the Lord has done!**

One: With joy, draw water from the well of salvation in this time of worship.

**All: God is our salvation; we will trust and have no fear.**

**Unison Prayer of Approach:** God of joy, you are our strength and our song. You gather those who have strayed from you and welcome them back to your side. You bring healing to those who are broken in body and spirit, and accompany those who walk alone. Through your great love and mercy, you transform us all into more than we ever thought we could be. We will trust in you and not be afraid. With joy, we sing of your glory and proclaim your saving power to those near and far as our Creating Father, the redeeming Christ and guiding Holy Spirit.

**HYMN: #147** Angels We Have Heard on High Verses 1,2

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together)** All knowing God, we know perfect joy only comes through faith in you, yet we seek it elsewhere. In search of comfort, we indulge our desires. In search of love, we hide from our faults. In search of approval, we spend beyond our means. Forgive us, O God, for seeking satisfaction in the wrong places. Help us turn again to you, our true source of joy, and guide us to discover what is honourable, just, and pleasing in your sight. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon (Minister):** The scriptures say, "Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God." The forgiveness we seek is ours through the grace of Jesus Christ. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, be with you.

**THE PEACE of CHRIST**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**HYMN: #122** O Come O Come Emmanuel Verses 1,5,6,7

**SCRIPTURE READING:** 1 Kings 8:1-12, 54-61

**SERMON: "A Place to Call Home?"**

**OFFERING**

**DOXOLOGY #172 - Verse 3** Offering is brought forward. The offering can be placed on the offering plates at the back of the church before or during the service, or at the front after.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (Unison)** Just and joyful God, we bring our gifts with hearts that rejoice in your goodness to us, in Christ and in creation. Send your Holy Spirit to bless them and us with the power to shine the light of Christ into lives where Jesus can turn despair into joy.

**INTERLUDE** - Blyth Festival Orchestra

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:** Tender God, we delight in the joy you bring into our lives and neighbourhoods through our life together in Christ, and through the love of family and friends. These gifts have sustained us through stressful times and we thank you. Use us to bring joy to others through our friendship, generosity and understanding. Generous God, send joy to the world again. We offer our prayers in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, our hope, our peace, and our joy, who taught us to pray these words together:

**HYMN:** #153 Joy to the World

**BENEDICTION and CHORAL RESPONSE**

**POSTLUDE** – Blyth Festival Orchestra

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Join us for refreshments in the West Transept.

A sincere **THANK YOU** to the **Blyth Festival Orchestra** for sharing your special music with our congregation today!

- **The Knox Christmas Letter and Offering Envelopes** are available in the Narthex.
- **Sacrament of Holy Communion** – Sunday, December 22
- **Christmas Eve Community Service of Lessons and Carols**  
**December 24 at 7:00pm.** Celebrating the Reason for the Season.  
All ages are welcome!



**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
STRATFORD**

**December 15, 2024. Advent 3**

**Minister:** Pastor Kelli Berkner  
**Music Director:** Suzanne Strahan **Treasurer:** Shannon Archer  
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