

MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Mark Chiang

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2023

Duty Elder: Wendy Wadden

Musician: Sheryl Cale, Rosemary Brown

Scripture Reader: Connie Madsen

*When this symbol appears please stand if you are able

Musical Prelude – Time for Quiet Meditation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (see insert)

PRAYER OF ADORATION

***HYMN # 148:** *It came upon a midnight clear*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Generous God,

We confess that our concerns are narrow,
focused mostly on our own lives.

Opportunities to say thanks or to offer encouragement slip by.

Anxiety turns us inward and anger can make us lash out.

Forgive us for neglecting the joy at the heart of the Advent season.

Turn our hearts back to you,

and inspire us with your love made flesh in Jesus Christ.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART: *Video*

***HYMN # 144:** *T'was in the moon of wintertime*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 126 (pg 572)

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 61: 1-11 (pg 691)

ANTHEM: *Will you be ready*

MEDITATION

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

***HYMN # 110:** *Come thou long expected Jesus*

WE GIVE TO GOD'S WORK

***PRAISE RESPONSE #830:** *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

***PRAYER FOR OURSELVES & OTHERS AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

***COMMUNION HYMN #549:** *For the bread which You have broken*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

***CLOSING HYMN #119:** *Star of hope (vs 1,2,3)*

***Commissioning and BENEDICTION**

***SUNG BENEDICTION:** *Go now in Peace*

Birthday greetings this week go out to Roger Farkash

Christmas Service: December 24 @ 7 PM. There will be no regular Sunday service on December 24 or on Christmas Day.

As God's People: Living with faith, loving without limits

Email: memorialpresbyterian2019@gmail.com

Website: pccweb.ca/memorial

Phone: 403-845-3422

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Mark Chiang mdrchiang@gmail.com, 780-604-6315

Third Sunday in Advent

Joy

Voice 1: The prophets call and an apostle writes to announce that joy comes from God.

Voice 2: “The spirit of the Lord God is upon me...and has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, ...to comfort all who mourn; ...to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning...”
(Isaiah 61)

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, rejoice.”
(Philippians 4)

Voice 1: Grief, pain and loss are inevitable. But woven into life is the joy of living in a universe that reflects God’s beauty. Advent provides time to nurture joy in our lives and in the world God loves. Advent calls us to share with others the good news that comes into the world with the birth of Christ.

Voice 2: Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

All: Jesus Christ comes as joy to the world.

Voice 2: We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.

All: We light this candle to glow for joy.
(while lighting the candle of joy)

“I want to finish school”

The students at Neno Girls Secondary School in Malawi who receive scholarships from PWS&D are all children of God with unique interests and challenges. Yet, they have one thing in common: their families can’t afford to pay for their education.

With help from PWS&D, a scholarship program makes education available to some of the most marginalized teenage girls in the area.

For girls, challenges are even more significant, with the cultural expectations regarding domestic labour and early marriage preventing many from pursuing higher education.

A student named Caroline Mkapita shares, “I am lucky to be here because my other friends dropped out of school due to lack of support. None of the girls in our village have managed to reach [the highest grade] and to go to college or university.”

While another student, Lindiwe, expresses her gratitude, “I just want to say thank you for helping me with my education.”

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ’s call to equip children with the tools they need to build joy-filled lives and brighter futures.

As God's People: Living with faith, loving without limits

Email: memorialpresbyterian2019@gmail.com

Website: pccweb.ca/memorial

Phone: 403-845-3422

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. Mark Chiang mdrchiang@gmail.com, 780-604-6315