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*St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church*

<https://pccweb.ca/stpauls>

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Interim Moderator: Rev. Robert Lyle

Clerk of Session: Jan Alchorn

Music Director: Linda Giddens

Today’s speaker Rev. Maryann Skinner

**Dec 15,2024**

**3rd Sunday of Advent**

WE GATHER

Prelude and Greeting

Lighting the Third Advent Candle: JOY    (See insert)

A Candle is Burning  (verse 3)

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,

A candle to welcome brave Mary’s new boy.

Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow,

As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

Worship in Music: “O come, O come Emmanuel” BP 116

Prayer of Confession and Renewal (in unison)

God of joy, you came in Jesus that your Joy might be in us and that our joy might be complete. Forgive us, for we have not always recognized you as the source of Joy. We want the kind of joy that can be bought without commitment, That will amuse us, not change us. Yet you humbly reveal how joy is the fruit of a growing relationship with you; the gift of knowing you, receiving you and those you love. Forgive us for trying to fill ourselves with emptiness. Our hunger is for true joy, for food that endures. Gracious God, you have come in Jesus to let our searching end in being found. Let our joy overflow as we grow in you. O God, our joy, we will rejoice in you. In Jesus’ name, Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

Worship in Music: “I come with joy” NBP 530

SERVICE OF THE TABLE

Invitation to the Table

The Lord be with you;

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Recitation of Mighty Acts

Blessed are you gracious God, …to proclaim the glory of your name, Saying together the sanctus…

The Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy is your Son Jesus, O God…

…And so we celebrate the mystery of our faith in him: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Holy God, When the sounds of our rejoicing fall silent,

we remember those who cannot rejoice today, who face times of pain or fear or upheaval. We think especially of those whose countries have been overwhelmed by earthquake, flood and storm, by conflict, drought or famine.

*(offer silent prayers of concern)*

Draw near to them in the power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and sustain them through Jesus Christ’s compassion. Holy Spirit, come now and settle on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. May they become for us Christ’s body and life blood, healing, forgiving and making us whole. So may we become Christ’s body, the Church,

loving and caring throughout the whole world until that day when all creation feasts with you in the fullness of your mercy and peace that we savor today in the name of our Saviour who taught us when we pray to say together:

The Lord’s Prayer

Remembering the Lord’s Supper

(officiant spoken narrative)

This is the body of Christ broken for you.

This cup is the blood of Christ shed for you.

*(the elements are shared)*

Prayer after Communion (in unison)

Almighty God, we give you thanks that you refresh us and unite us at your table. Here we have a witness to yourself giving in our Saviour. As we receive this bread and cup help us to receive Christ’s coming into a manger, into our life, into our future, that we might be shaped by a living hope and bear witness to your light in the world. In Jesus’ name; Amen.

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 12:2-6

Worship in Music: “In the bleak mid-winter” BP 121

Reflection: “For the Joy of It”

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Offering and Offertory

The Doxology and Offertory Prayer

Worship in Music: “Joy to the world” BP 134

Commission and Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude

**Upcoming Services**

Dec 22 – Susan Mattinson – Fellowship- Susan’s last Sunday with us

Dec 24 – Bob Lyle – Christmas Eve service at 4:00 pm

Dec 29 – Bob Lyle

MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, December 15

Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, Edmonton Urban Native Ministry serves the needs of the local Eastwood community with compassion and care. Their comprehensive services include a daily hot meal program, distribution of clothing and essential supplies, a bi-weekly food bank, as well as spiritual and emotional support initiatives, such as Sunday worship and counseling sessions. The Rev. Tim Sungill Choi, the ministry’s Executive Director, describes their role as a humble well, providing life-giving water to thirsty travelers. By extending a helping hand, offering essential resources, and standing in solidarity as allies, they help to empower Indigenous individuals and communities to navigate their paths, even amidst uncertainty.