

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge  
Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Praise Medley:** We All Sing Hosanna, Come On Ring Those Bells

### Greeting and Announcements

**Introit:** A Candle Is Burning **VU 6 vs 3**

#### Call to Worship:

*(loud)* LISTEN!

*(loud)* LISTEN!

*(whisper)* Listen!

*(whisper)* Listen! (Silent pause)

God comes to us as the persistent whisper.

**God speaks through the noise.**

In the midst of shouting, **hope.**

In the midst of conflict, **joy.**

In the midst of destruction, **salvation.**

In the midst of frantic preparation, **compassion.**

**God, silence the noise within and around so we can listen and hear your voice.**

### **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

**READERS:** (Rose Whiteway, Anna Goodland, Nicholas Goodland)

What do you do when an angel interrupts your day?

You stop.

What do *you* do when an angel speaks?

You listen.

The angels interrupted the shepherds' nighttime routine.

They stopped. They listened.

The angels had a message for the shepherds.

"A child of peace is born."

But the shepherds trembled and said, "We're afraid."

The angels said, "Rejoice. Be glad, for you will find the child lying in a manger."

Remembering Zechariah and Elizabeth, we light this candle of Possibility.

**ALL: In the circle of God's light, all things are possible.**

*(Light one blue candle)*

#### **READERS:**

Remembering Mary, we light this candle of Risk.

**ALL: In the circle of God's light, we dare to risk.**

*(Light a second blue candle)*

#### **READERS:**

Remembering the shepherds, we light this candle of Joy.

**ALL: In the circle of God's light, we live with joy.**

*(Light a third (pink) candle)*

**SUNG RESPONSE:** Angels, from the realms of glory,

*(unison)*

sing to shepherds in the field.

You who sang creation's story,

now proclaim Messiah's birth:

come and worship, come and worship,

worship in this Advent time.

**Prayer of Approach:** *(unison)*

Holy God, scattering the proud, you look with favour on those the world ignores. In Advent we wait for the One who will feed us; who stands with us in our loneliness and pain; who fills the hunger of our hearts; who lifts us from our hopelessness; in him, all the promises come true. Holy One, for you, we wait, even as we worship today. Amen.

**Hymn:** Make a Joyful Noise **VU 820**

### **A Time for All People**

**Prayer of Confession:** *(unison)*

We try not to do any evil, Anointing God, but it so hard to let go of those little things we enjoy – gossiping about the pregnant girl in the neighbourhood; making light of the accomplishments of a co-worker.

Forgive us, Loving God. You have freely given us salvation, yet we act as if we are the ones who paid for it. Help us to rejoice always in your grace, and to give thanks in every moment for that life we receive through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

*(Silent reflection)*

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Go, and take God's Good News to others: to those held captive by sin; to those cradling broken hearts; to those grieving lost relationships. God forgives us all and makes us new.

**Even as we rejoice in God's mercy, we will tell everyone we meet, "God has done such wondrous things for us, and wants to do the same for you!" Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Hymn:** Joyful, Joyful We Adore You **VU 232**

**Offertory Hymn:** Count Your Blessings

**Offertory Prayer:** (unison)

**God of humble servants, may these gifts be part of the great reversal that you intend. May they help us to show favour on the lowly and fill the hungry with good things. Our souls magnify you, God, our Saviour. Amen.**

**Scripture Readings:**

Hebrew Scriptures: Micah 5:2-5a

Epistle Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:39-46

Responsive Reading: Luke 1:47-55 **on page 898 of VU R2**

**Hymn:** There Is Joy In the Lord

**Meditation****Ministry of Music****Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Prayer Response:** Spirit of God, descend upon my heart

**Hymn:** You Shall Go Out with Joy/Halle, Halle, Halle **VU 884/958**

**Commission and Benediction**