

Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council
Plymouth-Trinity United Church
Order of Worship

December 16, 2018
White Gift Sunday, Advent 3

Prelude

Welcome and greetings

Call to worship

Gathering hymn

VU 7 (1, 2, 3)

Hope is a star, Peace is a ribbon, Joy is a song

Advent candle lighting

(See insert)

***Opening hymn**

VU 20

On Jordan's bank

Children's time : The story behind White Gift Sunday

Offering

***Offertory/Prayer of dedication**

VU 537

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.
Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

OT: Old Testament

NT: New Testament

VU: Voices United

MV: More Voices

* the congregation standing, as able

Prayer of confession and Affirmation of grace

***Response**

VU 23

Joy shall come even to the wilderness,
and the parched land shall then know great gladness;
as the rose, as the rose shall deserts blossom,
deserts like a garden blossom.

For living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow;
for living springs shall give cool water,
in the desert streams shall flow.

***Affirmation of faith**

***Hymn**

VU 44

It came upon the midnight clear

Prayer for illumination

Scriptures

Zephaniah 3:14-20

(OT 877)

Isaiah 12:2-6

(VU p 880)

Philippians 4:4-7

(NT 198)

Luke 3:7-18

(NT 60)

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Message : The birth and birthing of Joy

Personal reflection

***Hymn**

VU 18

There's a voice in the wilderness

Minute for mission

Announcements and sharing in the life of the community

**Acknowledging the land and Prayers of the people
followed by the Lord's Prayer**

***Hymn**

VU 29

Hark the glad sound

***Benediction**

***Closing response**

MV 221

I am walking a path of *joy*

I am walking a path of *joy*, I am walking a path of *joy*,
I am walking a path of *joy*, lead me home, lead me home,
I am home.

Postlude

Carol singing around the piano

Announcements

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. On this third Sunday of Advent, may the gentle winds of the Holy Spirit breathe Joy upon us as we await the coming of Emmanuel.

Bienvenue à l'Église Unie Plymouth-Trinity! Des **Bibles en français** se trouvent à l'arrière.

If you are a visitor, please join us for fair-trade coffee or a cold drink after the service and take a peace candle back to your congregation. You will find the candles on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

Today is White Gift Sunday, our annual collection of food and money for Sherbrooke Elementary School's Christmas baskets.

We thank our volunteers:

Reader: Kristi Roht

Ushers: Inge Lunkenbein & Val Rawlings

Sexton: Dave Fowlis

Congratulations to Shanna Bernier, our new program support for youth and young adults for the Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council!

Greetings and thanks to our organist today, David Lytle, who studied composition at McGill University and is former organist at Verdun United Church. He is active as a violist and organizes the annual event *La Journée des cordes* in Danville, where he lives.

Happy birthday to Kieran Marshall (Dec. 19).

Bulletin covers this week are donated by Theresa Wilkie in memory of her parents, and her husband Harley.

Poinsettias: Donate a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary; contact kristiroht@gmail.com or 819-566-6296. Please let Kristi know if you wish to have your name printed in the bulletin, along with the person or people in whose memory the flowers are given.

Bulletin covers 2019: Inge Lunkenbein (819-346-7750) is collecting donations for 2019: \$10 a Sunday in memory of a loved one. Sign up at table at the back of the sanctuary.

2019 Church calendars: On sale via the UCW for \$7. Last call: to reserve, and arrange pickup/delivery, contact Janet McBurney at 819-565-9716 or janetjammcb@gmail.com .

The church office will be closed from December 26 to January 2; please forward your bulletin announcements or other end-of-year materials by 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 20.

Today

4 p.m. Ecumenical Advent Carols and Candlelight service, led by the clergy and laypeople of Plymouth-Trinity and our sister churches in Sherbrooke and Lennoxville, at St George's Anglican Church (84 Church St., Lennoxville); all are welcome.

7 p.m. Christmas-time can be difficult for some; AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meets at P-T every Sunday night, at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

Next week

Sunday, Dec. 23, 4th of Advent

Lectionary readings: Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:46b-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)

Worship in English at 10:30 a.m.; culte en français à 13 h

Monday, December 24: Our traditional Christmas Eve worship service, at 7:30 p.m., a bilingual, candlelight service with Communion (and a baptism); children's activities, but no Sunday school. We will also be receiving new members. Notre culte de la veillée de Noël a lieu à 19h30. Il s'agit d'un culte bilingue (aux chandelles) avec Sainte Cène (et un baptême). Il y aura des activités pour les enfants, mais pas d'école du dimanche; il y aura aussi une réception de nouveaux membres.

United Church of Canada / Église Unie du Canada

Perfect Gift cards: Looking for a gift for someone who has everything, or a gift with meaning? Consider giving a perfect gift, by making a donation to the United Church's Mission and Service or the local food bank, Moisson Estrie, in the name of a family member or friend. Hand-made cards are available, in English and French, on the tables at the front and back of the sanctuary.

We thank Janet McBurney for these beautiful cards.

Open to the Spirit: the Soul's Alphabet, Awakening – Zeal: Reflections and ideas for writing. This booklet contains weekly columns from *The Sherbrooke Record* by the Rev. Mead Baldwin, the Rev. Lee Ann Hogle, and others. It is available at \$18 from Mead at 819-837-1112 or meadbaldwin@live.com and Lee Ann at 819-571-7233 or lahogle@cgocable.ca ; all profits to local United Church endeavours.

Outreach

The local food bank assists 60 families each day as well as providing food for almost 50 other community organisations. Especially needed at this time of year are baking ingredients (flour, sugar...), pasta, rolled oats, cereals and tinned food.

There are boxes marked for the Moisson Estrie food bank at the front and back of the sanctuary. Hunger still helps define poverty. Cheques are also welcome!

The new Gifts with Vision catalogue is here – to help us celebrate special occasions throughout the year—no wrapping paper necessary! There are gifts of food for people near and far, for our United Spirit/Esprit Uni summer camp, solar power gifts, gifts for beekeepers, gifts for reconciliation, and more at giftswithvision.ca . You will also find paper copies of the new catalogue at the back of the sanctuary and opposite the coffee table. \$25 helps train an organic farmer on the Philippine island of Palawan.

Our minister is taking a bit of time off this month, from Dec 18 to 21, and 26 to 28. Samuel will still be available for emergencies, and you can always see him right after services!

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