



We are  
**Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge and  
Knox Didsbury Pastoral Charge  
of the United Church of Canada**  
**Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021**  
**Minister: Rev. Tammy Allan**  
**Musician today: Karen Whitlow (Olds /Knox)**



**Our mission statements:**  
**Olds: A Family of Faith, Spiritually Motivated, Welcoming and Caring**  
**Sundre: Believing, Caring, Sharing**  
**Knox Didsbury: Caring, Sharing, Believing**

*As we worship we gratefully acknowledge that our churches are all  
on the ancient and traditional lands of The Blackfoot Nation, the  
people of the Treaty 7, and of Metis Region 3.  
May we cherish and care for these lands and the people,  
just as those who came before us have done.*

### Prelude

### Announcements

- tonight – concert
- This Wednesday, December 15<sup>th</sup> – Blue Christmas service, 7:00 pm at Knox United.
- Dec. 19 Meeting in Olds (update from the Property Learning Group)
- Coffee time – Tuesdays at 10:00, zoom link in Friday's email. Dec. 14, 21; then we'll break until the new year.

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### Call to Worship

Advent is a season of waiting,  
**But we do not wait alone.**  
God is with us.  
**God is birthing joy into this waiting world.**  
Let us worship with hearts open to joy.

Hymn VU 59 Joy to the World

### Lighting the Advent Candle

*(first 2 blue candles are lit)*  
For the wrath we are always fleeing,  
**We light this candle.**  
For the roads we never believed we would ever travel,

**We light this candle.**

For our questions and curiosities,

**We light this candle.**

For doubt and confusion,

**We light this candle.**

For trust in our believing that this is the way,

**We light this candle.**

For the journey that we all share,

**We light this candle.** (*pink candle is lit*)

**Hymn** VU 6 A Candle is Burning vs. 1, 2, and 3

**Opening Prayer**

**God of Advent Joy, we enter this relationship we call worship with a song of joy in our hearts. We enter seeking affirmation of the love that brings us new life. Hear our prayers this day, and in your love, answer. Amen.**

**Time with Children**

**Hymn** VU 7 Hope is a Star vs. 1, 2 & 3

**Scripture**

**Micah 5: 2-5a**

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

<sup>3</sup> Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labor has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

<sup>4</sup> And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
to the ends of the earth;

<sup>5</sup> and he shall be the one of peace.

**Luke 1: 39-45**

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

<sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this

happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

### **Response to the Scripture Reading**

This is the witness of the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection** Monologue: “After the Magnificat” written by **Juanita Austin**, *Salmon Arm, B.C.* From her book, “Cup of Wine and a Piece of Bread” (Raven Spirit Press, 2020), Used with Permission. To purchase a copy of Austin’s book, email at [revjuanita@gmail.com](mailto:revjuanita@gmail.com), or call 250-832-6385.

To hear the monologue, go to the worship service recording at [www.oldsunited.ca](http://www.oldsunited.ca) and click on the link to livestream worship services, then click on Dec. 19 (it will be recorded on that date).

### **This Week’s Minute for Mission** **Generosity Makes Hearts Sing with Joy**



*Photo Credit: Jennifer Webb from Pixabay  
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“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” says the book of Colossians 3:16.

From the beginning of time, people have known that nothing stirs the heart and brings people together quite like music. Music has the power to change our world, and when we harness it, we do too.

That’s why **Embracing the Spirit grants** supported through your Mission & Service gifts and **Seeds of Hope grants** administered by the United Church Foundation fund music projects that build community and tend to the soul across our United Church.

For example, your generosity makes a joyful noise at Sprucedale United Church in Chatham, Ontario, where an outreach ministry provides free ukulele lessons to adults so they can provide entertainment to local retirement and nursing homes. Thanks to your support, Prairie Points Pastoral Charge in southwestern Alberta received a grant to license songs to create a condensed songbook for use in hospitals and lodges. At Port Nelson United Church in Burlington, Ontario, your gifts helped fund a new handbell choir and in Kamloops United Church, Kamloops, British Columbia, a drop-in pride choir for LGBTQ2S+ community members and allies.

“When harnessed for good, music helps us take important steps to social justice,” says Sarah Charters, Director of Philanthropy and President of the United Church Foundation. “Looking back, music has played a key role in anti-war, civil rights, and women’s movements. How many of us on a personal level have been motivated to make a life change after listening to a song or turn to music to soothe our spirit? Music is the language of the spirit,” she says. Your generosity means that our United Church can pool resources to make an incredible impact in local communities from coast to coast. An impact none of us could ever make alone. Thank you for fostering spirituality, community, and inspiring social change through music. Your generosity makes hearts sing with joy.

**Offertory Music**      VU 538      For the Gift of Creation

**Offertory Prayer**

**God of Joy, you breathe joy into our very souls, motivating us to see the world with eyes of kinship. Bless these gifts of joy to do your work in the world, healing, restoring, encouraging and building. Amen.**

**Anthem**

**Prayers for the Day**

Loving God, we’ve crossed the halfway marker on our Advent journey. We know we are close, once again, to the arrival of the Christ Child into our midst.

We remember the story of the baby, born in the stable; a baby vulnerable and dependent on others. This is the Messiah who brings hope, peace, joy, and love. This is a Messiah who forgives, who reaches out to touch the hearts and lives of others and calls us to follow in his steps.

Give us the courage we need to follow. Help us, on this Advent Sunday of Joy, to bring the light of joy to others.

O God, there are so many places where joy seems absent. We think of all the places in the world torn by war and political strife, and our hearts cry for peace.

There are so many places where sadness and grief touch people’s lives; where there is unemployment or underemployment; loss of independence; or sadness because of illness, or the loss of loved ones.

Holy God, wrap all who feel sadness and grief in your embrace and help us to offer our support and love in any way we can.

We also know that there is much joy in our lives and in our world. We join with you in the celebration: we celebrate people and groups who work for peace and justice and those who share their faith. We celebrate those who are a part of our faith communities at Knox, Olds and Sundre United Churches, and we rejoice in the hope lived out in the lives of your people.

Holy God, we offer these prayers and our unspoken prayers in a moment of silence....

God of grace and love, God of Advent waiting, we entrust all our prayers to you, and join our voices together in faith, sharing the prayer Jesus taught us to say:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever, Amen.**

**Hymn**      VU   47   Still, Still, Still

### **A Blessing for Today**

As we go forth in this Advent season, let there be joy, peace, hope and light!

**May we be bearers of joy wherever we go. Amen.**

**Choral Benediction**      May the Light of God Go With You

### **Postlude**

*Thank you for taking time to be part of the Olds-Sundre Pastoral Charge and Knox (Didsbury) Pastoral Charge worship experience.*

*Olds and Didsbury alternate hosting live worship each week, while live-streaming to the other church. You are welcome to attend either location at 9:30.*

*Sundre continues to have in- person worship at 1:30. All are welcome there, too! The bulletin and sermon will continue to be posted to the websites, for those who are unable to join us. Messages will also be posted to the Facebook Page, Olds and Sundre United Churches.*

*Each week, via email, there will be updates and announcements. If you'd like to receive those emails, please contact your church office and ask to be included.*

***Questions? Wish to financially support our ministries? To Contact us:***

### ***Olds United Church***

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