

**Announcements:**

**Gathering singing: *Come and Join the Celebration!***

**Chorus: Come and join the celebration**

**It's a very special day**

**Come and join the jubilation**

**There's a new king born today!**

**Call to Worship: All Together (Led by Choir)**

Over two thousand years ago, on that night in Bethlehem, a small baby boy was born to parents who, if it happened today, might be sitting among us. This baby would change the world forever. Christmas is a time to come together and celebrate, singing anthems and carols of praise and rejoicing in God's greatest gift to us. This morning, let us come together as one, lifting our hearts and voices in praise.

**\*Singing: *O Come All Ye Faithful* VU#60 vs. 1.3.5**

**Advent Candle Ceremony:**

Leader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

*People: those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.*

Leader: Week by week, the light grows stronger and brighter, as we anticipate the coming Christ.

*People: The candles of Hope and Preparation are already ablaze. Today, we light the candle of Joy.*

Leader: We excitedly anticipate the coming of the Mighty One. The promise of healing, comfort, liberty, and freedom is good news that is meant to be shared!

*People: Rejoicing in the mercy and justice of our Lord, we kindle this flame. Together, we lift our hearts and voices in songs of joy.*

**Singing:** Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
Telling the world that the Saviour is born.

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.**

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,**

**And none shall be afraid.**

**VU#7 vs. 3**

**Karen / Doreen ~ *O Come O Come Emmanuel***

**Prayer:**

Dearest God in heaven, the day of joy returns, and crowns another year with peace and good will.

Lord Jesus, we lift up our voices of prayer and praise today as we think especially of Your birth on that first Christmas morning. Lord, many people today will be celebrating Christmas with little or no understanding that in coming to earth in the form of a man, You came to die so that all who believe in Your name might be saved from their sins and have life -- and have it more abundantly. As the story of the shepherds and the wise men are sung about in carols and acted out in classrooms - and as television programmers once again review the birth of Jesus Christ two thousand years ago we pray that Your Holy Spirit will convict the hearts of many who have dismissed the truth of Christmas as a nice little story -- Bring many we pray, to see Christmas in a new light this year. May they come to an understanding of the real meaning of Your birth at Bethlehem, so that they may experience the Christmas story this year in all its glorious beauty... May Your holy name be lifted up and may Jesus Christ be glorified this Christmas for You alone deserve all honour and glory -- in Jesus name we pray, Amen (Yeah God!)

**Singing: *The First Noel* VU#91 verses 1, 2 & 4**

**Reading: *BORN TO SET US FREE***

**Reading: *DO YOU HEAR WHAT I HEAR***

**Singing: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks* VU#75  
vs. 1 all vs. 2 men vs. 3 women & verse 6 all)**

**Reading: *BORN IN A MANGER***

**Reading: *MARY HAD A BABY***

**Reading: *DEO***

**Reading / Singing: *Silent Night* VU#67**

O nuit de paix! Sainte nuit! Dans le ciel l'astre luit;  
Dans les champs, tout repose en paix  
Mais soudain, dans l'air pur et frais,  
Le brillant choeur des anges  
Aux berger apparait.

**Reading: *LITTLE DRUMMER BOY***

**Reading ~**

**Presentation of Ourselves and Gifts to God**

**FOUR LULLABIES FOR CHRISTMAS**

**Doxology:** What can I give Him poor as I am  
If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise man I would do my part  
But what can I give Him give Him my heart.

**Offertory Prayer:** Three gifts of great significance, Gold Frankincense - and myrrh were laid at the feet of the child named Jesus - these were gifts that could only come from royal treasures. The gifts we bring are of much greater value to you Lord - our lives - our hearts - our praise - all of our desires - all of our accomplishments, all of our failures - all of us. We surrender all to the giver of every good and perfect gift -- Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

**Singing: *What Child Is This* VU#74  
(vs. 1 women / vs. 2 men / vs. 3 all)**

**Reading: *O HOLY NIGHT***

**\*Singing: *Angels We Have Heard on High* VU#38**

***JOY IN JUDEA***

**BENEDICTION:** God's name is still called "Wonderful," "Counselor," "The Mighty God," "The Everlasting Father," and "The Prince of Peace." As His children, we cry out for a fresh filling, and a new awareness of Who He is. We choose by faith to make the "good news of great joy" a reality in our own lives, so others can see us as lighted trees of life, pointing to Jesus this Christmas. We know one day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess Him as Lord. And we also know that peace on earth can only come when hearts find peace with Him. Jesus is still our Joy. Jesus is still our Peace. Jesus is no longer a babe in the manger. Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of kings. And we still celebrate Jesus as Lord—this Christmas and always. AMEN!

## SINGING TOGETHER!!!!

**WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE,  
WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE  
ANGELS BOW BEFORE HIM,  
HEAVEN AND EARTH ADORE HIM  
WHAT A MIGHTY GOD WE SERVE!**

*We extend the hand of Christian Fellowship to our visitors & ask you to sign the visitors' book. We hope you'll return next Sunday. You are invited to Memorial Hall for coffee & conversation. Serving you this morning is the Session.*

**Please Pray For:** Arthur Allan, Antoine, Pat Ashworth, Shelley Baumann, Barbara Batten, Bernice, Greg Blersch, Robin Blersch, Bonnie, Esther Bohlein, Tea Kinsella-Borden, Brigida, Carol, Caroline, Caroly, Rick Cessford, Laura Cuthbertson, Dianah, Heather Downs, Mary-Alice Epps, Ron Epps, Larry Falcon, Gail, Linda Gallant, Gladys, Myrna Hall, Jennifer, Fern Lafontaine, Lance & family, Roger Laplante, Marie Loch, Jemma Mahabir, Clarence Mahaney, Carrie Marchand, Marcelle, Marisa, Laura McLean, Mile, Michael, Cheryl Miller, Sharon Miller, Sandra Murphy, Ib Nielsen, Paige, Patrick, Julie Patterson, Sarah Puskas, Ella-Mae Ramsey, Bruce Rathwell, Margaret Reany & family, Cheryl Rogers, Fred Rosettani, Bruce Ryan, Isabel Saccucci, Eileen & Donald Sim, Heather Sim, Reynold Skeete, Lesley Snair, Dylan Stanamir, Frank Stark, Madeline Stevens, Jan Verschoote, Cameron Vincent, Margaret Whittal, Fred Wicks, Joanne Wilken, Clara Witowski, John Wiwcharyk, Shirley Yarnell, Sarah Zimmerman

## Announcements

- The Christmas Baskets have been delivered. We thank you for your kindness and generosity in providing financial aid, food, and gifts for the children.
- The Observer subscription is due at the same price as last year -- \$25. Please see Sandra to renew.

- Birthday greetings to Pamela Ozanick whose birthday is tomorrow and to Serge Bergeron who celebrates his birthday December 24.
  - Christmas Eve Services will take place as follows:  
Family Service 7:00 pm followed  
Candlelight Holy Communion Service at 10:00 p.m.

## Reminders

- Food Cupboard -- Thank you for your great generosity.
- The Benevolent Fund needs help. Baskets are placed at the Sanctuary exits. Thank you for your generosity.
- Please save your nickels & dimes to support the Sunday school. Thank you for your generosity.
- To receive St. A's memos, please submit your e-mail address to: [office@saintandrewsunitedchurch.org](mailto:office@saintandrewsunitedchurch.org)

## THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Badminton</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Badminton</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>AA Meeting</b>

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# ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

*184th Anniversary Year ~ 1833-2017*

*~ WORSHIP ~*

**December 17, 2017 ~ 10:30 am**

**Senior Choir Presentation**

**Advent III**



**Minister: Rev. K. Alice McAlpine**

**Director of Music Ministry: Doreen Gilbert Bangs**

*To greet you ~*

**Elder: Barbara Batten**

**Stewards: Norm Elkin & Cliff Henderson**