



The United Church of Canada
L'Église Unie du Canada

St. Andrew's United Church



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Sunday, December 14, 2025. 3rd Sunday of Advent - Joy

St. Andrew's United Church is a Christian community that shares Christ's love through worship, fellowship, spiritual growth, and outreach.



Worship Leader: DANIEL SZEMÖK, LLWL
Organist and Choir Director: Lois McKinnon
Greeters: Judy Donnelly & Shirley MacDonald

JOY

"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.'"
[Luke 2:10-11](#)

Sunday Worship Service

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

*Stand as you are able.

Musical Prelude

Greeting

***Introit:** VU #2, vs. 1 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee**

Lighting of the Advent Candle: *Bev Campbell*

Dear Lord Jesus, eternal light in this dark world, as we light the third candle of Advent, we acknowledge your love and kindness. We remember your humble birth; we celebrate the joy of your presence through the Holy Spirit. We pray that your light would enlighten our minds and your Spirit would rest on us like a dove. Teach us to rest in your joy even when darkness is all around! Amen.

Candle is lit as we sing: "We Light this Candle"

***We light this candle for joy.
Await the new life within.
May our hearts now live each day,
So joy can find away,
So joy can find away.***

Call to Worship: (bold section only)

Draw near to the one anointed to be King!

His name is Jesus, but he is no ordinary king!

He was born in a dirty stable with no glory or fame.

But he is the King of kings who reigns in heaven!

When he left this world he gave us his own Spirit!

Holy Spirit, joy for our hearts, come to us now!

***Hymn:** VU # 64, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Opening Prayer:

Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Lord Jesus; be with us now. Help us to know how much we need you. Teach us to recognize that no other power can support us like your power. Help us not to burden ourselves with the things that always promise to make us happy only to leave us disappointed. There is no happiness; there is no joy that lasts except yours. Being held in your arms and listening to your words at your feet we find everlasting joy. Amen.

Conversation for the Young at Heart

Offering

***Choral Response:** VU #55, vs. 4, “In the Bleak Midwinter”

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;

yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

***Offertory Prayer:** (read together with congregation)

Giving God, we can never match your generosity. When we are in need, you are at our side even in our darkest moments. Make us into a people who celebrate your goodness, drawing others into the celebration of your many blessings. Receive our offerings, and use them to spread the goodness of your love here and now. In the name of Jesus, your greatest gift of all. Amen.

The Word of God Proclaimed

Ministry of Music: “Away in a Manager”

Sermon: Christmas Joy

Song: “Bless the Lord, O My Soul”

We Respond to God’s Word

Hymn: VU # 5, “All Earth is Waiting”

Announcements of the Life & Work of the Church
– John Bosma

Closing Hymn: VU #74, “What Child is This”

***Benediction:**

***Choral Blessing:** VU #64, vs. 4, “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Musical Postlude

Sermon Notes:

Announcements

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Henry & Karen Wilson, Collen & Hugh Dickson, Brenda & John Jardine

***and Faye Wilson on the death of their sister & sister-in-law,
Vesta Gouchie.***

Coffee Hour: Dec. 14 – Marj MacPhee & Mary Reynolds

Greeters: Dec. 21 – Judy & Don Bowman/**Dec. 24th** – Brian & Joan Savoy/**Dec. 28th** – Brian & Davida Adams

▪ **Sound System: Dec. 14** – Paul Rose/**Dec. 21** – Don Bowman/**Dec. 28** – Paul Rose

▪ **PowerPoint: Dec. 14** – Mary Reynolds/**Dec. 21** – Jennifer Walker/**Dec. 24th** – Karen Rose/**Dec. 28** – Barry Campbell

-**Offering Collectors: Dec. 14** – Helen Jones, Brian & Joan Savoy, Marj MacPhee/ **Dec. 21** – Patty Deitch, Cynthia Duplessie, Dennis & Judy Morrison/**Dec. 24** – Debbie Stymiest, Carol Johnston, Ernie & Ferne MacLean/**Dec. 28** – Helen Jones, Brian & Joan Savoy, Jeanne Breau

▪ **Offering Counters: Dec. 14** – Carol Johnston & Brian Adams/**Dec. 21** – Brian & Joan Savoy/**Dec. 24-** Karen Rose & Barry Campbell/**Dec. 28** – Karen Rose & Marj MacPhee

▪ Weekly Collection:	
Collection on Sunday, Dec. 7 th	\$ 1,255.00
Weekly Par Collection	<u>\$ 1,259.00</u>
Total for Week of Dec. 7th	\$ 2,514.00

This Week:

Christmas Hamper & Mitten Tree items have to be returned **no later than Wednesday, Nov. 17th.**

The ladies once again enjoyed their afternoon of fellowship with each other and ladies from other congregations. The Loonie Sock raised \$ 568.25 for the Christmas Hamper Program.

Upcoming:

Sunday, Dec. 21st – Christmas Communion Service with Rev. Charlene Maguire MacKnight – Advent 4 Love

Christmas Eve Service – 6:30 p.m.- Daniel Szemok, LLWL

Sunday, December 28th – 11:00 a.m. – Daniel Szemok, LLWL

Community:

- ❖ **“There’s A Song In the Air”** with **The Villagers** will be presented today, **Sunday, December 14th at 7pm** at **St. Paul’s Anglican Church** in Bushville, featuring an hour of inspiring Christmas music. Admission is a free-will offering.

**We gratefully acknowledge the dedication of the bulletins
in loving memory of Ronald & Shirley Rose
by Paul, Karen, Nathan, Jacob and Nicholas Rose.**



Online St. Andrew’s United Church

www.standrewsunitedmiramichi.org

www.facebook.com/St.AndrewsUnitedChurchMiramichi

Offering E-Transfer:

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Advent Amid the Gift Wrap
by Tom McGrath



“Are you ready for Christmas?” asked a guy I see at the train station every day. I thought of the long list of gifts I still needed to buy and the calendar crammed with holiday events and parties, and I shook my head. “Hardly,” I said, and we both laughed knowingly.



On my train ride downtown I turned off my iPod and let my mind ponder that question a little deeper. “Am I ready for Christmas?” This time I thought about the meaning of the holiday—the Son of God coming to earth to dwell among us and show us the way to eternal life. Again I shook my head and murmured to myself, “Hardly.”

It was then that I vowed to take advantage of every opportunity to prepare my heart for the coming of the Christ Child into the world—the world you and I live in.

What I discovered was that if we know what we’re preparing for, everything we encounter on the way to Christmas can prepare us for the coming of Christ, not only in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago but also into our homes, our families, our workplaces, and our communities.

The usual December distractions can instead become holy moments when we find the Christ Child in our midst. Having the right attitude and perspective on the season will help you and your family avoid the excesses that make certain

Christmas preparations frantic, yet draining and disappointing. As theologian John Shea says, “The task seems to be the delicate one of learning to make the customs and traditions of Christmas serve the Spirit.”

Take a look at some of December’s demanding activities with new eyes, eyes that fully expect to find God in every moment of this season of hope.

