

St. James United Church

Advent 2

How Does a Weary World Rejoice?

We find joy in connection...



December 3, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

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(▲ Rise in body or in spirit/Responses in bold)

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Welcome & Acknowledging the Territory

Welcome to worship.
Welcome to worship.
I am glad you're here.
I am glad you're here.
Surely God is in this space.
Surely God is in this space.
I see God in your face.
I see God in your face.
Let us worship together.
Let us worship together.

Lighting the Advent Candles

How does a weary world practice peace?
**By listening before we speak and saying
sorry when we need to.**
By advocating for justice
and caring for our neighbor.
By practicing Sabbath and
forgiving seventy times seven.
**By choosing grace over hate
and opening
the door for each other.**
There are a million ways to practice peace.
So today we light the candle of peace as a
reminder and a charge.
**With God's help, may we bring peace
into a weary world. Amen.**

Candle Lighting Song – Tune – Silent Night

**Candle light, sacred light.
Mystery flames, burning bright
We are waiting for Jesus' new birth.
Shine his peace over all of the earth.
Thanks for the gift of peace,
thanks for the gift of peace.**

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

God of laughter,
God of open front doors
and family reunions,
we confess that we often doubt good news.

**We move through this world
waiting for the other shoe to drop,
waiting for life to fall apart,
waiting for our humanity to get the best of us.**

Instead of leaning into joy,
we lean into scarcity.

We lean into fear.

We lean into isolation.

Forgive us for forgetting that joy is amplified when shared.

**Heal the wounds we have from past hurts,
and teach us how to throw open our doors like Elizabeth.
Show us how to find joy in connection.
Amen.**

▲ Hymn – Sing Your Praise to God Eternal # 244

Ministry of Music – A Tiny Child Will Come

LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD FOR US TODAY

A Time of Wondering

An Ancient Word – Luke 1: 24-45

Reflection – Mary Said Yes!

Reflective Music

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

▲ Hymn – Mary, Woman of the Promise # 16

▲ Affirmation of Faith

**We believe that joy is a sacred gift,
existing on a plane deeper than happiness,
stemming from the truth that we belong to God.
We believe that joy is not meant for isolation.**

**Joy is meant to be shared,
weaving us together in laughter and in hope.
And when joy feels impossibly out of reach,
we believe that part of being sacred community
is leaning on one another.**

**So together we say:
I will share my joy when yours runs out.
You will share your joy when mine runs out.
And in doing so, we will both see God.
Amen.**

Minute for Mission – Sock It To Ya!

Sharing Our Gifts

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

THRESHOLD INTO GOD'S WORLD

The Life and Ministry of the Faith Community – Please See Insert

▲ Hymn – He Came Singing Love # 359

▲ Commissioning & Blessing

▲ Song of Dismissal – We're Seeking Your Presence
Tune: Away in a Manger

**We're seeking your presence.
Help us find it today.
We wonder and ponder.
In so many ways.**

**Peace stirs deep within us.
We actively pray.
As we await Jesus
Please show us the way.**

Music Takes Us into the World

*Liturgy – A Sanctified Art
Opening and Closing Hymns – Catherine MacDonald*