

OUR MISSION - OUR VISION

Transforming lives through relationship with God and one another
Wesley-Knox - a vibrant Christian community striving to live gratefully,
deepen faith and reach out to God's world

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - JOY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

Proclaiming the Word: Brad Prentice
Piano: Brian Ratcliffe, Richard Yake, Owen Spicer
Flute: Kim Eyre
Tenor: Tony Haworth

VOLUNTARY:

WE GATHER TOGETHER

WORDS OF WELCOME LIFE AND WORK OF THE CHURCH

WE APPROACH GOD

*(The * is an invitation to rise in body or in spirit)*

PRELUDE:

* **HYMN:** 60 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O come, all ye faithful! Come and sing your praises to God.

All: We sing with joy. We sing with hope. We sing in gratitude and praise.

One: As the music surrounds us and stirs our souls, we worship God.

All: As we hear the Word and join together in community, we worship God.

One: As we pray and learn, as we prepare ourselves to welcome Christ, we worship God.

All: On this Advent Sunday we come ready to praise God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH

WE LIGHT THE CANDLE OF JOY - Likenson, Monika & Marcia Gibson

SUNG RESPONSE: 7 "Hope is a Star" (vs. 3)

Joy is a flame that burns in our heart,

Jesus has come and will never depart.

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.***

PRIMARY CHOIR: Ding Dong! Ding Dong! Michael Bedford
A Wish for Peace Gagné and Cassils

THE GIFT ONLY YOU CAN GIVE: Marilyn Bratti

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 1:18-25

One: For the Word of God in scripture, among us and within us.

All: Thanks be to God.

JUNIOR CHOIR: Hallelujah, Glory Hallelujah Sleeth

CHILDREN'S HYMN: 55 "In the Bleak Midwinter" (vs. 1,2)

MESSAGE:

CHILDREN'S HYMN: 55 (vs. 3,4)

ANTHEM: The Joy of Christmas Thompson

WE RESPOND TO GOD

* **HYMN:** 74 "What Child is This?"

PRESENTATIONS OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

MYSTERIUM: Psallite, unigento Praetorius
Adeste Fideles Gilpin

* **OFFERTORY RESPONSE AND PRAYER:** 539

God of all good, our gifts we bring to you,

use them your holy purpose to fulfil;

tokens of love and pledges brought anew

that our whole life is offered to your will.

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE

HYMN: 59 "Joy to the World"

*** COMMISSIONING & RESPONSE: #298**

*When you walk from here,
when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy,
and with God's humble care.*

POSTLUDE:

Welcome Visitors: We welcome those of you who are visiting with us today and invite you to sign our guest books located on the back tables. If you wish office attention, please sign one of the Pew Cards and place it on the offering plate. After the service, please join us downstairs in the Social Hall for coffee, served by Eclectic.

There are activity packs for children who wish to colour during the service. Please return the packs to the table after the service, Thank you!

WESLEY-KNOX UNITED CHURCH

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Heather Westbrook, Office Administrator, **ext 200**

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Amy Scott, Church Custodian, **ext 200**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017

TODAY

Following Worship today, you can give the gift of your time, to help pack up our Wesley-Knox Care Packages that are offered to those who come to our door in search of something to eat. Thank you for your generous donations of non-perishable food items for these packages.

Night Passed Service - 7:00 p.m.

The Senior Your Group is holding our Christmas Potluck party today, at the church, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. We will have a Secret Santa gift exchange. (\$10 or less)

THIS WEEK

In your personal prayers this week please pray for our Hospitality Meal team who will be serving supper on December 24th. Pray that as the team welcomes our guests, as they serve and as they share the gifts of themselves - that they see the face of Christ in all those who enter our doors. Pray for our guests that theirs might be a Christmas of hope and promise.

Monday, December 18 -

Transition Team - 7:00 p.m. - Chapel

Tuesday, December 19 -

Moms & Tots - 9:30 a.m. - SS Room

Wednesday, December 20 -

Prayer & Praise - 11:30 a.m. - Parlour

Seniors Connection - 1:00 p.m. - Armchair Yoga

Official Board Meeting - 6:45 p.m. - Parlour

Thursday, December 21 -

Shine - 5:30 p.m. - SS Rm

Friday, December 22 -

Moms & Tots - 9:30 a.m. - SS Room

GENERAL

Please Pick-up your 2018 Givings Envelopes from the back of the sanctuary

The Gifts That Only You Can Give: This Advent and Christmas what are the gifts that you can give from your heart? As we reflect on the gifts that come to us in Jesus, what are the gifts that we can share with God's world as we seek to make Christ's presence known?

Perhaps, invite someone to worship with you. Offer someone a ride to church during the Christmas Season. Give a gift from the "Gifts With Vision" catalogue. Take part in the "Forget-Me-Not" program by sending notes to those who are on our hearts this Christmas. Knit some mittens. Donate your gently-used coats, boots to Mission Services. Pray for those who are seeking hope and peace this year. **YOU** have so much to give!

A Gift That Only You Can Give - on Wednesday, December 20 at 11:30 a.m. come out to a time of praying for those who are on our hearts during this season. Together we will offer prayers and share in Christmas hymns, remembering those we have lost and those who we long to lift up to God. If you cannot attend this time, but would like us to pray for someone specific, please call Rev. Tracy or Lisa Morris. Invite someone you love to join you at this gathering.

Thank you for those who gave the gift of life by participating in the Wesley-Knox Blood Donor Clinic last week. We had 7 first time donors.

Thanks to the generosity of the choir and congregation, we had 15 Caring tickets donated for our Christmas concert on December 2nd. Families from Rotholme of Mission Services, Anova and women from My Sister's Place were very thankful to join in the joy of the evening. Another example of the giving spirit of Wesley-Knox.

Thank-you for all of your thoughtful wishes and gifts during my recent recovery. Heather Westbrook.

Rescheduled - The Final Wesley-Knox Official Board meeting will be held this Wednesday, December 20th. We will gather at 6:45 pm for refreshments.

Get your Rheo Thompson Chocolate Mint Smoothies for only \$2.50 each after church at coffee hour! An important fundraiser for the Children's Choir

Program, they make great little Christmas gifts!

For Pastoral Care concerns, please contact Lisa Morris, our Pastoral Care and Membership Coordinator, by Confidential Phone 519-673-4803, ext 204 or wesleyknoxpastoralcare@gmail.com

Growth Campaign Pledges for 2017

With the year swiftly coming to a close, there is still time to fulfill your 2017 pledge payment for the Wesley-Knox Growth Campaign. If you have any questions regarding the status of your pledge, please contact Sheila LeClair at sheila.m.leclair@rogers.com. Your support for the Growth Campaign has already made a difference to the many people who are impacted by Wesley-Knox and your generosity is truly appreciated. Remember that all donations made to Wesley-Knox qualify for the generous incentives provided by the Canadian tax system in the form of tax credits for charitable givings.

Events in Worship

December 17	Night Passed Service at 7:00 p.m.
December 24	Advent 4 Service 10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Service with candles & carols at 7:00 p.m. Late Christmas Eve Service with Communion at 10:00 p.m. John McFall, Soloist
December 31	Lessons & Carols; Rev. Tracy
January 7	Rev. Tom Hiscock preaching