



December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 9:30 a.m.

*Advent 3*

*Together Toward the Light*

**Prelude**

Ester Funk

**Gathering Thoughts**

Judy Willems

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Advent is a time for God's people to reawaken our longings. The Christ candle flame in front of us today calls us to be true to the hopes in our hearts. And it calls us to be true seekers of God's peace. It also invites us to be devoted to a life of joy.

**People: Sorrow may last for a night,  
but joy comes in the morning.**

Leader: In times of darkness, we long to see the light.

**People: The night may be dark with sorrow,  
but in the morning, joy!**

Leader: In times of lonesome silence,  
we long for a comforting word.

**People: When silence feels full of sorrow,  
may the morning be filled with joy!**

Leader: In the hard times, we long for an act of love.

**People: Sorrow and darkness are so hard to bear,  
but joy comes in the morning.**

Leader: In Christ, we celebrate and declare  
the true promise of joy.

**All: We open our hearts to receive the joy of our Lord.**

**Prayer**

O God of Good Hope and Deep Peace, you fill our hearts with Great Joy, because you make genuine hope radiate within us, and you so gently guide us in the ways of peace. We come with our restlessness, feeling the weight of heavy trials – ours and those of sisters and brothers, and of others around the world – and we praise you for the promise of joy that transcends all else, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Lighting the Candle of Joy ~ Moment of Silent Reflection**



**Adult Sunday School** after the service today  
in the Fellowship Room

## **GRACE NOTES & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Let's Be Praying**

- For Anne D., Dan C., and Reg F. in their health challenges
- For the South Sudanese refugee family waiting to come to Canada through Bridge of Hope
- For those who process grief and other kinds of challenges in this Christmas season

**Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>** ~ Attendance – 50

**Fourth Advent Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Speaker: Darrell Winger

Scripture Texts: **Micah 5:2-5a**; Psalm 80:1-7

Hebrews 10:5-10; **Luke 1:39-45**

♪ **Women's Chorus** ~ Thursdays on December 19<sup>th</sup>,  
January 9<sup>th</sup>, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:30 a.m.

**Coffee Times** ~ December 22<sup>nd</sup>, January 5<sup>th</sup>, January 19<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Eve Service, December 24<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00 p.m.

Coffee, Cider and Cookies in the Church Hall after the service

## **ACROSS THE STREET AND AROUND THE WORLD**



\*Please pray for the **MCEC community of congregations**.  
This week we pray for **Ottawa Mennonite Church**. Please  
pray for this congregation led by Andy Brubacher Kaethler.

**You are warmly invited to the 75th annual Candlelight Service at Niagara UM** ~ We invite you to join us on **Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7pm** for a retelling of the Christmas story through song.

**GriefShare:** It hurts to lose someone you love. GriefShare provides a safe place of supportive people who will walk along side you through one of life's most difficult experiences. You don't have to go through the grieving process alone. This 13 week program starts on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 from 6-7 pm.

The only cost to this program is a \$20 workbook. Sign up at [www.niagaralifecentre.ca](http://www.niagaralifecentre.ca) or call 905-934-0021 to register.

## **Advent Prayer**

written by Henri Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness,  
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparation for Christmas.

We who have so much to do

seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things

look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for  
the complete joy of your Kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy

seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people,

walking in darkness yet seeking the light.

To you we say "Come, Lord Jesus". Amen



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### ***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 that trespass against us.*

*And 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.*

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