



LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE

Stewart Memorial, Dwight – 10:15 a.m.
Pioneer, Hillside– 11:30 a.m.

Minister: Rev Meg Jordan (705-789-6600)
jordanm@vianet.ca

lakeofbayspastoralcharge196@gmail.com

Bookkeeper/Administrator: Linda Pinkerton

Leadership Chair: Jennifer Parker

Musician, Knox: Cynthia MacLean

Sunday Worship, Dec 17, 2023
Advent 3

WE GATHER

Welcome and Announcements
Acknowledgement of the Land

As we begin our worship here in Lake Bays Township we acknowledge the ancient history and indigenous heritage of the land upon which we live and work. We acknowledge the many First Nations people, the Metis people and the Inuit people. We give thanks for their care for the land and the waters. We are grateful for their teachings about how to express our spiritual connections by living with respect in creation.

Advent Wreath: Lighting of the Candle of Joy

(as the first blue candle is lit)

On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle for Hope.

(as a second blue candle is lit)

Last Sunday we light a candle for Peace.

(As the pink candle is lit)

Today we light a Candle for Joy

Opening Prayer: (unison)

As this flame begins to burn,

let the Joy and the Wonder

of the Christ Child

sing in our hearts

and let our voices share

the song of the Angels—

May the Spirit sing in our hearts;

May a Song of Joy fill our world; Amen.

Opening Hymn: Joy to the World VU# 59

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Prayer of Approach (unison)

Holy God, help us to give voice to the wonderful news:

You are Emmanuel. You dwell among us!

Quicken our imaginations to find new and creative ways
to proclaim the birth of the Christ child with joy.
Amen.

WE LISTEN

Scripture reading: Luke 1:46b-55

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Response: Thanks be to God

Hymn for Reflection: O Ancient Love #17

**O ancient love, processing through the ages;
O hidden love, revealed in human form;
O promised love, the dream of seers and sages:**

**O living Love, within our hearts be born,
O living Love, within our hearts be borne.**

**O homeless love, that dwells among the stranger;
O lowly love, that knows the mighty's scorn;
O hungry love, that lay within a manger: R**

**O gentle love, caressing those in sorrow;
O tender love, that comforts those forlorn;
O hopeful love, that promises tomorrow: R**

**O suffering love, that bears our human weakness;
O boundless love, that rises with the morn;
O mighty love, concealed in infant meekness: R**

Sermon: Mary's Subversive Song

I will be preaching on Sunday with the following thoughts in mind.

The *Magnificat* has been part of the Church's liturgy since its earliest days. For centuries, members of religious orders have recited or sung these words on a daily basis.

It is the longest set of words spoken by a woman in the New Testament. It is also the first Christmas carol ever composed.

Parts of Mary's *Magnificat* echo the song of Hannah (found in 1 Samuel 2:1-10) and are also reminiscent of the anguish of the prophets.

In the past century, there were at least three separate instances of governments banning the public recitation of the *Magnificat*. Its message, they feared, was too subversive.

Frequently throughout history, people on the margins have identified with this powerful poem and been inspired to believe that God can actually bring liberation to their plight. In fact, in the past century at least three different countries have banned the public recitation of Mary's *Magnificat*. These governments considered the song's message to be dangerously subversive.

During the British rule of India, the *Magnificat* was prohibited from being sung in church. In the 1980s, Guatemala's government discovered Mary's words about God's preferential love for the poor to be too dangerous and revolutionary. The song had been creating quite the stirring amongst

Guatemala's impoverished masses. Mary's words were inspiring the Guatemalan poor to believe that change was indeed possible. Thus their government banned any public recitation of Mary's words. Similarly, after the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo—whose children all disappeared during the Dirty War—placed the *Magnificat's* words on posters throughout the capital plaza, the military junta of Argentina outlawed any public display of Mary's song.

WE RESPOND

Call for Offering

Doxology: Grant us God the grace of giving" VU#540

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of Longing for Justice

Our prayer is a holy longing for your future O God;
our life is a "yes" to your invitation

Closing Hymn: Canticle of the Turning. My Soul Cries Out MV#120

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
that you bring to the one who waits.
You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,
and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest.
Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

**My heart shall sing of the day you bring.
Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears,
For the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn.**

Though I am small, my God, my all,
you work great things in me.
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past
to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
and those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,
for the world is about to turn.

Refrain

Though the nations rage from age to age,
we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forbears heard
is the promise that holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God,
who is turning the world around.

Refrain

Closing Prayer:

**Holy God, You come as light,
grace-filled yet baby frail.
May our hearts cradle you,
our voices sing to you,
our spirits leap to you,
and our hearts dance with you.**

Benediction:

Go into the world:

dance, laugh, sing, and create.

We go with assurance of your blessing, O God.

Go into the world:

risk, explore, discover, and love.

We go with assurance of your grace, O God.

Go into the world:

believe, hope, struggle, and remember.

We go with assurance of your love, O God. Amen

SEASON OF ADVENT/CHRISTMAS/EPIPHANY

- Dec 17 Luncheon at Pioneer 12:30 p.m. followed by a presentation from Police Officer Ted Warman: Keeping safe on the Worldwide Web. All are welcome**
- Dec 20 ZOOM Coffee and Conversation 10a.m.**
- Dec 21 Winter Solstice Sacred Circle Dance in Pioneer Hall 6:30-8p.m.**
- Dec 24 Joint service of Lessons and Carols @ Stewart Memorial 10:30 a.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight services**

- Knox United in Dorset: 5 p.m**
Pioneer Memorial in Hillside 7 p.m.
- Dec 31** **New Year's Eve shared service at Pioneer 10:30am This will be a unique service focused around entering the New Year by walking the path of a Labyrinth**
- Jan 7th** **Shared Epiphany Sunday at Pioneer 10:30 a.m. NOTE: Weather permitting everyone will be back in their home church for Easter Sunday. However, since this year Easter falls on March 31, we may still celebrate together!**

VARIOUS STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

1. In person and on the plate. 2. Via PAR (preauthorized remittance). Then you don't have to think about it again. Money is withdrawn monthly 3. By e-transfer. The email address for donations via e-transfer is lobunitedchurches@gmail.com In the subject line/ comment please identify to which of the Churches you wish to donate. 4. By cheque: If you send a cheque, please make it out to Lake of Bays Pastoral Charge and mail it to: LOB United Churches,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!