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**"Follow the Christmas Star"**, Traditional spiritual; Arr.: Ruth Elaine Schram; copyright © 2011, 2014 Heritage Music Press, a division of The Lorenz Corporation. All Rights Reserved.

**"Variations on "Winchester New"**, arr. David Lasky, Come Divine Messiah! Short Preludes, Offertories, and Postludes for Advent, David Lasky, Lorenz, 2017

**"Joy to the World"**, tune G.F. Handel, arr. Fred Bock, The Organ Music of Fred Bock, Vol 2, Ten Christmas Melodies, Fred Bock Music Company, 1972

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# KNOX UNITED CHURCH

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## ADVENT III - JOY

December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

♪↑ Rise to sing, as you are able

♪+ Remain seated to sing

**Prelude:** "Two Variations on Winchester New" David Lasky

### Welcome and Candle Lighting

#### Call to Worship:

**Rejoice, for God is with us!**

We find joy in the journey, trusting in God's promises.

**Sing for joy, for the Lord is near!**

Let us open our hearts to God's abiding joy.

♪↑ **Hymn:** "On Jordan's Bank" VU 20

#### Advent Candle Lighting:

**Reader:** We lit the candles of hope and peace on the last two Sundays.

##### *Light the first and second candle*

Today, we light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy. This flame signifies the joy found in Christ, who fills our hearts and lives with gladness. As we light this candle, we rejoice in the joy that Christ brings, a joy that cannot be taken away.

**All: God of joy, fill our spirits with Your gladness. Help us to share this joy in our words and actions. Amen.**

##### *Light the third candle*

♪+ **Hymn:** "Hope Is a Star" (verse 3) VU 7

#### Prayer

♪+ **Hymn:** "In the Bleak Midwinter" \*\* VU 55

**Scripture Reading 1:** Zephaniah 3:14-20

♪↑ **Hymn:** "Joy Shall Come" VU 23

**Ensemble:** "Good Tidings!" Words and Music: Larry Shackley

**Scripture Reading 2:** Luke 3:7-18

**Anthem:** "Long-Awaited One" Words and Music: Nicole Elsey  
Arr.: Douglas Nolan

**Sermon:** Joy in the Journey

**Solo:** "Follow the Christmas Star" Traditional Spiritual  
Words and Arr.: Ruth Elaine Schram

♪↑ **Offering Hymn:** "Jesus Came Bringing Us Joy" MV 33

Jesus came bringing us joy,  
Jesus came bringing us joy,  
Jesus came bringing us joy,  
hallelujah for evermore! (*repeat*)

#### Dedication of Offering

#### Prayers of the People

♪+ **Lord's Prayer (said together)**

**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  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

♪↑ **Hymn:** "Joy Is Now in Every Place"

VU 45

**Commissioning and Benediction**

♪↑ **Benediction Response:** "Joy Shines as the Solitary Star"

MV 220

Joy shines as the solitary star,  
faith is the inner light.  
You and I together  
mirror the Light of Lights,  
and illumine the pathway home. *(repeat)*

**Postlude:** "Joy to the World"

Fred Bock

\*\* Hymn Survey favourite

**Worship Leaders:**

Minister: Rev. Richard Chung  
Scripture Reader: Victor Burke  
Advent Wreath: Marg Derkson, Mary Graham  
Music Director: Colleen Coulter  
Organist: Madelene Klassen  
Ministry of Music: Knox Choir  
Ensemble: Kimberly Cheong, Josie Thompson, Lana Whyte, Patrick Zhu, Victor Burke  
Soloist: Josie Thompson  
Usher/Greeters: Dave Cass, Marnie Thomson  
Live-Streaming: Kevin Wong  
Webminder: Debra Danny

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**December 15, 2024: Advent III Joy**

**Title:** Joy in the Journey

**Scripture:** Zephaniah 3:14-20; Luke 3:7-18

**Synopsis:** The joy we celebrate in Advent is a deep, abiding joy that exists beyond our circumstances. This week, we encounter Zephaniah’s song of rejoicing and John’s call for repentance. Together, these scriptures remind us that true joy is found in the assurance of God’s presence and promises, urging us to share this joy with others.

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**Land Acknowledgment:**

We acknowledge we worship on the unceded territories of the  
x\_ʷm\_əθk\_ʷəy\_ʼəm\_ (Musqueam), S\_kw\_x\_wú7mesh (Squamish),  
and Sel\_íl\_witulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. We thank them for having cared  
for this land and look forward to relating with them as covenant people  
of God as we continue to care for this land together.

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**KNOX UNITED CHURCH**

Mission: "We exist to love God and love our neighbours" (Matthew 22: 36-40)

Vision: "We aspire to engage our neighbours through the arts, building a community without loneliness.