



## *The United Church of Canada* **Boiestown & St Thomas**

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December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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### **Today's Theme**

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The blind see, the lame walk, and the deaf hear. The dry desert is filled with pools and blooming crocuses. It's not just something to be joyful about, it is a grand reversal of fortunes by God.

\* Indicates stand as you are able.

The congregation shall read the **bold-faced print**.

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### **Gathering**

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#### *Lighting of the Advent Candles:*

One: Joy is a star. Sparkling, dancing, never quite the same.

All: **Stars are there in the daylight, but only appear in the rich depths of night.**

One: Always, in our waiting, joy is there.

All: **Joy is a waiting star.**

[Written by: Gwen Bevan, Tanna Edwards, Paul Kneebone, and Nancy Payne. *Gathering A/C/E* 2025-2026. Used with permission.]

*\*Introit:* VU 7 Hope is a Star, verse 3

#### *Opening Prayer*

Loving and merciful God, we have come together awaiting the birth of peace on earth, goodwill to all people. Bless us with your love and grace on this day and forevermore, we pray. Help us to open our hearts to others: family, friends, strangers—neighbours all, even as you welcome us into your loving presence. Help us to give of ourselves, we pray, in new relationships and in old, that we may reflect your love and peace and grace. Help us to love, cherish, and share, and to be

**both loving and loved, today, tomorrow, and forever.  
O come, O come, Emmanuel. Amen.**

[Written by: Name. *GatheringWorship.ca*. Used with permission.]

*\*Hymn:* VU 1 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, verses 1, 2, 3, 7

*Acknowledging Traditional Territory:*

*Announcements and Celebrations*

*Creed:* VU 918 A New Creed

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## Word

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*Prayer for Illumination:*

*First Testament Reading:* Isaiah 35:1-10

*Reader:* This is the witness of Israel.

**All: Thanks be to God for the Word.**

*Gospel Reading:* Matthew 11:2-11

*Reader:* This is the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Praise to Christ, the Word.**

*Meditation:* Joy In Difficult Times

*\*Hymn:* VU 9 People Look East

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## Thanksgiving

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*Minute for Mission*

*\*Offertory* to the tune of We Three Kings

God of Joy, we thank you again.  
Through these gifts, your work we begin.  
Take them, use them as you need them,  
In Jesus' name. Amen. Oh....

Star of Wonder, Star of Night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Like the Magi long ago,  
Help us walk within your Light.

## *Dedication*

### *Prayers of The People & The Lord's Prayer*

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## **Sending Forth**

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*\*Commissioning and Benediction:*

**One:** Our God of joy is always near.

**All:** **Let us allow God's joy to reign in our lives as we go forth in Jesus' name. Amen.**

[Written by: Elaine Bidgood Sweet. *GatheringWorship.ca*. Used with permission.]

*\*Hymn:* VU 59 Joy to the World

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A warm welcome to those who are worshipping with us today.**

**December 21, 2025 – 11:00a.m. – Doaktown.**

**Boiestown United Church is having their Mitten Tree again this year.**

**December 19, 2025 – Nursing Home Service – 10:30a.m.**

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## Sacrament of Communion

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God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Loving God, Creator and Source of all, we thank and praise you  
with our lips and with our lives, that, having created us and all  
things through your Word, you welcome our prayer and praise.

For the goodness of creation and the potential flung throughout it,

**We praise you.**

For the law of love, inspiring us to holiness, and the call of  
prophets, correcting us in our many human flaws,

**We praise you.**

For making your love known in Jesus, Living Love and Holy  
Prophet, giving hope to the despairing, healing to the sick,  
forgiveness to the sinner, and freedom to the oppressed,

**We praise you.**

For teaching us love until those with power were so threatened  
they sought to take you from us, and then showing how nothing  
can separate us from your Spirit of love, not even death,

**We praise you.**

Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen,  
and with all the faithful of every time and place,  
we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We gather at this table to remember that on the night before he died, it was Jesus who took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said, “Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying, “This is the new covenant; remember me.”

Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who share in this loaf and cup may be the body of Christ: light, life, and love in the world.

In this hope and as your people, we praise you.

**Amen.**

We remember as we come to this table, this is not the table of this congregation, or The United Church of Canada, it is the table of Jesus Christ, the family feast of the whole people of God.

All who seek to be nourished and sustained and long to live justly and in peace with their neighbour, are welcome here.

Let us eat and drink together for our strengthening in the faith, and for the sake of the world.

*[Distribution]*

Let us pray,

**For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God.**

**Grant that what we have done and been given here, may so put its mark on us, that it may remain always in our hearts.**

**Grant that we may grow in Christian love and understanding, and that ours may be lives of faithful action, in Christ’s name. Amen.**