

The Church at Worship

* Invitation to stand if able Congregational responses are **BOLDED**

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Joel Raney



Welcome/Life of the Fellowship

Lighting of the Advent Candle of JOY

***Sung in response**



Together, We Come to God

Call to Worship

Gentle Christ, in worship, we remember that you are with us in love,
Open our hearts that we may prepare for you with lives of love.

Spirit of Life, you shine in the darkness

Shine in us, that we may proclaim your coming in lives of joy and justice.

Incarnate God, in love and mercy, you continually come into the world.

Bless us that we may participate in your coming with life-giving peace.

***Hymn #118** *Hark the Glad Sound*

***Opening Prayer**

God of life, as your prophet cries in the wilderness,

we prepare a way in our hearts for your coming

God of Light and Love,

Bring order from chaos and justice for the vulnerable.

Turn weeping into laughter, promising life made new.

Redeem all that appears lost, giving each one a path and purpose.

Receive our worship of joy in the difference your gifts give to us

through Christ, your Son and our Saviour. Amen.

*** Sung Response**



God Speaks to Us

Scripture Readings **HEBREW BIBLE** Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

Luke 1: 46b-53

Musical Reflection *A Shoot Shall Come Forth* by Richard Horn

Epistle Reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Children's Time *REJOICE!!*

Bible Quest invitation **#812** *Glory to God*



***Gospel Reading** John 1:6-8, 19-28

Sermon *Joy is ours to deliver* Susan St.John

We Respond to God

***Hymn of Response** **#126** *On Jordan's bank*

***Dedication Hymn**

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I
would bring a lamb. If I were a Wiseman, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him, give him my heart

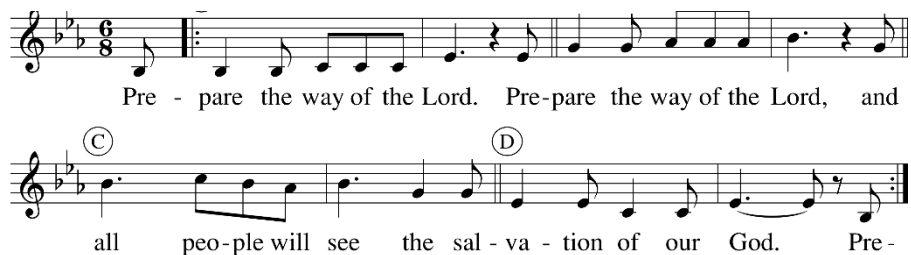
Blessing of the Offering

Pastoral Prayer

* Closing Hymn #147 *Angels we have heard on high*

* Benediction

* Sung Blessing



Postlude *Go Tell it on the Mountain,* arr. Wayne Haun

NOTES

THANK YOU to all the people who offer, freely, their time and talent
without whom today's worship service would not be possible.

GO INTO GOD'S WORLD OF JOY

If you feel called to support your ministry as a volunteer, contact Susan St.John at
sstjohn.macneill@gmail.com or 905-512-9897

Church Moderator: Jon Purdy

Director of Music: Monica Admiral

Minister of Worship & Pastoral Care: Susan St. John

Custodian: Sandy Palin

Associate Ministers in Chaplaincy: Robert Bond, Felida Toledo, Claire Gosselin, David Jones

*MacNeill Baptist Church acknowledges the traditional territory upon which we
gather as a community of faith, that territory of the Anishinaabe and the
Haudenosaunee peoples. We seek a new relationship with the Original Peoples of
this land, one based in peace, friendship, and respect. Acknowledging territory is a
beginning and not an ending in terms of our work towards truth and reconciliation.
We hope that this acknowledgement will be a springboard towards a deeper
relationship with all Indigenous peoples we meet.*

MacNeill Baptist Church

There's a Place for you Here

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www.macneillbaptist.ca Ph: 905-528-2861

email: contact@macneillbaptist.ca

December 17, 2023



Melissa Thorneck, 2023

JOY BLOOMING WILD

So Joy we call to you

We ask you to bless

The people around us

Who are buried and pressed

With everyday cares

That rob them of Joy.