

ELMVALE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

"Elmvale Presbyterian Church is a Christian Community where everyone is welcome sharing God's love through worship, music, prayer, teaching and outreach."

Elmvale Presbyterian Church celebrates 165 Years of Christian Witness in our Community this year.

A Warm Welcome to any Newcomers or those Returning to our Church



Service: The Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday December 14, 2025

"Joy"

Minister: Rev. Tom Mason M.Div

Please stand, if able, as The Bible is opened for Worship

Our Prayer of Reflection before Worship

God of truth and wisdom, send us your Holy Spirit to teach us through the scriptures, read and interpreted this day.

Lead us to understand your truth more fully, and our hearts to live out your wisdom in the example of Jesus, your Living Word.

Amen.

Welcome & Announcements Marlene Lambie, Clerk of Session

Call to Worship

The Third Sunday of Advent – Joy (Carolyn Heads)

Voice 1: Mary praised God who entrusted her with a sacred role. Great things God has done!

Voice 2: With Jesus' birth, the world will never be the same again.

Voice 1: The powerful will be toppled from their thrones. The hungry will be lifted up and joy will break through in unexpected places.

Voice 2: Every time a child is born, the world changes for someone. Our lives changed when a humble young woman gave birth to the One who would save us. On this third Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of joy.

(The candle of joy is lit.)

Let us pray together

Living God, gift us with Mary's trust and readiness to accept your purpose. May we celebrate your coming, as we say with joy: Come, Lord Jesus.

Hymn #119 Hope is a Star (Verses 1, 2 & 3)

The Prayer of Adoration (Unison)

God of joy

you are our strength and our song.

You gather those who have strayed from you and welcome them back to your side.

You bring healing to those who are broken in body and spirit, and accompany those who walk alone.

Through your great love and mercy, you transform us all into more than we ever thought we could be.

We will trust in you and not be afraid.

With joy, we sing of your glory and proclaim your saving power to those near and far as our Creating Father, the redeeming Christ and guiding Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

One: Merciful God, in your gracious presence
we confess our sins and the sins of this world.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

All knowing God,

We know perfect joy only comes through faith in you, yet we seek it elsewhere. In search of comfort, we indulge our desires.

In search of love, we hide from our faults.

In search of approval, we spend beyond our means.

Forgive us, O God, for seeking satisfaction in the wrong places.

Help us turn again to you, our true source of joy, and guide us to discover what is honourable, just, and pleasing in your sight, and with joy in our hearts, we pray together the words that Jesus taught us...

The Lords 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

debts as we forgive our debtors. 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

Assurance of Pardon

In Jesus Christ, we are part of God's new creation. God's love makes all things new! Know that you are forgiven by this great love. Now find the courage to forgive one another in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Hymn #153 Joy to the World

Family Time: A Teaching from Proverbs 15:1-4

Choir Anthem Bring Us Hope

Scripture Reading

Psalms 146:5-9 (Responsive) Carolyn Heads

One: Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God.

All: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them: who keeps faith for ever.

One: Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry,

All: The LORD; The LORD sets the prisoners free. The LORD opens the eyes of the blind.

One: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.

All: The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way Of the wicked he brings to ruin.

The Old Testament Reading Isaiah 35:1-10

The Gospel Reading Matthew 11:2-11

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

Message: "Are You the One?" By Rev Tom

Hymn #148 It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

The Prayers of the People Sandy Owen

Invitation to the offering

This Sunday in Advent celebrates God's gift of Joy.

When we look around the world, we see so many places where Joy is not present.

May our gifts that are joyfully given, be joyfully received in the strong name of Jesus.

Doxology

Offertory Prayer

God whose spirit moves in our hearts. Bless these gifts and use them to create justice and to bring joy into the world in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Hymn #159 Oh Come, All Ye Faithfull

Benediction

Go with joy renewed this day, energized to share that joy with justice and generosity in the world God loves.

And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

May God's Blessings Surround You Each Day

Minister's Vacation: December 30th to January 15th. Guest Preachers will be Jeff Walther and Preaching Elder Angela Kirton. Please contact Marlene Lambie for emergency pastoral care which will be provided.



Pray this Week... We ask you to hold in your hearts and pray for anyone who may be sick, for those feeling lost or lonely and for those who need the healing and encouraging presence of Jesus Christ in their lives at this time.

We pray for peace throughout our troubled world, for the people of Gaza, Israel and the Ukraine.

We pray for our Church and Presbytery, and for all of the peoples of Faith, that they may be guided by the Spirit of Wisdom, Truth, Love and Peace that brings to us, tolerance, understanding and compassion for All.

May the Good Lord Bless and Keep you.

Sermon Notes



The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Elmvale and Knox Flos Presbyterian Churches

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