

Prince Edward North Pastoral Charge  
Advent 3 - Joy  
December 13, 2009

**GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

Gathering Hymn VU 820 Make A Joyful Noise  
Welcome and Announcements  
The Lighting of the Advent Candle  
VU 6 A Candle Is Burning (verses 1,2&3)

Call To Worship

In ancient desert, in our modern wilderness,  
God is ever among us.  
Come as you are...

**Let us worship and give thanks.**

Hymn VU 72 From Heaven Above To Earth I Come

Opening Prayer

We will not find you, Loving God, in the busy stores, or among  
the Christmas lights.

**But where a young couple struggles to get basic housing,  
you are there.**

We will not find you, Caring God, in the packed casino, or on the  
Internet.

**But where a refugee seeks a safe place for her family, you  
are there.**

We will not find you, Compassionate God, at the bank machine  
or in a high class restaurant.

**But where a newly bereaved person searches for a  
comforting presence, you are there.**

Ever-present God, we will follow you,

**Faithfully, calmly, as we proceed on our Advent journey.**

**Amen.**

Prayer of Confession

Do you hear the challenge of John the Baptist?

Sharing is in style!

**In John's day, food and clothes;**

**Today? Tax breaks for the poor, low cost housing, and aid  
for developing nations.**

Do you hear the challenge of John the Baptist?

Don't abuse power!

**In John's day, cheating tax collectors;**

**Today? Unfeeling government officials, and our selfish  
control of other persons.**

Do you hear the challenge of John the Baptist?

Don't accuse anyone falsely!

**In John's day, bullying soldiers;**

**Today? Those who spread rumors, and tarnish the  
reputation of others.**

Do you hear the challenge of John the Baptist?

Take Jesus seriously!

**In John's day, the Chosen One of God;**

**Today? The same Jesus, whose acceptance tests us,  
whose Cross-death challenges us.**

*(Time for silent reflection)*

Words of Assurance

The words of John the Baptist come home to us.

**We will reflect carefully, and repent practically!**

You will experience God's pardon and peace.

**And we will thank our Gracious God. Amen.**

Hymn VU 35 Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Children's Time

**LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD**

Scripture VU 880 Isaiah 12: 2-6  
Luke 3: 7-18

Sermon

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE**

Hymn      VU 47      Still, Still, Still

Minute For Mission

Offerings of Our Life's Work      "Take These Gifts"

**Take these gifts and let them be  
Used as blessings sent from thee  
Take our lives and use us all  
For your glory and your call.**

Hymn      VU 59      Joy To The World

Commissioning & Benediction

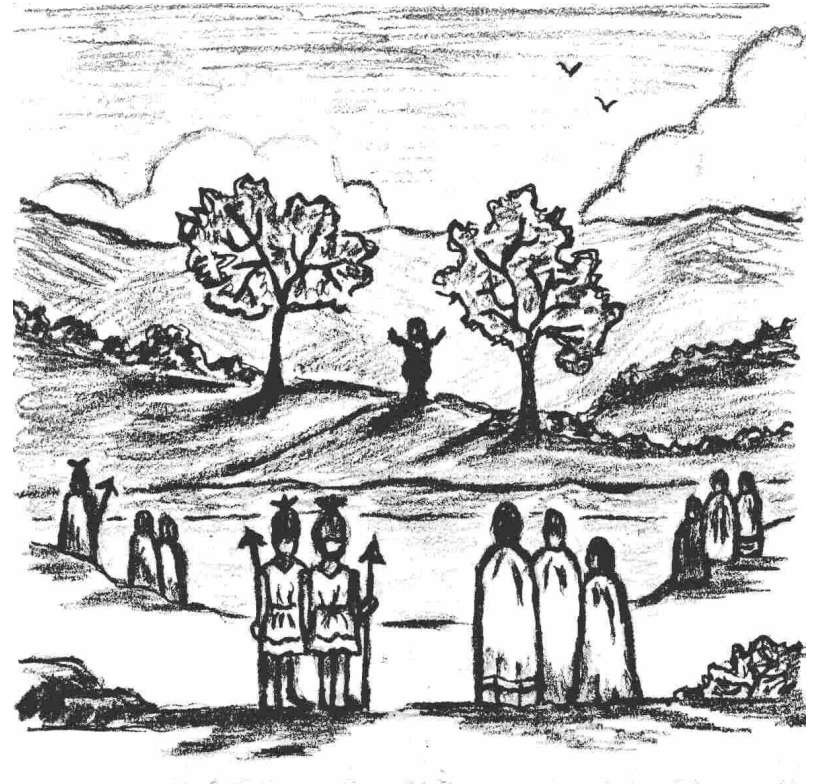
Go Now In Peace (words found in back cover of Voices United)

**Announcements**

**Dec. 13** Learn how to make a Christmas centre piece! For just \$20 you will be given the supplies and taught how to make your own centre piece. 1/2 of the proceeds will go to the church. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the church; limit of 20 people for the class.

**Dec. 13** Pot Luck Supper 5:15 at the church

**Dec. 24** Christmas Eve Service 7:30 pm. Please join us for a service of Carols and Readings telling the story of the birth of the Christ Child.



What should we do?