



Following Jesus Christ to be a beacon of God's light and hope



# MAGNIFY & REJOICE

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
December 20th, 2015

# WELCOME!

Thank you for joining us. Whether you are a Sunday regular, checking out church for the first time, or somewhere in between, we want to welcome you.

For those of you who have not been to one of our services we hope this booklet helps you feel more comfortable. We know new experiences can be a bit awkward, so we have tried to make it easy for you to follow along with this booklet and with the overhead screen.

## A FEW TIPS

1. Keep an eye out for boxes that **SIT** say **STAND** and as they will help you know when to rise in body and spirit, if you are able, and to be seated.
2. We sing a lot, in a variety of different styles from ancient chant to contemporary folk and praise. Sometimes you will see abbreviations besides songs like "VU" meaning *Voices United* or "MV" meaning *More Voices*. All songs are projected on the screen, but these books are available in your pew if you can read music or just prefer to sing from a book.
3. Throughout the booklet there are **grey outlined boxes** with focus questions intended to guide and enrich your worship experience. You are encouraged to fill them out and take notes during or after the service as a way to dig deeper.

## PRELUDE

**SIT**

**Focus:** Focus: Our passage for today is what is called the Magificat, the song Mary the mother of Jesus. Name a song (secular or sacred) that you associate with a feeling of deep joy. Why is that?

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### The Advent Candles

During the Advent season, we light a circular wreath with one large candle in the middle surrounded by four others. The circle symbolizes the eternity of God, and we light a candle each Sunday in Advent and the final candle on Christmas Eve.

## GREETING AND WELCOME

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**STAND**

## OPENING SONGS

COME, O GOD OF ALL THE EARTH  
PEOPLE LOOK EAST (VU#9)

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**SIT**

## THE NEWS OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

## CHORAL INTROIT

COME, FOLLOW THAT STAR

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

*St. George's Children's Church*

## PRAYER OF APPROACH AND CONFESSION

**Focus:** What are you in need of forgiveness for this week?

## RESPONSE SONG (SUNG TWICE)

LORD, O LORD OUR GOD

**STAND**

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

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**The Jesse Tree**

In Isaiah 11, the writer says that a “shoot from the stump of Jesse”—Jesse being King David’s father. Jesus is seen as representing that shoot, as a new start for not only Jesse’s family, but the whole world. We decorate the Jesse Tree as Jesus’ family tree with stories from all through the Bible to help us keep in mind the big picture.

**HYMN OF PRAISE**

HOPE IS A STAR (VU#7)

**CHILDREN’S WORD**

DECORATING THE JESSE TREE

**SIT****INVITATION TO CHILDREN’S CHURCH**

*At this time, children are invited to join our leaders in Children’s Church. Nursery care is for children ages 0-4, and children’s Church is for Ages 5-12. Children are also welcome to stay with their parents in worship.*

**SONG FOR ALL AGES**

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD (BERTHIER)

**STAND****PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

HOLY SPIRIT, COME TO US (MV#75)

**SCRIPTURE READING**

*Marylin Davies*

**SIT**

LUKE 1:39-56

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

“MAGNIFY AND REJOICE”

*Rev. Ryan Slifka*

**Sermon Notes:**

**HYMN**

MY SOUL CRIES OUT (MV#120)

**STAND****AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

THE APOSTLE’S CREED (VU#918)

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Judy Restemeyer*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (VU#921)

**SIT**

## MOMENT FOR MISSION

### OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

### OFFERING HYMN

LORD, PREPARE ME TO BE A SANCTUARY (MV#18)

**STAND**

### OFFERING PRAYER

### HYMN

RISE UP, SHEPHERD AND FOLLOW (VU#70)

### SENDING FORTH AND BLESSING

### CLOSING

COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (VERSES 1-4)  
(VU#60)

**SIT**

### POSTLUDE

*You are invited to exit the sanctuary quietly, or remain seated for the postlude to enjoy a last moment of worship. Following, you are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and a time to get to know each other better.*

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## Offering

As a community of faith we collect a weekly offering of our time, our talents and financial gifts. They are collected to support God's mission in the world through our local church and all over the world. Newcomers should not feel obligated to give—giving is a personal discipline taken up by the community of faith that reminds us who we are, and that all in life ultimately belongs to God.

Focus: Where do you see the light of Christ magnified in your person, your life, and the ways of your family and community? Notice in the coming week one time each day when the light of Christ is made present for you by others.

## THE NEWS OF OUR LIFE TOGETHER

DECEMBER 20-27, 2015

### PRAYER REQUESTS

**Please hold the following people in your regular prayers:**  
Ruth Steeves, Eve Mark, Peter, Mari, and family, Jon and Mona Mahovic, Win Argue, Cliff Fletcher, Jennifer Barter, Disciple Bible Study Group.

Please call or email the office at [stgeorgeuc@shaw.ca](mailto:stgeorgeuc@shaw.ca) for changes

### PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS:

Contact Lydia Wilson at [lydmac2@shaw.ca](mailto:lydmac2@shaw.ca) or fill out your connection card in the pew.

### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND SERVICES

- December 20th** **Celebration Singers Concert Matinee**  
"The Joys of Christmas" 2:00pm
- December 21st** **Celebration Singers Concert**  
"The Joys of Christmas" 7:30pm
- December 24th** **Christmas Eve Family Worship**  
Candlelight Service With Carols
- December 25th** **Christmas Day Worship**  
Carols and Holy Communion 10:30am
- December 27th** **First Sunday in Christmas Worship**  
Carols and Lessons 10:30am
- January 3rd** **The Visit of the Magi**  
Epiphany of the Lord Worship 10:30am
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### DONATE TO THE PASTOR'S BENEVOLENT FUND & RECEIVE A CALENDAR

The Pastor's Benevolent Fund is a special fund that provides assistance to those in need throughout the year. Donations of \$20 or more will receive a copy of Salt of the Earth: A Christian Seasons Calendar, a beautiful wall calendar that is structured by the Christian liturgical seasons. Available in the Fellowship Hall after the service or in the Office: Tuesdays – Fridays (9am – 12noon). See [www.thechristiancalendar.com](http://www.thechristiancalendar.com) for more about the calendar.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES

ARE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP FOLLOWING WORSHIP TODAY  
PLEASE REFRAIN FROM USING THEM UNTIL 2015.

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### ANNUAL MITTEN TREE COLLECTION

Please bring warm toques, scarves and gloves and place them on the tree by the entrance for those in need in our community. Your donations this year, will be donated: St. George's Drop in Centre. Care-A-Van. Hamper Programs - Salvation Army and Royal LePage

### TODAY IS WHITE GIFT SUNDAY

All food items will be donated to St. George's Pantry  
Any gifts, off toys or money will be donated to the local Hamper Programs - Salvation Army and Royal LePage

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We have sold our building and are purchasing a new location in the Braidwood Centre next to Canadian Tire. We will be needing help with some of the improvements to our new location. If you can help with any of the following please call us and we will let you know when it's happening later in January.

- Painting the interior walls
- Laying flooring (vinyl planking)
- Moving
- Cleaning old location

We will be holding a garage sale in our current home December 19th inside the house from 9:00 am to 12:00.

The sale of our building will cover the purchase of the new location as well as pay off our mortgage but we will have the expenses of the renovations. If you can help by making a special donation to help with these cost we would really appreciate it. We would love to be debt free. Merry Christmas, Julie Le Goff, Executive Director 250-334-0058

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### PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

*Use this prayer to start each day mindful of God's presence*

Thank you, good and gracious God,  
for the morning light,  
for another day in which to  
live out what it means that you have magnified my soul  
and the souls of those around me in this world.  
Teach me the meaning of "Let it be."  
Show me how to trust;  
in Jesus' name. Amen.

*-FROM THE FEASTING ON THE WORD WORSHIP COMPANION*

Today's service centers on **the Good News According to Luke, 1:39-56**. Following the visit of the angel announcing that Mary will give birth to Jesus, Mary visits her relative Elizabeth who celebrates this impending birth. The largest portion of our passage is Mary's Song of Joy, which is called "the Magnificat" (meaning "magnify") she sings in response to Elizabeth's celebration. Mary sings of God's ancient promises being fulfilled.

The **Good News According to Luke** is the third of four books that chronicle Jesus; life, death and resurrection. Luke's main emphasis is that in his words, deeds, death, and resurrection, Jesus is the one who God promised to save the people of Israel.

In Luke, Jesus proclaims God's good news of deliverance for all peoples, especially for the poor and the downtrodden.

Today is the **Fourth Sunday** in the **Season of Advent**, the first season of the Christian Year beginning the four weeks leading up to the festival of Christmas. The word "Advent" means "coming" or "arrival." During this season we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus (the first Advent), and prepare ourselves in anticipation of God's future reconciliation of all creation (the second Advent). The people of Jesus are called to participate in the here and now, waiting and working towards that promised future. **The liturgical colour is deep blue, the colour of royalty from the image of Christ as King.**



**St. George's**  
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**MINISTERS OF THE  
GOSPEL**

The Whole  
Congregation

**PASTOR**

Rev. Ryan Slifka

**ADMINISTRATOR**

Jenny Millar

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**

Anne Bateman

**MUSIC MINISTRY**

Eve Mark  
St. George's Choir

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Cheyenne Hutt  
Seva Ganga  
Emma Long

**SOUND BOOTH**

Norman Walker  
Céline Sokol

**CHAIR OF COUNCIL**

Alison Mewett

**ELDERS OF COUNCIL**

Malcolm Horne  
Wendy Irwin  
Carol Lidster  
Erik Nieuwejaar  
Ula Nieuwejaar  
Catherine Tancon  
Ellen Wise

**MINISTERS EMERITUS**

Rev. Ray Brandon  
Pat Brandon

**MAINTENANCE**

Clinton Wise

**CUSTODIAN**

Erik Nieuwejaar