

# WILMOT UNITED CHURCH

DECEMBER 8, 2013

Advent II - WATCH

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

At the points marked \* - those who are able are invited to stand.

Presider: The Reverend Rose-Hannah Gaskin

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Organ Prelude:** Sinfonia from the Christmas Oratorio (Bach)

\* **Introit:** Come Now, O God of Peace VU #34

## Welcome to the Church

### Call to Worship:

**One:** Come as an Advent people; praise the God of promise.

**All:** **We come with glad and thankful hearts.**

**One:** Follow the holy way; make the path straight.

**All:** **We will walk the road to Bethlehem.**

### Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy:

**One:** Today is the second Sunday in Advent. Along with the prophets and people through the ages, we dream of a world of peace and justice. We share John the Baptizer's dream of making crooked paths straight, of making a smooth highway broad enough for all God's people to move on together in peace and harmony.

**All:** **Our actions can help build that highway: God's dream can become our dream. Last week we lit the first Advent candle, reminding us to hope while we wait.** (Light the first purple candle.)

**One:** The flame of the second candle reminds us that God's dreams can become real and we watch as it burns brightly in our world. (Light the second purple candle.)

**All: Loving God, give us the desire, the willingness, and the courage to be part of your dream for a world of peace and justice. We pray this in the name of Jesus, dream come true. Amen.**

**\* Opening Hymn:** There's a Voice in the Wilderness VU #18

**Time with the Young and the Young at Heart**

Rev. E. Beirsto

## **HANGING OF THE GREENS**

### **Introduction:**

Traditions enrich our celebrations - they deepen our experiences ... In the season of Advent, Christians participate in many special traditions that mark the four weeks of expectant waiting. Here at Wilmot, "the hanging of the greens" is a tradition. During this time, we recall the meaning of Christmas lights and bells, poinsettias, garlands and wreaths. As we decorate the church for this special season we also dedicate these symbols and ourselves to the glory of God.

### **Bells:**

One: For centuries the ringing bells from church steeples called people to worship or proclaimed news to all

**All: Amen.**

### **Chimes:**

One: The sweet sounds of the chimes remind us of God's angels hovering near the earth. Peace on earth, good will to all people.

**All: Amen.**

### **Poinsettias:**

One: The flowers symbolize that all life is sacred. "And God saw that it was good."

**All: Amen.**

### **Evergreen Garlands and Wreaths:**

One: The evergreens symbolize the new life that is ours as we embrace again the coming of the Christ child. "For unto us a child is born."

**All: Amen.**

**Lights:**

One: The lights on our tree are a reminder that God's love radiates through the world and rests on us to lighten our darkness. "And the star stood over the place where the baby lay."

**All: Our house is ready...let us open the doors and welcome all to come in. Hallelujah. Amen.**

**\* Hymn:** Joy Is Now in Every Place VU #45

**Connecting to Our Hearts' Longing:** Kyrie Eleison MV #69

**Silent Prayer**

**Assurance of God's Love:**

I wait for God with longing;

I put my hope in God's Word.

My soul waits for God more eagerly than  
watchers for the morning.

*Psalm 130:5-6*

**\* Hymn:** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming VU #8

**LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

**Prayer of Preparation**

Tony Burnett

**Holy God, help us to give voice to the wonderful news:**

**you, yourself are coming to dwell among us!**

**Quicken our imaginations to find new and creative ways  
to proclaim Christ's coming. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 1: 1 - 10

**Second Reading:** Matthew 3: 1 - 12



You keep us looking.

You, the God of all space,  
want us to look in all the right and wrong places  
for signs of hope,  
for people who are hopeless,  
for visions of a better world which will appear  
among the disappointments of the world we know.

Thank you . . . for the looking time.

You keep us loving.

You, the God whose name is love,  
want us to be like you—  
to love the loveless and the unlovely and the unloveable;  
to love without jealousy or design or threat;  
and, most difficult of all,  
to love ourselves.

Thank you . . . for the loving time.

And in all this,  
you keep us.

Through hard questions with no easy answers;  
through failing where we hoped to succeed  
and making an impact when we felt we were useless;  
through the patience and the dreams and the love of others;  
and through Jesus Christ and his spirit,  
you keep us.

Thank you . . . for the keeping time,  
and for now,  
and for ever.

Amen. *Iona Community*

\* **Closing Hymn:** Hark the Glad Sound

VU #29

\* **Benediction:**

**\* Choral Amen**

(Lucille Caseley)

**Postlude:**

Noel VIII

(Daquin)

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If you wish, you are invited to remain for the Postlude as it is part of our Worship Service.

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**WELCOME** to this service of worship and thank you for being with us today.

There will not be the regular COFFEE & CONVERSATION today as we will be having the Annual Christmas Dinner later in the day. We will start with carol singing in the sanctuary at 4:30 pm. Virginia and Steven will be there for musical leadership. Later you will move to the gym for turkey/ham dinner and dessert. Cost - \$10 person and \$20 for family with children. Any profits from this dinner are given to our Christmas Hamper program.

**SYMPATHY:** Our love and condolences are offered to the family and friends of ***Don Manzer*** who passed away on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Funeral service was held at Pine Grove on Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

**MEMORIAL FLOWERS:**

**In Memory of**  
Carl & Bertha Rawn  
Iva Shore  
John & Irma Brewer

Florence Cameron

Jonathan Kenyon and Ellen Tomilson  
Donnie Phillips  
Peggy & Bill Beairsto

**Placed by**  
The Family  
The Family  
Brenda & Lawrence Cameron and  
Keith & Esther Jones  
Brenda, Lawrence, Samantha and  
Patrick Cameron  
Bob and Elaine Kenyon  
Marlene and family  
The Family

**THE PRAYER CIRCLE** offers confidential prayer support for those with physical, emotional, family and spiritual needs. To have your concerns added to the Wilmot prayer list contact Guy Vezina (455-6174) or Raday Brown (454-3001).

**OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2014** are now available. They are on a table at the entrance to the sanctuary. Please pick up your set. If you are not presently using offering envelopes but wish to do so, please contact Marlene in the Office. Also, information re PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) is available from Marlene.

**POTLUCK RAINBOW BRUNCH:** The next Potluck Rainbow Brunch is planned for Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at Wilmot United Church. This is our Christmas brunch and the last one before 2014. Welcome/setup/conversation begins at 10:30, brunch begins at 11:00 and ends at 1:00. Please come, bring a favorite dish to share in the meal and enjoy a great time of fellowship. Best wishes for a peaceful advent season.

**COME & FIND A QUIET CENTRE AT WILMOT UNITED CHURCH:** You are invited to come into our beautiful and peaceful sanctuary at 12:15 during early Dec., Wednesdays, December 11, 18, We will offer you a half-hour of quiet, candle light, music and contemplation in the beautiful sacred space. If you work downtown or are shopping at King and Carleton, please come in. Bring your lunch if you wish.

**ANNUAL PROGRESSIVE DINNER:** Be certain to mark Friday, December 13th on your calendars for Wilmot's Annual Pot Luck Progressive Dinner. We will begin at 6:00 with appetizers at the home of Lorie and Flemming Nielsen located at 366 Aberdeen Street between York and Westmorland. We will then travel to Wilmot Church Hall where we will have the main course. Dessert will be hosted by George and Barbara Cross who live at 126 Waterloo Row. This is a planned pot luck, so if you would like to take part, please call Susan Breen (450-4072) or Brenda Cameron (363-3388) to let them know what course you wish to bring. This is always a wonderful evening of fun, food and fellowship so be sure to give Susan or Brenda a call.

**'GLORIA'**; The Fredericton Choral Society presents "GLORIA" a concert to celebrate the season on December 11, 7:30 pm at Wilmot United Church, Heather Dunham conducting. Featuring Vivaldi's Gloria, John Rutter's Gloria (1) and more glorious works by Rutter, Handel and Verdi. Special guests - the Fredericton Concert & Marching Band. Tickets: adults \$20, seniors & students \$15, children \$10, from choir members, Read's Books or at the door. For information – call Janet at 488-9894.

**UPCOMING COMMUNION SERVICES:** We will once again be serving Home Communion in the coming weeks. Please let Rose-Hannah or Ellen know if you wish us to come to you or someone you know. We will be visiting all our Care Homes and serving Communion at:

**SHANNEX - THOMAS HALL:**

Friday, December 20 at 2:30

**YORK CARE HOME:**

Friday, December 13 at 2:30

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** The congregation of Brunswick Street Baptist Church invites you to join them for the annual Candlelight service – an oasis of peace in the midst of the Christmas rush! Sunday, December 15, 6:30 pm. Includes music by choir, soloists, instrumentalists and preceded (6:10 pm) by a mini-concert by Steven Peacock (guitar) and Yvonne Kershaw (flute). The offering goes to support the Community Health Clinic on Brunswick Street.

**DEC. 16<sup>th</sup>: ADVENT SERIES** - Making the Case for Christmas with Bishop Bill Hockin and Dr. Barry Craig. Monday, Dec. 16 at 12:15 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. "THAT LIGHT - Still Shining in the Dark Days of December". All are welcome.

## THIS WEEK AT WILMOT

Dec 8 - 15

### Today:                    ADVENT TWO - HANGING OF THE GREENS

- 9:30 am            **ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION** - S. S. Room  
11:00 am            **WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
4:30 pm            **CAROL SINGING** - Sanctuary followed by  
                         **CHRISTMAS DINNER** - gym

### Monday, Dec 9:

- 6:00 pm            **U.C.W.** - Parlour  
6:30 pm            **SPECIAL OLYMPICS** - Gym  
6:45 pm            **TOASTMASTERS** - Board Room  
7:00 pm            **OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS** - S.S. Room

### Tuesday, Dec 10:

- 12:00 pm           **WORSHIP COMMITTEE** - Parlour  
6:00 pm            **REHEARSAL** - Choral Society - Sanctuary  
7:00 pm            **SPANISH CLASS** - Board Room  
7:00 pm            **MARTIAL ARTS CLASS**

### Wednesday, Dec 11:

- 9:00 am            **MORNING OUT/QUILTERS** - Parlour  
10:00 am           **TOY LIBRARY**  
10:00 am           **WEDNESDAYS AT WILMOT**  
12:10 pm           **COME & FIND A QUIET CENTRE AT WILMOT** - Sanctuary  
7:00 pm            **NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** - Fireside Room  
7:30 pm            **"GLORIA"** by the Fredericton Choral Society - Sanctuary

### Thursday, Dec 12:            CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING

- 1:00 pm            **WILMOT WRITERS** - Parlour  
6:00 pm            **CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAPPING** - Wilmot Hall & Fireside Room  
6:30 pm            **HANDBELL CHOIR PRACTICE**  
7:00 pm            **PAINTING CLASS** - Board Room  
  
7:00 pm            **STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE** - Parlour  
7:30 pm            **SENIOR CHOIR PRACTICE**

### Friday, Dec 13:            DELIVER CHRISTMAS BASKETS / PROGRESSIVE DINNER

12:00 pm **FOOD FOR LIFE** - Board Room

**Saturday, Dec 14:**

10:00 am **TOY LIBRARY**

10:30 am **RAINBOW BRUNCH** - Parlour

6:30 pm **DROP-IN CENTRE** - Gym

**Sunday, Dec 15: ADVENT THREE**

9:30 am **ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION** - S. S. Room

11:00 am **WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL**

12:00 pm **COFFEE & CONVERSATION**

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**2014 CHURCH CALENDARS** have arrived and are available from Marlene in the Church Office. (\$6 each)

**THE BUY-A-NIGHT - ANNUAL FUNDRAISER,** sells gift cards indicating that a donation has been made to the homeless shelter on behalf of the person receiving the card. They can be purchased as a Christmas gift alternative. The idea is that people can make a donation to offset the cost of "one person" staying "one night" at the Shelter. You may purchase one of these gift cards (\$10 each) from Marlene in the Church office.

**Ministers:**

**Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin**  
**292-1680**

**Rev. Ellen Beairsto**  
**206-1943**

**Ministers Emeriti:**

**Rev. Vic Moriarty , Rev. Cliff Moase, Rev. Bob Jones**

**Organist: Virginia Leiter**

**Choir Director: Steven Peacock**

**Office Administrator: Marlene Phillips**

**Sexton: Randy Randall**

**Church Office: 458-1066**

**<http://www.wilmotuc.nb.ca/>**