



### RUTH BYRNES GIFTING TREE

We ask that you place either on or under the tree donations of mitts, gloves, hats, scarves as well as socks, T shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, or personal hygiene items. These things will be divided and sent to both the Women's Help Centre and Street Help Homeless Centre.

### OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday – Thursday 1:30pm- 4:00pm  
Friday 1:30pm – 6:00pm

Office Administrator: **Melissa Yau**

Telephone 519.253.8791

Answering Machine (available 24/7)

Web: [www.emmanuelunited.org](http://www.emmanuelunited.org)

Email: [emmanuelucwindsor@gmail.com](mailto:emmanuelucwindsor@gmail.com)



**Completing the New Testament:  
Week of December 17, 2017  
Revelation 20-22**

Rev. Sadekie Lyttle-Forbes

Cell: 519-984-2608

Minister's Office Phone:

519-253-0003

Email: [revsadekie@gmail.com](mailto:revsadekie@gmail.com)



If you are interested in becoming a **member** of Emmanuel United Church please fill out a little **blue card** in the pews and place it in the offering plate.



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

**10:30am Teddy Bear Service  
8:00pm Candlelight & Communion Service**



### PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

Please take a moment to pick up your pictorial directory at the back of the church.

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH  
ADVENT III “Joy”  
CHOIR CANTATA

December 17, 2017

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: The days draw near; the journey to Bethlehem continues

**P: On our path so far, we have found hope and peace**

L: Today we proclaim joy as we gather as God’s people.

**P: May our worship fill our hearts with God’s gift of joy, that when we leave this place, we will share it with everyone we meet.**

L: Come let us enjoy the joy of our Lord.

3<sup>rd</sup> ADVENT CANDLE – JOY

Hymn VU 7 *Hope is a Star* verse 3

L: Today we light the candle of joy.

**P: Mary and Joseph, where are you going? Can we go, too?**

*FAMILY: We are walking to Bethlehem. We have been asked to be earthly parents to God’s child. This will be the hardest thing we have ever done. It is scary. It has been hard to believe. Some of our family and friends still don’t believe us. But that’s okay. What an amazing, joyful opportunity we have. We get to be the first to welcome God’s son to the world. We get to love him and care for him. Yes, please come with us and help us welcome our son.*

**P: Thank you, Mary and Joseph, for your faith and gift of joy. We will join you on this Advent adventure.**

Hymn VU 7 *Hope is a Star* refrain

(Light third candle)

OPENING HYMN VU 232 Joyful,  
Joyful We Adore You”

PRAYER & PRAYERS OF THE  
PEOPLE

L Merciful God, in every age you raise up prophets who proclaim that there is mercy and healing beyond our experience and imagination. We praise you for their message and for calling us again and again to new ways of seeing.

Around us we see and hear of nations and nature and lives crumbling. Build the world up and build it anew and strengthen us to serve you in your work of re-creation.

We offer you prayers for the people and communities that have been devastated by war, flood, drought, earthquake, fire, storm, and poverty. Give them a strong and enduring sense of your presence, care and love. Help us to wait with those who suffer, offering comfort and a listening ear. We remember especially the families in this community who don’t have enough food in this season of celebration. We remember the people of [insert local, national, global communities affected by hardship]

In you, loving God, our hopes and fears meet. We are afraid because life is fragile and uncertain. We are hopeful because you have promised new life. As we dwell in the space between fear and hope, remind us again that you are actively working to heal what is broken. May we find healing and strength in the Prince of Peace.  
My prayer is...

L: We ask your blessing on our partners, children, parents and our elders.

**P: We ask that you joy be poured into the lives of the people who you have made. Keep us concerned and prayerful as we seek to bring joy to the world. O God, give us joy in our time.**

THE OFFERTORY

VU 16 Mary, Woman of the Promise 1, 4-5

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**ALL: Our heartfelt thanks, to you, O God. Our heartfelt amen to your wondrous gift of self. Accept these offerings from our hearts and use them to mend and restore the hearts of many. Amen**

CANTATA

BENEDICTION

L: As you reflect on your life – the challenges and delights, may gratitude soften your heart, so that joy may find a way to slip in and sustain you in this Advent time, the name of the God, our

Parent, Jesus our Saviour and the Holy Spirit, our Comforter. Amen

**CHORAL BLESSING** *Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true. Know He will guide you in all you do. Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen. ccli#262153*

Special thanks to our Candle lighters this week!

Liturgy and prayers adapted from the Gathering, Advent (2017-2018). Used with permission