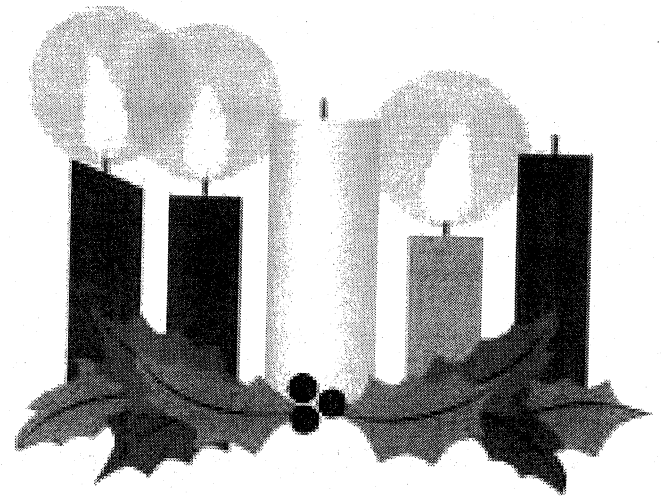


*Selby / Empey Hill  
United Churches*



THIRD SUNDAY  
OF  
*Advent*

*December 15, 2019*

**Selby Pastoral Charge**  
The United Church of Canada at Selby & Empey Hill  
**Third Sunday of Advent**  
**December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Minister: Rev. Mike Putnam  
Selby Music Leader: Andrea Putnam  
Empey Hill Music Leader: Marg Winter

**We Gather Together**

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**GATHERING SONG: VU#36 – ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY (Verses 1, 2 & 4)**

Lighting of the Advent Candle –  
The Wionzek Family

**HYMN: VU#6 A CANDLE IS BURNING (Verse 3)**

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship (Responsive)

The people were fearful and doubted God's love.

**Yet God showered his blessings upon them.**

The wonder of God's love is a healing balm to all God's people.

**God's love comes to us as Emmanuel!**

God is with us!

**Let us worship our ever-present God!**

Opening Prayer: (Unison)

**God of Glory, we rejoice in the good news of your promises. Come into our parched world and shower us with your abundant water of life.**

**Be born anew in our hearts and in our world. Come, Jesus; come. Amen.**

Choir Anthem: "Sweet Little Child"

**HYMN FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART: MARY'S BOY CHILD**

Theme Time with the Kids

Prayer of Confession

**Upside-down God, you announce your coming with exciting news: our savior has been born, the Messiah the Lord has come! But we are hesitant to get involved, to allow ourselves to be swept up in this good news. We close our eyes to what you see, our hearts to what breaks your heart. We participate in structures that oppress and marginalize. Help us accept and proclaim the coming of your Son as truly good news, which sets us free to love and serve as abundantly as Christ has first loved and served us. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

**GREAT HYMN OF THE FAITH: STAR OF BETHLEHEM**

**The Word Among Us**

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Our Sacred Scripture:

Luke 2:9-15

Sermon: "God in a Manger: The Divinity"

Music for Reflection

**THEME HYMN – VU#48 – HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING**

**We Respond to God's Word**

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Invitation to the Offering

Offering Hymn (VU#55)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

Prayer of the People and The Lord's Prayer

**CLOSING HYMN: VU#43 - GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN**

Benediction

GOING OUT SONG (VU#958)

**Halle, halle, halle-lujah!  
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!  
Halle, halle, halle-lujah!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!**

Announcements

**Office Hours**

Rev. Mike will be in the office Tuesday to Friday, 9:30 am to noon. Please feel free to call, drop in or make an appointment. He can be reached on his cell phone at 613-539-9324. His email is: [pastor.mike.putnam@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.mike.putnam@gmail.com).

**Advent Sermon Series: God In A Manger**

The idea that God became one of us is a scandalous thought. Even more scandalous is that he chose to enter our world not as a mighty ruler but as a gentle and weak baby. Join us for this three-week sermon series exploring this remarkable truth.

December 15<sup>th</sup> – The Divinity – Luke 2:8-15

**Upcoming Worship Services:**

**Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Christmas Pageant Family Service** – 10:00 am (Joint Service at Selby United Church – No service at Empey Hill this Sunday).

**Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Family Service** – 4:30 pm at Selby United Church (A 45-minute service of upbeat carols, drama and light for the whole family).

**Tuesday December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – 7:30 pm at Empey Hill United Church (A traditional service of carols, drama and candles!)

**Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup> – Wassail Service** – 10:30 am – a joint service at Empey Hill led by Rev. Frank Hamper. A casual service of carols, stories and treats.

### **Cantabile Choirs of Kingston**

Will be presenting “Wings Of Angels” on Friday, December 20th at 7:30 pm and Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00pm and 7:30 pm at The Spire. These beautiful concerts include holiday music from around the world and carols by candlelight. Tickets are now on sale at Novel Idea, Arden’s Music and [www.cantabilechoirs.ca](http://www.cantabilechoirs.ca)

### **Longest Night Service**

Will be on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 pm at Newburgh United Church. This service brings together people who find the Christmas season difficult due to circumstances in their lives. The service will be conducted by: Revs. Barbara Mahood, Mike Putnam and Nancy Clarke.

### **Photo Directory**

It is time we updated our church photo directory. If you have a photo of your family you want printed in the directory, please email it to the church or put it in an envelope marked accordingly and leave at the back of the church. We also will need your address, phone number and email address. If you do not have a photo and would like one taken, Brian Hudgins will set aside a date and time to take pictures. We are hoping to have all pictures in by December 15<sup>th</sup>.

To facilitate this process, sections of the existing contact & photo sheets have been placed at the entrance to each church. Please refer to these

sheets with instructions on how to confirm any changes or additions for your family.

### **Mitten Tree**

This is the last Sunday that we will be accepting donations of mittens, socks, scarves and hats for our mitten tree. These items will be shared with local organizations in our community. Thank you to all who donated mittens, hats, etc for our collection. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

### EMPEY HILL

#### **Poinsettias**

Poinsettias have been placed at the front of the church by the following people:

Ed Fuller – in memory of his wife  
Shirley Fuller

Phyllis Mastin – in memory of her husband Stan Mastin

Ruth Russett – in memory of her husband Harry Russett

Helen McRae, John & Lois McGrath, Wayne & Linda Garrison and Donald McRae and Pam Powell in memory of George “Mack” (Poppy) McRae; Alvin McRae and Claude and Audrey McRae. Bernice Thompson and family – in memory of Frank Thompson and Charlie and Winnifred Akey

The Chadwick Family – in memory of Marjorie Chadwick

## SELBY

### **Gum Drop Cakes and Gift Baskets**

There are a few of the gum drop cakes and gift baskets left downstairs. If you are interested in any of these items please see Jane.

### **Poinsettias**

Poinsettias have been placed at the front of the church by the following people:

Doug and Barb McConnell - in memory of our parents Birdie and Fred McConnell and Bernice and Harold Bell Margaret, Kimberly, Caleb, Zachary, Tamara, Dennis, Jacob and Jessica - in memory of husband, father and grandfather Dean Nugent

Gary & Susan Jackson Shirley Jackson and Margaret Nugent and families - in memory of their parents Dorland and Bernice Jackson and sister Marilyn Weese

Gary & Susan Jackson and Margaret Nugent and families - in memory of their brother Doug Jackson.

Glenda, Tricia, Jeff, Owen, Gabby, Forster; Jason, Shelley, Andrew, Ashley, Addyson - in memory of husband, father and grandfather Carl Hudgins

Lorne and Donna Jackson - in memory of their Grandson Owen Kevin Jackson and their parents Homer and Mary Jackson and Ronald Lakins

Clarke and Lorraine Martin - in memory of their parents Claude and Helen Martin and Elvin and Marjorie Holland

Arnold & Joan Jerome and Jane Hughes - in memory of their parents Aubrey and Iva Asselstine and sister Judy Jarmin

Tim and Wendy Hart - in memory of their parents Ken and Lil Hart and Cecil Smith

Bonnie Winter and family- in memory of David Winter husband, father and grandfather

Barb French - in memory of Frank "The Barber" Guczaly and Schuyler (Sky) French

Shirley Jackson, Cheryl, Rob, Michele, Max and families -in memory of Doug Jackson, husband, father and grandfather

Derk & Donna Jonkers - in memory of their parents Bill and Janie Jonkers and Willis Morgan and their brother Tieme

Brian Hudgins - in memory of his parents Ralph and Mary Hudgins

John & Linda Williams - in memory of their parents Claude & Helen Martin and Stan & Florence Williams

Bryon & Fern Perry & Family - in memory of their parents Alice & Wilfred Winter and Ruby & Jule (Mike) Perry; their brother Dave Winter; and their niece Nikki Howie

Ruth and Carolyn Pringle - in memory of husband and father Neil Pringle; son and brother John Pringle

Harold & Carolyn Robinson – in memory of their  
parents George & Ruth Robinson and George & Vida  
Conboy.

Bruce & Betty O'Brien – in memory of their parents  
Dorothy and Albert O'Brien and Isabelle and Russell  
Saunders and their sons, Russell and Eric O'Brien

Ron & Mary Ball – in memory of their son Robert

## SMILE

### **A Politically Correct Christmas**

'Twas the night before Christmas and Santa's a wreck...  
How to live in a world that's politically correct?  
His workers no longer would answer to "Elves",  
"Vertically Challenged" they were calling themselves.  
And labor conditions at the North Pole,  
were alleged by the union, to stifle the soul.

Four reindeer had vanished without much propriety,  
released to the wilds, by the Humane Society.  
And equal employment had made it quite clear,  
that Santa had better not use just reindeer.  
So Dancer and Donner, Comet and Cupid,  
were replaced with 4 pigs, and you know that looked stupid!

The runners had been removed from his beautiful sleigh,  
because the ruts were deemed dangerous by the EPA,  
And millions of people were calling the Cops,  
when they heard sled noises upon their roof tops.  
Second-hand smoke from his pipe, had his workers quite  
frightened,  
and his fur trimmed red suit was called "unenlightened".

To show you the strangeness of today's ebbs and flows,  
Rudolf was suing over unauthorized use of his nose.  
He went to Geraldo, in front of the Nation,  
demanding millions in over-due workers compensation.

So...half of the reindeer were gone, and his wife  
who suddenly said she'd had enough of this life,  
joined a self help group, packed and left in a whiz,  
demanding from now on that her title was Ms.

And as for gifts...why, he'd never had the notion  
that making a choice could cause such commotion.

Nothing of leather, nothing of fur...  
Which meant nothing for him or nothing for her.  
Nothing to aim, Nothing to shoot,  
Nothing that clamored or made lots of noise.  
Nothing for just girls and nothing for just boys.  
Nothing that claimed to be gender specific,  
Nothing that's warlike or non-pacifistic.

No candy or sweets...they were bad for the tooth.  
Nothing that seemed to embellish upon the truth.  
And fairy tales...while not yet forbidden,  
were like Ken and Barbie, better off hidden,  
for they raised the hackles of those psychological,  
who claimed the only good gift was one ecological.

No baseball, no football...someone might get hurt,  
besides - playing sports exposed kids to dirt.  
Dolls were said to be sexist and should be passe.  
and Nintendo would rot your entire brain away.

So Santa just stood there, disheveled and perplexed,  
he just couldn't figure out what to do next?  
He tried to be merry he tried to be gay,  
but you must have to admit he was having a very bad day.  
His sack was quite empty, it was flat on the ground,  
nothing fully acceptable was anywhere to be found.

Something special was needed, a gift that he might,  
give to us all, without angering the left or the right.  
A gift that would satisfy - with no indecision,  
each group of people in every religion.  
Every race, every hue,  
everyone, everywhere...even you!  
So here is that gift, it's price beyond worth...

**"May you and your loved ones enjoy peace on Earth."**