



St. Paul's United Church
Sunday, December 11, 2022
Advent 3: Musical "A Christmas Yarn"
Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
**Actors and Singers: Youth from St. Paul's
and Community**
Reader: Lynne Angus
**Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell,
Bruce Wilcox**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO THE GATHERED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

OPENING HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" VU #64

1. O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God, the King, and peace to all on earth.
3. How silently, how silently the wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

OPENING PRAYER: Read by Lynne Angus

Loving God, we open ourselves to you, trusting that this is how you made us:
you created us for joy-filled hearts and lives. Show us the creative power of hope.
Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained,
but must be shared. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF JOY:

Candle liturgy

One: We light the first two candles, one for hope and one for peace. Today we also light the third candle, the candle of joy. This should be the easy one, because joy is all around us—in the children, the lights, the music, the gathering together. But how often do we let our preparations—or our memories—push joy to the side? Joy is like an underground spring that wells up within us, but joy is also a choice, an attitude. Like a muscle, it needs to be exercised. So today we open ourselves to joy, trusting that God has already planted it in us. All we need to do is give it care and offer it to share.



SUNG RESPONSE: Light a Candle
Light a candle, a symbol of joy. Light a candle, let all earth rejoice.
Light a candle to shine in the dark. Light a candle, open your heart.
Light a candle and open your heart.

A CHRISTMAS YARN

by Steve Moore, Rob Howard, and David Guthrie

At Unique Gifts from Luxurious Yarns (U.G.L.Y.), ugly is beautiful! At the factory of the world's leading supplier of ugly Christmas sweaters, founder Sam Ebenezer pulls all the strings to make sure no stitch is dropped. With a huge order looming to get out the day before Christmas, the team of Bob Cratchit ("that's pronounced *Crochet*"), Tiny Tom and others weave together a plan of attack, while Sam encounters three mysterious visitors who not only help overcome some ugly obstacles, but bring the beautiful good news of Christmas! With apologies to a well-loved Christmas Carol, don your ugliest Christmas sweater, and have a dickens of a good time with *A Christmas Yarn*!



Song: "It's the Busiest Time of Year"

Scene 1: New Employee

Song: "Ugly Sweater Business"

Scene 2: Power Outage

Song "Christmas Is Coming"

Scene 3: Visitor Number 1

Song: "Rejoice, Rejoice, Emmanuel"

Scene 4: Visitor Number 2

Song: "Peace On Earth"

Scene 5: Visitor Number 3

Song: "One Bright Star"

Scene 6: Tiny Tom's Great Idea

Song: "In the Fullness of Time"

Scene 7: Ugly IS Beautiful

YOUTH CAST

Hannah Heffernan: **Samantha Ebenezer**

(**Sam**)

Charlotte Heffernan: **Carole**

Isabelle Mackell: **Bob Cratchit**

Rochanaa Mekala: **Humbug**

Andrew Heffernan: **Tiny Tom**

Belle: **Kaydee Hopkins**

Rosemary Spooner: **Marlo**

Lotus Lorberg: **Fuzzy**

Leonie Vandendool: **Anna**

Laura Heffernan: **Bruno**

Gabriela Dell: **Co-Director**

Victoria Warwick – **Co-Director**

THANK YOU SO MUCH to this year's cast of "A Christmas Yarn"! It has been so wonderful to rehearse and perform this show in person after years of COVID. There are many newcomers to this cast whom we welcome with open arms. We continue to appreciate those who are returning for another performance. The enthusiasm and talent from all these young people is inspirational. A big shout out to Gabriela Dell who brings her past experience with drama instruction; to Rick Dell for tech support and over-the-top props, and to all the parents and volunteers who helped in many ways to make this happen!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER read by Lynne Angus

CLOSING HYMN: VU #43 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

REFRAIN: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

REFRAIN:

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth!

REFRAIN:

3. Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

REFRAIN:

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

Rejoice in God always, and again I say, rejoice
For God has created you with the capacity for joy.
We will find what makes us joyful,
And make that our gift to the world.
Trust in God's good will for all of creation
and open yourself to God's gentle, transforming love.
We will welcome new possibilities in our lives.
We will offer ourselves to God's goodness.
We will go forth in hope, and peace, and joy.

POSTLUDE The Opening Prayers, Candle lighting liturgy and blessings are used with permission from Process and Faith, a multinational network for relational spirituality and the common good.