



# Laidlaw Memorial United Church

Celebrating our 114<sup>th</sup> Year—1912-2025

155 Ottawa Street North, Hamilton, Ontario L8H 3Z2

[www.laidlawchurch.ca](http://www.laidlawchurch.ca)

☎ 905 544 6536 (not textable) [laidlawuc@bellnet.ca](mailto:laidlawuc@bellnet.ca)

☎ 905 547 2021 (textable) [revmoore@execulink.com](mailto:revmoore@execulink.com)

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Our Mission: With respect, cooperation, and joy, through acts of love that build each other up, we seek to share the light of Christ as a Beacon from our corner in East Hamilton

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## Sunday Worship at Laidlaw

### The Third Sunday of Advent

**Benevolent Bell Sunday**  
**“Oh, Joy!”**

Worship with us In Person, or by Livestream on YouTube, search “Laidlaw Live”

**Sunday, December 14, 2025, at 11:00 a.m.**

Livestream Starts at 10:55 a.m.

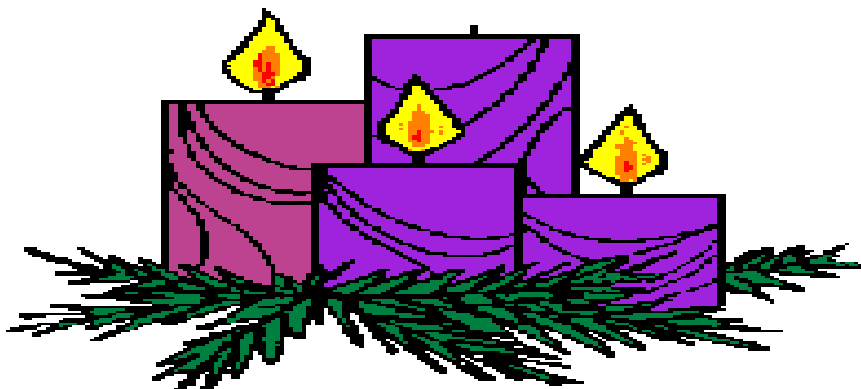
Livestream URL: <https://youtube.com/live/ymPBcJ18EQo>

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Worship in Person, or Live from Laidlaw on YouTube!

Please Log in to Chat; or send a text to 905-547-2021—Request a prayer, send your greetings, light a candle!



**Don't Forget to 'Like Us' on YouTube! 'Subscribe' and get notified of upcoming livestreams!**  
**If you are online or in Person, please consider making an offering in one of two ways:**  
**send an Interac e-transfer to 'laidlawuc@bellnet.ca' or press the 'On-Line Donation' button**  
**at [www.laidlawchurch.ca](http://www.laidlawchurch.ca) Thank you for your support!**

Ministers: *All who follow Jesus Christ!*

Guest Musician: *Olivia Brown.*

Musician: *Steve McRae, B. Mus, A.R.C.T., Dipl. A.A.*

Minister: *Rev. Douglas C. Moore, B.Th., B.A. (Phil), M.Div.*

## Welcome and Announcements

## God Gathers Us Together

### Chimes and Candles Call

### The Third Advent Candle:

**JOY**

📖 Isaiah 35:1

*Not very long now, and it will be Christmas!*  
**Today we light three Advent Candles, and one of them is pink!**  
*We remember 'Hope' and 'Peace'—the new, pink candle we call 'Joy'!*  
**How can there be 'Joy'? Christmas isn't here yet!**  
*The hope and peace candles are re-lit, a third (pink) advent candle is lit...*  
*We're more than halfway to Christmas—God is keeping God's promise!*  
**Jesus is the child who will lead us to peace and love.**  
*We can live with joy always, even while we're still waiting!*  
**When we welcome the joy God gives us, we're strong and unafraid!**  
**God gives us joy, and that makes us strong and fearless!**

### Carol of Praise

35

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!*

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Give ye heed to what we say:  
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today. Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

### Advent Prayer of Confession *(Unison)*

God, you bring Christmas to release us from fear and sin. Your love allows us to live with joy and hope, in peace.  
We confess: There are so many good things we don't think we can do. We forget that you came to earth as a baby;  
you grew, you learned, you taught, your healed, you suffered, you rose again and saved us all!  
Save us, God! Give us joy! In Jesus show love that makes all the difference. In your Spirit, makes us strong and  
fearless to do what is good, Amen.

### Advent Assurance of Grace

📖 Isaiah 35, James 5, Matthew 11

*Even the wilderness and the dry lands will rejoice!*  
**God is coming! Do not be afraid—God comes to save us!**  
*Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord!*  
**Let's go and tell what we hear and see—the blind see; the lame walk;**  
**all of us are blessed by Good News of great joy!**

### Anthem

*A Carol of Hope*

Words: Don Besig and Nancy Price Music: Don Besig

### We Hear God's Word

Young People! Gather at the front, or near your screens!

### Youth and Scripture

📖 James 5:8

While We're Waiting

### Young People Praying

### Young People Singing

no.89 in Joyful Noise



*I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy*

Words and Music: George W. Cooke


1. I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart,  
down in my heart, I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy, down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
2. I've got the love of Jesus, love of Jesus...
3. I've got the peace that passes understanding...
4. I've got the wonderful love of my blessed redeemer down deep in the depths of my heart...

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### The Lord's Prayer *(unison)*

Children are welcome to go upstairs with Drew for Sunday Bible Lessons, there are colouring pages and puzzles in the Quiet Room

## Lesson from the Hebrew Scriptures

 *Isaiah 35:1-10* (Old Testament, page 663)  
*This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!*

## Psalm Response


Winchester Old C.M. moderate

 *Luke 1:47-55*


1. My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise!  
God lifted up my lowliness in many marv'lous ways.
2. My God has done great things for me! Yes, holy is God's name!  
Whose people will declare me blessed and blessings they shall claim!
3. From age to age, to all who fear, such mercy love imparts,  
Dispensing justice far and near, dismissing selfish hearts.
4. Love casts the mighty from their thrones, promotes the insecure,  
Leaves hungry spirits satisfied; the rich seem sudd'nly poor.
5. Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,  
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

*Adapted from the Scripture and set in metre by Rev. Doug Moore*

## Lesson from the New Testament Letters

 *James 5:7-10* (New Testament, page 231)  
*This is the witness of the Church. Thanks be to God!*

## Lesson from the Gospel

 *Matthew 11:2-11* (New Testament, page 11)  
*This is the Gospel of Christ. Praise to you, O Christ!*

## Sermon

Oh Joy!

## Gospel Hymn

166

*Joy Comes with the Dawn*

*Refrain:* Joy comes with the dawn; joy comes with the morning sun; joy springs from the tomb  
and scatters the night with her song, joy comes with the dawn.

1. Weeping may come; weeping may come in the night, when dark shadows cloud our sight. *refrain*
2. Sorrow will turn, sorrow will turn into song, and God's laughter make us strong. *refrain*
3. We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise, to the One who brings us grace. *refrain*

**We Respond to God's Word**

## Prayers of the People

## Invitation to Christian Life and Generosity

## Offertory

*I Wonder as I Wander*

*Words and Music: Appalachian Carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1934, Arranger: Donald P. Hustad 1984*

## Doxology

vs. 4, 55

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

## Prayer of Dedication

## Closing Hymn

74

*What Child is This?*

1. What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
*Refrain:* This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!
2. Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain*
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain*

## Commissioning and Benediction

## Choral Response

35

- <sup>2</sup> Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice! Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

## Sharing the Peace of Christ

*The Peace of Christ be with you! And also with you!*

Join us for Coffee Hour!

At 10 a.m. before Worship and after Worship

Join us for Games in the gym and conversations!

Everyone is Welcome!

*Celebratory Cakes are always welcomed at Coffee Hour!*

*If someone you love or admire needs a celebration, bring a cake!*



**OFFICE HOURS:** Rev. Doug will be in the Church Office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. till noon. Other days will be by chance or appointment! For pastoral care anytime, call 905 547 2021! Coffee is on during office hours; you are always welcome to come by! We appreciate lots of help to do light cleaning and get things ready for events and Sunday Worship!

**A SWINGING THANK YOU to the Dr. Peter Banting Swingtet!** It's not Christmas at Laidlaw without the Dr. Peter Banting Swingtet bringing the cheer of the season to Laidlaw, a beloved tradition for many years now. This year, Ruth St. Armand, Chris Walton, John Stephen, James Locke, Urmas Soomet, David Crown, Jeff Goodall, and Keith Kindree kindly and generously donated their time and talent to bring Christmas to Laidlaw on Sunday, December 7, 2025. **In 2025, with the Spring Concert proceeds of \$522.00, and Christmas concert proceeds of \$401.85 the Swingtet has graciously contributed a total of \$923.85 to help Laidlaw keep the beacon shining! Our thanks and appreciation for the Swingtet's amazing talent, kindness, and contribution, and to Dr. Banting for his leadership and generosity!**

### **This Week at Laidlaw**

**Tuesday Office Hours,** Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 9 a.m. Join us for coffee, conversation!

**Wednesday Gathering** Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 9:00 a.m. till noon! Join in conversation, coffee, projects! Lots of cleanup to do, help is appreciated!

**Workday at the Church**—Thursday, December 18, 2025, 9:00 a.m. till noon! —coffee, labours, conversation, Join us! Al-Anon and Narc Anon groups meet.

**Green Venture Make a Sustainable Centerpiece Event.** Thursday, December 18, 2025, 6:30 pm. Sign up is online go to: [www.greenventure.ca/holiday\\_centrepiece\\_workshop](http://www.greenventure.ca/holiday_centrepiece_workshop)

**String Recital with Students of Ilona Spleit.** Friday, December 19, 2025, evening. tickets can be purchased at the door!

**Music Stand Christmas Recital at Laidlaw** Saturday, December 20, 2024, morning and afternoon.

**Worship With Us at Laidlaw—Fourth Sunday of Advent, PAGEANT SUNDAY!** Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 11 a.m. "Oh Joy!" Steve McRae is at the keyboards. Bring the children to Church! —there are activities for the children every Sunday, and Coffee Hour at 10 a.m. and after Worship with games in the gym! **Pageant Lunch will Follow Worship on Pageant Sunday!** Worship Livestream at <https://youtube.com/live/Xu0qqOV3MK0>

### **Upcoming Events**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION** at Laidlaw, Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at 7 p.m. Join us for Carols, Communion and Candlelight as we celebrate a season of love, joy, and peace!

**Our 1<sup>st</sup> ever LAIDLAW LIVE NEW YEAR'S EVE SOBER SPECTACULAR** is happening Wednesday, the 31<sup>st</sup> of December, with: doors opening at 8PM: a big show with music, comedy, and lots of surprises at 9PM: and a sparkling-cider toast at midnight. Tickets are \$25. For more information, visit <https://www.laidlaw.live>

**Rhyme, Rhythm & Reason the open mic for writers...all writers!** Thursday, January 8, 2025, 7-9 p.m. at Laidlaw! Do you write songs, poetry, stories, fiction, pretty much anything? This is your open mic! And if you would like to just listen—it's a great night for that too! Refreshments available at modest prices! For more info, email [anyamodel@yahoo.ca](mailto:anyamodel@yahoo.ca)

**BINGO!** Saturday, January 17, 2026, doors open at noon, Bingo at 1:00 p.m. Lunch will be available! Join us! **Bigger Prizes!** 10 games for \$10, with a \$20 prize, two half and half specials, the first for \$2, the second for \$3. Children are welcome to play if they have a parent or guardian with them!

**FAMILY FRIENDLY MOVIE NIGHT, featuring BAD GUYS 2,** Friday, January 23, 2026, doors open at 6 p.m., movie starts at 6:30 p.m. Wii, Lots of food and drink for sale—and POPCORN! —Fun for all—bring your family!

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

**Please go online and give feedback to Green Venture on the garden project at Laidlaw!** Use your phone's camera to open the online survey! Let's all offer feedback, as a measure of our thanks to all those who supported this project at Laidlaw—see the poster below!



**Looking for conversations about art, life, culture, society, history, and religion? Catch up with all of Rev. Moore's appearances on THE SPS TALKSHOW**—and while you're at it, please like, share, comment, and subscribe! The link is: <https://www.youtube.com/@VERYEDiTORiAL>

**Book Korner**—\$1 hardcovers, 50¢ softcovers, 25¢ magazines, children's books—new additions regularly!

**LARGE PRINT BULLETINS?** *We have Tablet Computers, for those who need large print!*

**Offerings and Donations to Laidlaw Memorial United Church**, 155 Ottawa Street North, Hamilton, Ontario, L8H 3Z2 can be made by mail, Electronic donations can be made through Canada Helps, go to [laidlawchurch.ca](http://laidlawchurch.ca) and click the "Donation" button (*a form will pop up on our website, and allow you to make the donation without leaving the Laidlaw Website!*); or by Interac E-transfer, use the church email address, [laidlawuc@bellnet.ca](mailto:laidlawuc@bellnet.ca) (we have set this up for automatic deposit—no password needed)! This is a great time to go on PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)! Call the Church Office at 905 544 6536 if you would like to go on PAR, or have a set of offering envelopes. *Please note: Offerings through 'Canada Helps' are receipted separately by Canada Helps.*

**Donation Box for Wesley Centre, etc.!** *Rose McGowan is making 'kindness kits' for men and women experiencing housing and health issues. Hygiene products, towels, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, etc., are needed!*

**BUDGET NEWS!** We are truly blessed by the generosity of our members and friends, and the good people who attend events and fundraisers at Laidlaw. The offerings of time, expertise, labour and treasure have us making amazing progress. Jehovah Jireh, we have met the December payroll, but there will be legal expenses to address in December, as well as catching up National Church dues, sigh! A little extra from everyone makes a big difference! Thank you to everyone who makes good on good intentions! *Donations to the general fund are a great help!* Regular giving from those in person, and online, are critical to ensuring cash flow to meet expenses! We appreciate everyone doing what they can to help us meet the challenge! You can help us in several ways. Participate and promote fundraising events at Laidlaw. Helping with donations for events is a great help. Encourage people to come with you to Bingo, Penny Sales, Movie Nights, Concerts, and Sunday Worship. Consider increasing or starting a regular monthly gift for the General Fund at Laidlaw by PAR (call the Church Office at 905 544 6536). Inflation has affected us all, and our church too. Please consider an increase in your offerings and/or your monthly PAR donation. *We deeply appreciate when those who are gathering with us online also make a donation to help keep the Laidlaw Beacon shining!* Sincere thanks to everyone for their generosity! If you would like Envelopes and don't have a set, call the Church Office at 905 544 6536.

**Accessible Entrance:** Please see Rev. Doug if you would like to use one of the lifts, for safety and training purposes.

**We appreciate help!** with supplies... We have decaf, regular coffee, and tea for now. We have enough flour and Tenderflake Lard for now, thanks! Speak to Carol or Kathi if you'd like to help with these fundraising efforts!

**GRANT PROGRESS:** A Grant from the Ontario Anti-Hate Program: the report has been filed, and an application for next year is in the works! The Grant from the Hamilton Presbytery Mission Council is helping to create the 'Artword Studio at Laidlaw' *We are making excellent progress, lights and sound are being installed, and the blinds are installed!*

Green Venture

**GIVE US FEEDBACK**  
ON THE LAIDLAW CHURCH GARDENS

**SCAN ME**



We'd love to hear from you. Scan the code to leave a quick review to help us with our Green Infrastructure research!

No login required  
Anonymous option available

**CHRISTMAS AT LAIDLAW**

*You're Welcome to Join Us!  
For these Christmas Events!  
In Person and Online*

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - COMMUNION**  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025, 11:00 A.M.  
JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS MUSIC, CHILDREN'S TIME, COFFEE HOUR, CONVERSATION, GAMES IN THE GYM!

**WHITE GIFT SERVICE, THE SECOND OF ADVENT**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025, 11:00 A.M.  
WE WILL RECEIVE WHITE GIFTS, FOOD, HATS AND MITTS, IN SUPPORT OF WESLEY CENTRE  
JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS MUSIC, CHILDREN'S TIME, COFFEE HOUR, CONVERSATION, GAMES IN THE GYM!

**PETER BANTING SYMPHONY CONCERT, DECEMBER 7, 2025, 7 P.M.**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025, 11:00 A.M.  
BENEFITING BILL TREE DONATIONS HELP US HELP EACH OTHER  
JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS MUSIC, CHILDREN'S TIME, COFFEE HOUR, CONVERSATION, GAMES IN THE GYM!

**PAGEANT SUNDAY, THE 4TH OF ADVENT**  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2025 AT 11:00 A.M.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION**  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025 AT 7:00 PM  
WE TAKE CARE TO MAKE THIS SERVICE WELCOMING TO NEWCOMERS AND GUESTS.  
MAKE THIS FAMILY FRIENDLY SERVICE PART OF YOUR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!

HOSTED BY  
**SEAN PATRICK SULLIVAN**

COMEDY BY  
**JASON THOMPSON**  
WHEELCHAIR SAL

MUSIC BY  
**ANYA MIA KERYGMA**

STORY BY  
**JEN FRANKEL**  
NIKE DERBECKER

INTRO BY  
THE REVEREND  
DOUGLAS MOORE

**SNACKS, ENTREES, DESSERTS, MOCKTAILS & BEVERAGES AVAILABLE A LA CARTE**

**THE 1ST EVER LAIDLAW LIVE NEW YEAR'S EVE SOBER SPECTACULAR**

**WED 31ST DEC 2025 09:00PM TO 12:00AM**  
155 OTTAWA STREET NORTH  
ALL proceeds to the Laidlaw Memorial United Church  
No alcohol served  
No admission fee  
No ticketing

**\$25 ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR**  
NOT A RELIGIOUS REQUIREMENT  
**EVENT**



[HTTPS://LAIDLAWLIVE.EVENTBRITE.COM](https://laidlawlive.eventbrite.com)

# Joy to the World

They will enter Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy will crown their heads.  
Gladness and joy will overtake them,  
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Isaiah 35:10 (NIV)



*Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally.  
When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.*

U H T A U I O V K Q T Q G M C  
Y I K M A L K M E B L N C Y D  
I V J N D R J A U H I X J N P  
X B S S E Y E S C G U K I S N  
F A L O A U T P N E H L D H S  
O R K F F A B I D C B G M O I  
R K O P E N S B X D J S U U T  
B G B S O R R O W P S H J T O  
V T X T F W S M E F V X N V N  
R R Z S L D B T X I E A R S G  
A M X Q E G L N R B L N C R U  
Y Q G K E E M Q V O N F G Z E  
P N A C C F E A R O N Y N V Y  
V Y J I W H N K Y C T G A O H  
U V X G L A D N E S S S J A L

FLEE  
SAVE  
EYES

GLADNESS  
JOY  
EARS

OPEN  
SORROW  
SINGING

TONGUE  
FEAR  
DEAF

STRONG  
SHOUT  
BLIND