



**Wesley United Church**  
**101 Patrick Street, (P.O. Box 26010)**  
**St. John's, NL A1E 0A5**

**December 14, 2025**

**"We Welcome the Opportunity to Welcome You"**



**Advent III**

In Ministry: The Whole Congregation

Clergy: Rev. Bill Mercer B.A., M.Div.

Director of Music: Dr. David Chafe M.Mus., B.Mus (Honours)

Office Coordinator: Nancy Bursey Building Caretaker: Paul LeDrew

Video Technician: Mark Chafe

- Church Office: Telephone – 579-3682 Fax 579-3703

Rev. Bill's Cell Number: 683-1980

Church Email – [info@wesleychurch.ca](mailto:info@wesleychurch.ca) Website – [www.wesleychurch.ca](http://www.wesleychurch.ca)

[www.facebook.com/wesleyunitedchurch](https://www.facebook.com/wesleyunitedchurch)

CCLI License # 21898182

CCLI Streaming License # 20489183



*Today's bulletin is dedicated to the glory of God  
and in celebration of and gratitude for the Hearts  
and Hands ministry which so richly blesses our  
church family*

Piano Prelude ~ Dr. David Chafe  
Words of Welcome and Announcements  
Lighting of the Advent Wreath ~ The Neimor Family

Advent Hymn: (congregational)

***Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
Telling the world that the Saviour is born.  
When God is a child there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.***

Prayer of Approach: (in unison)

**On this White Gift Sunday, move our spirits, Joyful God, in such a way that we are made fully aware of how you intend our lives to be joyful ones. Through our fellowship, music and praise, enable us to hear, more clearly, your invitation to be agents of your joy in your world. Open our hearts to the needs of those around us and guide us to respond to them that we might share with them the joy you offer to all your children. In Jesus' name, we pray.**

Hymn: Angels From The Realms Of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye, who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
*come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the new-born King.*

Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light:

Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:

Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear:

1<sup>st</sup> Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10

Call to Confession:

One: God calls us, grumblers and spiritually weak as we may be, to examine ourselves. The world that, in our sinful state, seems like a barren desert may hold more beauty than we discern. And there is more within us than has yet been revealed. Let us seek together the stream of living water.

Prayer of Confession: (in unison)

**Patient Lord, forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts. Heal us and make us ready to truly be your disciples. For our sake, and in Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

Litany of Assurance: (responsive)

One: Behold and believe in the wondrous power and love of God! It is poured out for you and for God's beloved world.

**All: We rejoice in this good news, for it is given especially to us. Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: O Little Town Of Bethlehem ~ Deborah Collins  
(Words: Phillip Brooks, 1868 Music: Lewis Redner, 1871)

Introduction to the White Gift

Offering Invitation:

One: Even in difficult times we remember that God has done great things for us. We choose to live our lives in joy, counting on the goodness of God in every age. As a sign of our trust in God, we share our gifts this morning, strengthening the ministry of this church and reaching out to offer hope and joy to all God's children.

Offertory Music ~ Dr. David Chafe

Offertory: The Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow!***

***Praise him all creatures here below!***

***Praise him above ye heavenly host!***

***Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!***

Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)

**Holy One, this Advent season we wait in joy, and we give with joy: Joy for all you have given us; Joy because of your sacred promises. Receive these generous offerings, given here and through PAR and other means; bless all these gifts, our monetary offerings and our white gifts and use them to spread your joy in our world. Amen.**

# CSI Bethlehem: Christmas Special Investigators

## The True Meaning of Christmas

(Written by Annabeth Loveys; Accompaniments by Dr. David Chafe)

### The Cast:

<b>Narrators:</b>	Caleb Power	Dominic Power
<b>Investigators:</b>	Arlo Neimor	Claire Loveys
	Greyson Mercer	Lydia Hawkins
	Parker Mercer	
<b>Grandma Gloria:</b>	Elsa Loveys	
<b>Rev. Robert:</b>	Mason Whitten	
<b>Miss Maggie:</b>	Aislynn Whitten	
<b>Librarian Lucy:</b>	Eve Brinston	
<b>Angels:</b>	Effie Matthews-Slavick	Harrison Mercer
	Jameson Noftall,	Madison Noftall,
	Percy Matthews-Slavick	

### Scene 1: The Mission Begins

**Song:** What is Christmas? ~ Hearts and Hands Choir  
(Words and Music: Annabeth Loveys, 2024)

### Scene 2: Grandma Gloria's Wisdom

**Song:** Christmas, Why Can't I Find You? ~ Claire, Elsa & Lydia  
(Words and Music: James Horner, Arr. Nancy Schleier)

### Scene 3: Rev. Robert's Message

**Song:** Happy Birthday Jesus ~ Hearts and Hands Children  
(Words and Music: Carol Cymbala)

### Scene 4: Librarian Lucy's Lesson

**Song:** Believe ~ Arlo, Greyson & Parker  
(Words and Music: Glen Ballard and Alan Silvestri)

### Scene 5: The True Meaning of Christmas

**Song:** It's Christmas ~ Hearts and Hands Choir  
(Arrangement and additional chorus by Chris Tomlin and Ed Cash)

It's Christmas!  
The angels are singing  
And I know the reason,  
the Savior is born  
It's Christmas!  
The bells are ringing  
And I feel like shouting  
Joy to the world!

## Commissioning and Benediction

Piano Postlude:       He Is Born ~ Dr. David Chafe  
                              (19<sup>th</sup> century French Carol)

\*\*\*\*\*

We welcome you to this service today in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you are a visitor, we extend to you a special welcome and invite you to sign our guest book at the back of the church so we might have a record of your visit with us.

We offer a very special thank you to Annabeth Loveys and our Hearts and Hands young people for sharing their ministry with us as they offer their gift through this year's Christmas pageant. It is always a blessing to have them share with us in this way and our lives are deeply blessed and enriched by our young members each and every week.

We also offer a special thank you to Deborah Collins for leading our congregational singing and sharing her ministry of music with us this morning; and to the Neimor family for leading us in the lighting of our Advent Wreath.

The church envelopes for 2025 are now available in the porch of the church. Please feel free to take yours, and any you might be able to deliver, with you when you leave the service. Thank you for your faithful contributions to Wesley United Church ministries.

This year, The Once will be holding their Christmas concerts at Wesley on Friday December 19th (7:00 pm) and Saturday December 20th (2:00 pm. & 7:00 pm.). We have been invited to sell cookies and cider during intermission as a fundraiser for the church. If you are able to bake cookies or help with serving it would be greatly appreciated. Please put your name on the list in the

porch of the church and indicate what you are willing to do. If you need more information, please contact Rev. Mercer.