

## CALLED TO WORSHIP

Organ Prelude

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming  
– arr. M. Bradshaw

Call to Worship

*We are on the journey of Advent.  
Though it is familiar,  
we do not always know what to expect*

**Guide us God,**

**to help us embrace the unexpected joy.**

*Like the road to Bethlehem,  
our journey through Advent will be long.  
Though it is a road we have travelled before,  
we do not know what awaits us.*

**Travel with us God.**

**Give us strength when we falter.**

*Our journey through Advent is a mystery.  
Though it is a road with familiar signs,  
we do not always understand their meaning.*

**Open our eyes God,**

**to the Hidden Advent that reveals your joy.**

Theme - **Hidden Advent**

Advent II: **Hidden Joy**

Hymn 109

*All Earth is Waiting*

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle: Joy

*"Rejoice in the Lord always;  
again, I say, rejoice."*

**Christ comes to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to offer healing to the broken,  
to comfort those who mourn.**

*Rejoice and give thanks,  
for God comes to offer good news and comfort.*

**Tears of sorrow shall turn to laughter  
and weeping into shouts of praise!**

*Enter the joy of the Lord!*

*Take delight in all of God's deeds and promises.*

**The Lord has done great things for us!**

**We shall rejoice with praise and thanksgiving.**

Opening Prayer

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Sung Response

(V.3) 119

**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.**

○○ Rings for Upstairs & Downstairs



## *Hidden Advent: Hidden Joy*

*Advent III*

*December 17, 2017*

The Adventure Centre begins.

Song (refrain) 119

**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.**

## THE WORD PROCLAIMED

Prayer for Illumination

**God of joy,  
open our eyes and ears  
to the message of Scripture this day.  
Open our hearts to your presence.  
Free us and give us hope,  
through Christ, Amen.**

The Scriptures

Prophet Isaiah 61:1-11  
*This is the word of the Lord.*  
**Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Luke 1:46-55  
*This is the gospel of the Lord.* 122  
**Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee,  
O Israel.**

Hymn *With Joy My Heart Shall Overflow*

**With joy my heart shall overflow,  
for God has come to me,  
and given one cast down and low  
a great, glad destiny.  
The Holy One is near to all  
who seek their Maker's will,  
who honour one who comes from God  
to free us all from ill.**

**God stretches out a mighty arm  
and scatters all the proud;  
they fall and tumble from their thrones  
and vanish like a cloud.  
The hungry all are satisfied;  
the rich are sent away.  
The humble poor who suffer long  
will welcome the new day.**

**The promise made in ages past,  
at last has come to be,  
for God has come in power to save,  
to set all people free.  
Rememb'ring those who wait to see  
salvations dawning day,  
our Saviour comes to those who weep  
to wipe their tears away.**

Sermon

*Hidden Joy*

Anthem

There is a Light - M. Barrett

Litany

*Advent is a time of familiar traditions,  
ancient symbols and joyful celebrations.*

**But is there something more than what we expect?  
Reveal to us God,  
the hidden Advent that is all around us.**

*Advent is a time  
when we are busy planning and preparing  
for the perfect season.*

**But is there something more  
that we haven't planned or prepared for?  
Reveal to us God,  
the hidden Advent that we might be missing.**

*Advent is a time  
when we celebrate our generosity  
and give support to those in need.*

**But is there something more  
that you are calling us to do?**

**Reveal to us God,  
the hidden Advent  
that we are called to live every season.**

*Advent is a time  
when we seek God in stories, worship and song.*

**But is there something we overlook  
when we seek God in familiar places?**

**Reveal to us God,  
the hidden Advent that shows us  
that you are closer than we know.**

Prayers of the People

## AN ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Invitation

Piano Offertory Two Carol Fantasies - arr. J. Ness Beck

Presentation of Gifts

Offertory Hymn 161 (vv.1, 3) *What Child is This*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

**We lift them to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Our Father...*

**Our Father in heaven**  
**Hallowed be your name,**  
**Your kingdom come,**  
**Your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those**  
**who sin against us.**  
**Save us from the time of trial**  
**and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power**  
**and the glory are yours,**  
**now and forever.**

**SENT FORTH**

Community-in-Action

Hymn **146** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

Benediction

Organ Postlude *Joseph est bien marié - arr. M. Corrette*



**Welcome to St. Columba**

We are so very pleased that you are worshipping with us today. We invite you to stay for refreshments (served in the sanctuary following the service) and look forward to meeting you in person.

Large print hymn books and Bibles are available in the foyer. (If you wish a receipt for your financial contribution, please use the envelope inside the back cover of the Book of Praise.)

**With Appreciation**

Many thanks to the Advent planning group for their work on this year's theme, *Hidden Advent*. Thanks to Camille Mohabir and Brendan Remenyi for their leadership this morning.

**Dix Mille Villages Ornaments for Sale**

Give a gift or buy an ornament for your own tree that supports fair trade! Every ornament has a story. It is alive with the culture, personality and traditions of the person who made it. Ornaments range in price from \$7-16.

**Maywood Luncheon**

The next luncheon takes place **tomorrow** from **11h00-13h00**. If you can volunteer some time to help with serving/socializing with the residents at the luncheon, please contact Cynthia Homan at 514-695-5451 or [cynthiahoman@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiahoman@gmail.com).

**The Book Cart**

The book cart has reappeared with the purpose of being emptied! Please help yourself to any books that appeal to you. Our goal is to have every book find a new home. Any leftover books will be donated to a worthy organization.

**Stewardship 2018**

Please remember to read the information from the Resource and Stewardship Committee, fill out your pledge form and return it as soon as you can.

**Ecumenical Service**

This year, our annual ecumenical worship service will be on **Sunday, December 31** at **10h00** at Summerlea United Church, 225 – 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Lachine.

**St. Columba Books**

The books will remain open only until **December 31, 2017**. Envelopes for 2018 are in your mail slots this morning.

**Gifts of Hope**

PWS&D Gifts of Hope cards are a meaningful gift for the person who has everything! Donations in honour of a loved one to the life-giving relief, development, and refugee work of PWS&D may be made online [www.werespond.ca](http://www.werespond.ca) or by phone (1-800-619-7301), and a card is sent to them. Gifts of Change donations allow you to specify a particular program through Presbyterians Sharing or PWS&D.

**Save the Date**

Mark's Annual Dinner will be on **Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>**. Come gather for tasty, Italian food and wonderful fellowship. All are welcome.

**Sunday, December 24 Worship Services**

10 AM - All Ages Christmas Worship.  
10 PM - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

## PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY ST. COLUMBA



### Dix Mille Villages

*a non-profit store committed to providing vital fair income to people around the world by selling their handicrafts and telling their stories. Purchases help to pay for food, education, health care and housing.*

### Christian Action Chrétienne

*an ecumenical project of Pointe-Claire churches helping those with financial needs.*

### Extra Hands

*a group of intellectually challenged adults who work each weekday at St. Columba doing various appropriate tasks.*

### Family Life Centre

*a joint project of 8 United and Presbyterian churches providing referral services, workshops & short-term counselling on issues of family life.*

### Presbyterian World Service Development

*a national church fund providing aid for relief and development in the Developing World.*

### Presbyterians Sharing

*the budget of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, a portion of which is used to support projects in Canada, China, Taiwan, Japan, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Malawi, Kenya, Mauritius, Ghana, Romania, Guatemala, Lebanon, Israel/Palestine.*

### Refugee Action Montréal

*a joint mission of the Presbyterian and Anglican churches providing help to refugees and education to the churches.*

### St. Columba Music Centre

*a teaching centre at St. Columba offering lessons in piano, guitar and voice.*

### Tyndale - St. George's

*a joint mission of the Presbyterian and Anglican churches in the Little Burgundy neighbourhood of Montréal, active with community projects.*

### VOBOC

*an organization encouraging people to "Venture Out Beyond Our Cancer" by giving opportunities for respite from the stress of treatments.*

## THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ST. COLUMBA BY-THE-LAKE

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### Pastoral Team

#### Pastor

Lara Scholey

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#### Director of Music

Michael McAuley

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#### Food Ministry Coordinator

Nadia Prevost

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#### Congregational Companions

Allysyn Gordon,

Jack McDonald

#### Clerk of Session

Cheryl Doxas

#### Congregational Secretary

Laura Downey

[office@stcolumba.ca](mailto:office@stcolumba.ca)

#### Treasurers

Sandy Steadman & Ian MacDonald

#### Envelope Secretaries

Gloria Chen & Keith MacDonald

[envelopes@stcolumba.ca](mailto:envelopes@stcolumba.ca)

#### Caretaker

Carol Gauthier

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Today – Advent III

**10h00** - Worship

**11h30** - Choral Group

### Monday, December 18

**11h00** - Maywood Luncheon

### Sunday, December 24 – Advent IV

**10h00** - Worship

**11h30** - Choral Group

**21h45** - Christmas Piano Music

**22h00** - Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship

### CONGREGATIONAL PURPOSE

**God's spirit has anointed us and sent us  
to proclaim good news to the poor,  
to release the prisoners,  
to restore sight to the blind,  
to free the oppressed,  
to announce that  
this is the year when God will act.**

**Luke 4.18,19 (Isaiah 61.1,2)**