



Rockway and First (North Pelham) Pastoral Charge
Third Sunday in Advent: Joy, December 14, 2025 – 10:00 am
Worship at Home

Email: northpelham.rockwaypc@gmail.com **Website:** <https://northpelhamrockwaypresbyterian.ca>

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based on the Advent liturgy provided by Presbyterian World Service & Development)

Voice 1: Mary praised God who entrusted her with a
sacred role. Great things God has done!

Voice 2: With Jesus' birth, the world will never
be the same again.

Voice 1: The powerful will be toppled from their thrones.
The hungry will be lifted up and joy will break through in unexpected places.

Voice 2: Every time a child is born, the world changes
for someone. Our lives changed when a
humble young woman gave birth to the
One who would save us. On this third Sunday of
Advent, we light the candle of joy.

The candle of joy is lit.

Let us pray together:

Living God, gift us with Mary's trust and readiness to accept your purpose. May we celebrate
your coming, as we say with joy: Come, Lord Jesus.

Hymn 119

Hope is a star (verses 1, 2 & 3)

PRAYERS OF APPROACH, CONFESSION and ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Tender God,
in difficult times, we long for a deeper connection with you.
In moments of change, we seek your wisdom: which path to follow, which choices to make,
which commitments to honor, what we need to hold with care, and what we need to let go.

It is not easy, O God. Life brings challenges that push us off course and temptations that pull us
in many directions. So in this quiet moment, we open our hearts and spirits before you. (Silence)

You know what lies deep within us, O God: the good and the broken, the joyful and the painful,
the words we can speak and the feelings we cannot name. Yet you call us toward beauty, grace,
and wholeness, for this is how you created us—each one reflecting your image, each one held in
your love.

You also know our struggles: our regrets and sorrows, our anger and frustrations, our weariness and doubt. Heal us, O God. Release us from what weighs us down. Restore us with your peace and quiet joy. Guide us forward with hope and light.

We pray in the name of Jesus, the Light who comes into the world, who taught us to pray together, saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Peace of Christ

Violin duet **It came upon the midnight clear** Joy Joung/Harry Park

Children's Time **"The Trail of Tiny Lights"**

Savannah:

You won't believe what happened to me this week. I was walking home after school, and it was cold... VERY cold... like my nose was trying to run away cold.

Sophia: (Laughs) Did your nose survive?

Savannah: Barely. But something strange happened. I saw a tiny lantern sitting in the snow. It was glowing... and it looked like it was smiling at me.

Sophia: A smiling lantern? Are you sure it wasn't just your frozen eyeballs?

Savannah: I'm sure! And then—guess what—I saw another lantern. And another! It looked like a whole line of lanterns leading somewhere.

Sophia: Wow! That sounds like the world's smallest airport runway.

Savannah: Seriously! And each lantern made me feel a little happier. Warmer. Braver. It was like they were saying, "Keep going, Sophia! You can do it! Also, drink hot chocolate when you get home!"

Sophia: Those are very wise lanterns.

But you know... your story reminds me of our **Lessons & Carols** service today.

Savannah: Really? My magical lantern runway reminds you of church?

Sophia: Oh yes. Think about it:

- First, we hear the **prophets**, like Isaiah and Micah. They're the first lanterns—telling us something bright is coming.
- Then we hear about **Bethlehem**—another lantern saying, “Look here! Something important is happening!”
- Then the **shepherds** show up, and boom—more lanterns! The angels basically shine the biggest lantern ever saying, “Good news! Joy is here!”
- And by the time we get to the Gospel of **John**, it gets super bright. John says Jesus is the **Light** coming into the world.

Savannah: So... each reading we hear is like one of my lanterns?

A little light... then another... then another... and suddenly the whole path shines?

Sophia: Exactly! Except your lanterns didn't talk. These readings DO talk—and they tell the story of how God's Light, Jesus, comes close to us.

Savannah: I like that. And the carols are lanterns too, right?

Sophia: Yes! Every carol adds more brightness. “*O Little Town of Bethlehem*” shines a light on Jesus' birthplace. “*The First Nowell*” shines a light on the shepherds. And “*O Holy Night*” shines a BIG light on the miracle of Jesus' birth.

Savannah: So today is basically a lantern festival... but with music!

Sophia: Exactly! A festival of lights made of **lessons and carols**, guiding us to the joy of Jesus.

Savannah: (Whispers loudly) But who put the lanterns on my path?

Sophia: I think that is a mystery for the ages. Maybe your neighbor. Maybe your grandma. Maybe a squirrel with excellent decorating skills.

Savannah: If I ever see a squirrel carrying a lantern, I'm going to call you.

Sophia: Fair enough. But remember—whether your lanterns come from squirrels or from Scripture—the message is the same:

Both: “Every lesson and every carol is a little light leading us to the joy of Jesus.”

First Lesson **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

Violin duet **O little town of Bethlehem** Joy / Harry

Second Lesson **Micah 5:2-4**

Vocal/Guitar **The first nowell** Sophia Lee / James Park

Third Lesson **Luke 2:1-16**

Violin/Guitar **What child is this** Joy / Harry / James

Fourth Lesson **Revelation 22:1-5, 20-21**

Hymn 166 **Once in royal David's city**

Fifth Lesson **John 1:1-18**

Violin/Guitar **O holy night** Joy / Harry / James

Invitation to the Offering

Violin/Guitar **Silent night** Joy/Harry/James

Give Thanks (please stand)

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God,

with thankful hearts we offer these gifts. Bless them, and use them to share your love, joy, and hope in the world. Amen.

Guitar/Violin **Angels we have heard on high** Joy/Harry/James

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Great God,

in this Advent season, we gather to prepare for the birth of Jesus, your Son, who comes to us in flesh and blood, sharing fully in our human life.

You visit us in so many ways, O God, and for this we give you thanks. Yet at times we fail to recognize your presence, for your blessings often come through challenges—moments that ask us to rethink, to face regrets, to confront wrongs done and suffered, and to name our pain, sorrow, and loneliness. Still, you are always with us, O God, ready to transform us through our struggles so that new life, blessing, and joy may grow.

Find us in this time, we pray: in our confusion and weariness, in our loneliness and loss of joy. Meet us with your light and restore our hope.

As Christmas draws near, we give thanks for the love that surrounds us—seen and unseen. We are grateful for family and friends who support us, for those who work faithfully to sustain our communities, and for the beauty of creation that quietly reminds us of your care.

We also remember, O God, that this season can be difficult for many. Stir our hearts with compassion for those whose struggles feel heavy—for those burdened by responsibility, and for those carrying grief, loss, or loneliness. Hold them gently, guide them tenderly, and remind us all of the hope, peace, joy, and love found in the Christ Child, born among us.

We lift before you the needs of the world: those longing for peace in places of conflict, refugees fleeing war and disaster, and all who suffer through poverty, illness, or injustice. Shine your light of hope into every dark corner of our world.

In our nation and our communities, we pray for those struggling to afford housing and food, for caregivers carrying heavy responsibilities, for those awaiting diagnoses, and for those who feel overwhelmed or hopeless. Bring healing in body, mind, and spirit, and kindle faith, hope, and love anew.

Hear us now in silent prayer as we lift before you the names and situations heavy on our hearts.
(Silence)

We pray especially for Arlene Burrige, as she recovers from surgery; for Robert Lampman, as he faces illness and settles into a new home; for Fran Johnson and Mieke Mander, beloved members of our church family who cannot be with us in person; and for all who suffer in silence. May your mercy surround them, and your gentle grace bring healing, comfort, and hope.

Trusting in your presence and your power to heal, restore, and renew, we offer these prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Hymn 153 **Joy to the world**
Benediction

Benediction:

May the love of God, the joy of Christ, and the light of the Holy Spirit go with you and shine through you, now and always. Amen.

Sung Response: “Go Now In Peace”

Postlude

The Life and Ministry of our Congregations, led by Rev. Jacob Lee:
Pastoral Charge of Rockway and First, North Pelham

<p>We acknowledge that we meet on the traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe</p>

Announcements:

***Worship on Sunday, December 21, at Rockway**

***Christmas Solace Service – Friday, Dec. 19 at 2:00 PM**

You are warmly invited to a gentle and reflective “Blue Christmas” service at North Pelham. This time of prayer, scripture, and healing anointing offers comfort to anyone who is finding the season difficult or carrying sorrow or loss. Come and rest in God’s light, peace, and renewing presence. All are welcome.

***Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24:** You are warmly invited to a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with Communion on Wednesday, December 24, at 4:00 p.m. at North Pelham. Come and share in scripture, carols, candlelight, and the peace of Christ as we celebrate the birth of Jesus together. All are welcome.

***Sound System Upgrade – With Gratitude**

We are grateful to share that, with a \$3,000 grant from Niagara Presbytery, North Pelham has completed an upgrade to our sound system. This includes additional microphones and a wireless microphone, helping to improve clarity and accessibility in worship and other services in the sanctuary. We offer sincere thanks to Niagara Presbytery for their generous support and to Kent Reynolds for his faithful work and dedication in making this upgrade possible.

***Monday Tai Chi & Qigong – Christmas Schedule:**

Our Monday Tai Chi & Qigong classes continue each week with two group options: • **1:30–2:20 PM** – Mostly standing exercises • **2:40–3:30 PM** – Mostly seated movements Please note: • December 15 will be our final class before Christmas. • Classes will resume on Monday, January 5, 2026. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please speak with Joy or Rev. Jacob.

***Tree of Lights at North Pelham:** Our Tree of Lights helps us honour and remember loved ones during the Christmas season. White lights represent in memory, and red lights represent in honour. Monetary donations of any amount may be placed on the offering plate along with the names you wish included. A complete list will be shared at the Christmas Eve service. The tree will be lit on November 30, and proceeds support Pelham Cares.

***Wednesday Bible Study – Christmas Break**

Wednesday Bible Study meets at 10:00 a.m. at North Pelham, led by Diane McMillan. December 17 will be our last study before Christmas. We will take a break and resume on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

***Outreach - Thursday Walking:** Join us for the Wellness Walk and Coffee Chat! We gather at 9:30 a.m. at Canada Games Park to start our walk together. After the walk, we meet at Rockway for a joyful chat over hot and fresh coffee at 10:45 am.

***Connect with your Minister Jacob for pastoral visits. Reach Jacob at jacoblee0501@gmail.com or 289-213-2797.**