

### Land Acknowledgment

*"We acknowledge we are on the traditional,  
unceded territories of the Semiahmoo First Nation  
and the broader territory of the Coast Salish  
Peoples."*

### Our Mission Statement

St. John's proclaims Christ in welcoming  
fellowship uplifting worship and compassionate  
service.

**Worship with us at 10:30 on Sunday Mornings.**  
**Services live on Internet and broadcast on FM 89.3**  
**[www.saint-johns.ca](http://www.saint-johns.ca)**



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**General Church Office Hours:**  
Tuesday – Friday 09:00am – 01:00pm

### **MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, December 14**

Shaibu Mohammed, a 7-year-old boy from Gbanterago in northern Ghana, was born with a disability caused by prolonged labour, and has never walked. Due to a lack of transportation, his parents were unable to enroll him in school. One day, Shaibu's mother walked to the PWS&D-supported Community-Based Rehabilitation Program (CBR) office to report her son's situation and seek help. After a home visit and assessment, the CBR team provided Shaibu with a tricycle. Additionally, the Inclusive Education Officer coordinated with Gbanterago Primary School for his enrollment. Grateful, his mother said, "My child can now go to school like other kids in our community. What a great relief! Thank you so much for this kind gesture."

### **DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, December 14** Give us joy, O God, as we prepare to welcome Christ among us again.

**Monday, December 15** We pray for military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families. May their presence be a constant reminder of God's presence, especially at those times when people feel estranged from home and family.

**Tuesday, December 16** We pray for those who serve in ecumenical leadership; may our shared witness persevere, rooted in grace, justice, and reconciliation.

**Wednesday, December 17** We give thanks for the Presbyterian Heritage Centre in Carlisle, Ontario. May it serve as a monument of God's enduring faithfulness to The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**Thursday, December 18** We pray for outreach ministries such as the Newcomers Mission in Peterborough, ON, that offer care, encouragement, and practical support to newcomers to Canada.

**Friday, December 19** We pray for Knox College students as they complete the fall semester and journey through this Advent season to Christmas. We ask for rest and renewal in time spent with family and friends.

**Saturday, December 20** We pray for all who are travelling during Christmas holidays, that they remain safe and enjoy their respite time.



**St. John's  
Presbyterian  
Church  
White Rock, BC**

**14 December 2025  
10:30am**

***Third Sunday of Advent***

**"The Joy in the Desert"**

**Preacher: Rev. Arthur Surjadi**



***Love, Compassion, Service***

## GATHERING TO PRAISE GOD

*The asterisk \* invites those who are able to stand.*

***Music As We Gather: Hymn 147 - Angels We Have Heard on High***

Welcome & Announcements

**\*Call to Worship**

One: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**All: We come to worship longing for the joy that God brings—joy that blossoms even in desert places.**

One: Source of joy, light and hope, shine into our lives and your world this Advent.

**All: Renew in us the joy of our salvation and awaken our hearts to Your coming.**

***\*Opening Hymn: 118 - Hark the Glad Sound***

Advent Liturgy: **Advent III – Joy**

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Prayer of Adoration

Prayer of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

**\*Sharing the Peace**

May the peace of Christ  
be with you!

**All: And also, with you**

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Understanding

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10, and James 5:7-10**

*This is the WORD of GOD*  
**Thanks be to GOD**

**Choral Devotion: “As Water to the Thirsty”**

**SERMON: “The Joy in the Desert”**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***\*Hymn 350 - To God Be The Glory***

Invitation to the Offering

***\*Offertory: Doxology***

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Lord's Prayer

## LIVING GOD'S WORD

***\*Hymn 153 - Joy To The World***

**\*Benediction**

***\*Sending Out Song: 119 - Hope Is a Star (Vs. 1-3)***

## IN THE LIFE OF ST. JOHN'S

### We Remember in Prayer:

Jean Andrew, Fern Beale, Jean Chalcraft, Janet Duncan, Doug Eyjolfson, Sheila Jakus, Scott Kelly, Phyllis McLean, Anne McNaughton, Daniel & Annette Nichols, Rev. Diane Tait-Katerberg, Jessie Woolley, Paula Odermatt

### Upcoming Events:

**Merry & Bright Christmas Celebration**  
19<sup>th</sup> December, 3:30 pm

**Christmas Eve Service of St John's**  
24<sup>th</sup> December; 4:00pm; With Rev. Robin Ross

**Christmas Eve Service of St Martyr's**  
24<sup>th</sup> December; 1:30pm

*Many thanks to Raffy and Raj Chahal for their delicious surprise luncheon after service last Sunday!*

