

# Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2020 7:00 pm



Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to your new-born King!"

We wish one other the peace and light of the Holy Child  
this Christmas season.

**\*\*Before you begin you will need;**

- Advent Wreath: 3 blue, one pink and one white candle  
(you may need to replace them)
- a new candle for "Silent Night"
- costumes, included script, for Drama ..for now, or later

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Beginning Carol**     *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*

VU 60

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

God of God, light of light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created:  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him,**  
**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

### **Call to Worship**

One: This is it! Tonight is the night!

**All: Tonight we gather to share in the Christmas story.**

One: Tonight we relive the marvel and excitement of a newly born child.

**All: We come together to worship and to adore Emmanuel, the child of God.**

One: We come tonight to experience God born anew within us all.

**All: This is a holy night.**

One: This is a holy night.

**All: This is a holy night of wonder. Come let us worship!**

## Opening Prayer

**All: In the quiet hush of this night,  
we gather, wherever we are, to give you praise and thanks.  
God of stables, stars and surprises, of light and hope and new life;  
open our eyes and hearts to your presence in the world;  
forgive our obsession with property and possessions;  
forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision.  
Open us to your grace, that we might hear again the song of the angels,  
and answer with a song of our own. Amen.**

**Carol**

*"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"*

VU 44

It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold,  
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not the love-song which they bring.  
O hush the noise, and cease your strife, to hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever circling years shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendor fling,  
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

## Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40: 1-9

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.  
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem and cry to her  
that she has served her term,  
that her penalty is paid,  
that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:  
'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'  
All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.  
The grass withers, the flower fades,  
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass.  
The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.  
Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;  
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,  
lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, ... 'Here is your God!'

### Lighting the Advent Candles

One: We come now, to the night we have been waiting for.

**All: Our Advent journey has taken us to many places;  
hopeful anticipation, peaceful acceptance  
and loving action.** *...the first candle is lit*

One: We celebrate with full hearts the arrival of the Promised One;

**All: our teacher, redeemer, our friend.** *...the second candle is lit*

One: We light the pink candle that brings joy into our lives;

**All: joy to the world, and joy for all we are, and hope to be.**  
*...the third candle is lit*

One: As we light the last candle, we look at the decorations we have in our homes,  
and think of the bright Christmas lights around our neighbourhoods,

**All: but mostly, we see the light that shines in every one of us  
because of one special gift.** *...the fourth candle is lit*

One: With all who come to the stable,

**All: no matter who we are, no matter where we are from,  
no matter where we are heading,  
we celebrate Christ's light, born again in the world!**

**Advent Candle Carol**

*"A Candle is Burning"*

**VU 6**

"A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease;  
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay."

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
a candle to welcome brave May's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow."

A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth."

### Scripture Reading

Luke 1: 26-35

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'

### Carol

*"What Child is This"*

VU 74

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!**

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**

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**

### Scripture Reading

Luke 2: 1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

One: Finally, we light the candle of Christ.  
We have been looking for signs of the presence of Christ in our world.  
We have shared the ancient longing  
that God should come and live among the lives of all people.  
**All: Tonight we will take this light with us  
and remember whose we are, and who has made it so;  
the one named Emmanuel; God With Us.**

### **Scripture Reading**

Luke 2: 8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

**Carol**            *“Once in Royal David’s City”*

VU 62

“Once in Royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who, with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our life-long pattern; daily when on earth he grew,  
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

**Christmas Drama**            insert (roles, costumes, scripts) .....here, or later...

**Carol**                    *“Joy to the World”*

VU 59

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of His righteousness,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders of His love,  
and wonders, wonders of His love.

**Scripture Reading**

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,  
‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made  
known to us.’

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who  
heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned,  
glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king,  
 peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
 Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
 with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
 late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail, the incarnate deity,  
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

### Meditation

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
 Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

While shepherds kept their watching o're silent flocks by night,  
 behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.  
**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
 Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth  
 rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth!  
**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
 Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,  
 and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn.  
**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
 Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**



## We Give Our Christmas Offering to God

### Offertory Verse

VU 55

**All:** “What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I, can I give him – give my heart.”

### Prayer of Dedication

**All:** Prince of Peace, on this Christmas Eve;  
we have no gold, no frankincense, no myrrh,  
but we have these gifts and we offer them now.  
Multiply them, use them,  
and by your grace, make them enough.  
Receive our gifts, though they are simple. Amen.

### Carol

*"Away in a Manger"*

VU 69

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus a-sleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby a-wakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## Christmas Eve Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

(...Please carefully light your new taper, candle, or tea light.... )

**Carol**

*“Silent Night, Holy Night”*

**VU 67**

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus Lord, at thy birth.