



WELCOME TO EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH

Merry Christmas!
December 24, 7:30 PM

The Gathering

Organ Prelude

Acknowledging the Territory

As we meet together, we begin by remembering the Algonquin People on whose traditional land we now gather in gratitude. We acknowledge their story and their stewardship of the land and water, the plants and animals, through many generations. We bear witness to the ongoing suffering caused by historical injustices and commit to seeking right relations today.

Choir Processional: O Come All Ye Faithful *VU 60*

Lighting of the Affirming Candle: *Amanda Jamieson*

We light the Affirm candle to proclaim to the members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and their allies that they are truly welcomed and accepted in this place.

Anthem: What Kind of King *By A. Klouse*
Flute: Joan Foster-Jones

Responsive Welcome

Welcome

Welcome to this sacred place of belonging where we embrace the sacredness of life and recognize the dignity of each person, spirit-filled with the image of God, the Mystery in whom we live and move and have our being.

Welcome to all who have no church home, need strength, want to follow Christ, have doubts. Welcome to visitors and to new and old friends.

Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, siblings, youth, couples and single people.

Welcome to people of all colours, cultures, abilities, gender identities, and sexual orientations, to old and young, to believers and questioners – and welcome to questioning believers.

This day, we are all invited to live into God's love, peace and justice. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Carol: Hark the Harold Angels Sing

VU 48

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles:

Val & Blake Lines

Lighting of the Advent and Christ Candles:

(Candles are lit for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love)

Into the dark, cold night, Mary went. Riding on a donkey's back with Joseph by their side...

Jesus would be born.

Into the shadowy, uncertain times, Christ's followers ventured into the corners and margins of the Empire. With hope, insight, compassion and justice front of mind.

Jesus is born.

(Lighting of the Christ Candle)

Into a world of hate, anger, aggression, greed, cold and hunger, we continue to wander and move forward. With our unwavering faith and with the companionship of Christ's faithful,

Jesus continues to be born.

Come, people of God. Enter into this hour of praise and worship, this night. Jesus would be born and continues to be born among us.

Let us worship God.

Let us pray.

Prayer:

Just as Mary and Joseph entered an inn and a stable, O God, we enter into your house of worship this night. We enter together, knowing we have a lot to celebrate. We enter as individuals, seeking peace for our own hearts. We enter with unified purpose and hope, longing for Christ's mission and message to be borne into this world. We pray for its rebirthing all throughout our world. Be with us as we sing Christmas praises to you, thanking you for giving us the hope, the peace, the joy and the love we need to be your people of faith. In Christ's name. Amen.

Carol:

Hope is a Star

VU 7

We Listen to God's Word

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7 **Joan Foster-Jones**

Anthem: **Jazz Gloria** *By Natalie Sleeth*
Percussion: Dan Perkins & Tom Miner
Bass: Justin Mulder
Guitar: Jim Lamb

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 96** **Joan Foster-Jones**

Refrain: Sing a new song unto God

Who has done such marvellous things.

Sing to God a new song;

sing your praise, all the earth.

Sing and bless God's holy name,

tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations,

among all the peoples God's wonderful works.

For great is God and greatly to be praised,

To be revered above all the gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

but you, O God, made the heavens.

Honour and majesty attend you,

strength and beauty are in your sanctuary.

Refrain

Ascribe to God, you families of peoples,

ascribe to God, glory and strength.

Ascribe glory to God's name,

bring an offering and enter God's courts.

Worship God in the beauty of holiness,

let the whole earth stand in awe.

Say among the nations: It is God who reigns!

The world is made firm and cannot be shaken.

God judges the peoples in equity.

Refrain

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad;

let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the fields exult, and all that is in them.

Then let all the trees of the forest sing for joy,

for you come, O God, to judge the earth.

You shall judge the earth in righteousness,

its peoples with your truth.

Refrain

Carol: **O Little Town of Bethlehem** **VU 64**

Scripture: **Titus 2:11-14** **Myrna Lamb**

Anthem: **Angels' Carol** *By J. Rutter*

Scripture: **Luke 2:1-20** **Grant**

Anthem: **O Holy Night** *By A. Adam*
Soloist: Julie Henderson

Meditation: **Christ Reborn in Us**

Quiet Reflection and Prayer:

Carol: **Once in Royal David's City** **VU 62**

Prayers & 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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Passing the Light of Christ

Candles are lit.

Carol: **Silent Night, Holy Night** **VU 67**

Blessing:

Postlude: ***What Child is This*** *By Lani Smith*

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