



Christmas Eve

Lessons, Carols, Candles & Communion

Worship Service

Sunday, December 24, 2018 @ 8:30 p.m.

*You are invited to stand, if able.
You are encouraged to read/sing the **bold** print.

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE: “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen” & “Silent Night”

Eleanor Honey & Chris Ness

WELCOME

Hewitt Holmes

ADVENT WREATH: LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Deborah Tennant & Friends

***CANDLE CAROL: VU#6 “A Candle Is Burning” (v 5)**

AWAY IN A MANGER

We honour Messiah with Christ-candle’s flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the world’s true light.

CALL TO CELEBRATE:

O God, you give us hope beyond imagining,

Hope, through the gift of Jesus, long hoped for by the prophets.

O God, you give us peace beyond imagining,

Peace, through the gift of Jesus, whose way was to reconcile and bring calm.

O God, you give us joy beyond happiness and celebration,

Joy, through the gift of Jesus, whose joy was known by those released from fear and from despair.

O God, you give us love beyond the deepest emotion,

Love, through the gift of Jesus, whose love for humanity remains a true sacrifice!

***OPENING CAROL: VU#48 “Hark, the Herald Angel Sing”**

MENDELSSOHN

1
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!'*

2

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 Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! R

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'*

3

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. R

PRAYER OF CHRISTMAS CONFESSION:

Give us, Almighty God, the reassurance of the angel.

Still the fear that is within us.

Give us, Living God, the peaceful chorus of the angels.

Centering all that is at war within us, and within our relationships.

Give us, Compassionate God, the perception of the shepherds.

To search for the highest good in ourselves, and in others.

Give us, Life Changing God, the gentleness of Mary.

That you may use us to touch and transform the world.

(Silent prayers...)

THE PRAYER OF JESUS *(Traditional version with inclusive language)*

VU, pg. 921



*** CAROL:** VU#60 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (vv. 1-3)

ADESTE FIDELES

1 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;

2 God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created: R

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore
him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: R

The Prophecy of the Messiah:
Isaiah 9:1-7 & 11:1-9 - Rob Murdock

THE CHOIR: VU#64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vv. 1-2)

ST LOUIS

1 *O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

2

- 2 *For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.*

The Prophecy of the Messiah:
Micah 5:2-4 - Derryl Johnston

“O Holy Night” –

Derryl Johnston on Flute and Eleanore Honey on Piano

SILENCE

The Coming of Jesus is Announced to Mary & Joseph:
Luke 1:26-38 - Derryl Johnston

***CAROL:** VU#75 “While Shepherds Watched” (vv. 1-3)

WINCHESTER OLD

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 While shepherds watched their flocks
by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.</p> | <p>2 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.</p> |
| | <p>3 'To you in David's town this day
is born of David's line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:</p> |

Jesus is Born & Announced to the Shepherds:
Matthew 1:18-25a & Luke 2:8-16 - Richard Moffat

CAROLS: VU#46 “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child” (vv. 1-2)

GENTLE MARY

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Saviour?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favour.
- 2 Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

VU#37 “Gloria”

GLORIA

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!

SILENCE

The Magi Visit the Messiah:
Matthew 2:1-11 - Anne Snell

“What Child is This?” - Barb Wenzel, Soloist – Accompanied by Derryl Johnston and Eleanore Honey

Jesus is Here – The Word Became Flesh:
John 1:1-5,10-13 - Anne Snell

***CAROL:** VU#73 “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” (vv. 1-2) THE VIRGIN MARY

1	The virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a baby boy, the virgin Mary had a baby boy, and they say that his name is Jesus.	<i>Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!</i> <i>He come from the glory, (clap, clap)</i> <i>he come from the glorious kingdom.</i>
	<i>He come from the glory, (clap, clap)</i> <i>he come from the glorious kingdom.</i> <i>He come from the glory, (clap, clap)</i> <i>he come from the glorious kingdom.</i>	2 The angels sang when the baby was born, the angels sang when the baby was born, the angels sang when the baby was born, and they say that his name is Jesus. R

WE CONTEMPLATE - CHRISTMAS

REFLECTION: “Christmas Love: The Story of God’s Gift to Us” Hewitt Holmes

***CAROL:** VU#43 “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (vv. 1-2) GO, TELL IT

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.	there shone a holy light. R
1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens	2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth! R

WE SHARE AT CHRISTMAS

WE GIVE TO SHOW OUR LOVE

Offering Music: CHRIS NESS
*Offering Response: MV#191 “What Can I do?” WHAT CAN I DO?
What Can I do? What Can I bring? What Can I say? What Can I Sing?
I'll Sing with Joy. I'll Say a Prayer. I'll Bring my Love. I'll Do My Share.
*Offering Prayer Hewitt Holmes

Enlighten with your love, O God, our homes, our families, and our friendships;
may your love go to work through our gifts.

May the light of your Blessed One who came at Christmas;
bring hope to the poor,
bring calm to the distressed,

**bring peace to the troubled,
bring community to the lonely,
so that these cherished ones may receive
a blessing this Christmas, as in the days head. Amen.**

WE SHARE A HOLY MEAL AT CHRISTMAS

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Hewitt Holmes & Richard Moffat - *Celebrants*

(Everyone is welcomed to participate in communion by intinction - there will be three stations at the front and one in the balcony. On the downstairs, please proceed to one of the stations as directed by the Usher(s), through the centre aisles and back through the side aisles. In the balcony, proceed to the rear to be served. Please eat as you are served)

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Christ's love and light are born anew in us this evening. May this illuminating light and inexhaustible love remain with us as we share the peace with others. The peace of Christ is born anew in you, **and in you as well.** **(WE share the peace with our neighbour...)**

WE LEAVE WITH THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

*** CAROL: VU#67 "Silent Night"**

STILLE NACHT

(as we sing this carol, we will light the candles and turn off the main lights)

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

***COMMISSIONING:**

God's joy is ours!

We will enjoy our Christmas.

God's friendship is clear!

We will deepen our friendships.

God's peace is without limits!

We will let go of our fears.

God's love is sure!

We will grow in love for one another in this Christmas.

*** CAROL: VU#59 "Joy to the World" (vv. 1 &4)**

ANTIOCH

1

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.

4

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.

***CLOSING CAROL:** "We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

POSTLUDE: "Joy to the World"

Eleanor Honey & Chris Ness

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USHERS: Lynn Dolmage (c), Barb Bassett, Jane Craig, Joan Fairbarn, Sharon & Frank Crossley

Mary Hekkenberg, Rob Murdock & Maureen Attwell-Murdock, Marnie & Phil Neale

AUDIO/VISUAL: Terry Tizzard

WORSHIP LEADER: Rev. Hewitt Holmes, Minister

INTERIM ORGANIST: Chris Ness
