

Yellowknife United Church
An Affirming Ministry and Congregation of
The United Church of Canada
Christmas Eve 2017 - 7:00 pm

*- rise in body or spirit



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The bulletin this evening is sponsored by Gwyneth and Levi Davis and family, remembering parents and grandparents, Ivy Whiley and Lillian and Augustus Davis who all celebrated birthdays in Christmas week.

GATHERING IN ANTICIPATION

Welcome and Acknowledgement of Territory

The Christmas Eve Christ Candle

One: The Advent time of waiting and preparing is over! We
-I have lit four candles that remind us about waiting in
hope and peace and joy and love.

(Light the four Advent candles.)

Two: These candles remind us that God promises to be with us,
to comfort us, to help us rejoice, and to teach us to love.

Three: This evening we celebrate that God has come to be with us
in the baby called Jesus.

Four: Today we light one more candle, and we call it the Christ
candle. *(Light the central white candle.)* This candle
reminds us of all God has done for us.

Five: God fills us with good things, like hope and peace and joy
and love. God is faithful to us. God is with us, now and
always.

All: **O God, come, lead us through our lives. Give us
courage to spread your light in the world. Amen.**

***Christ Candle Lighting Song - Joy to the World**

Joy to the world, the Lord is come,
Let earth receive her king.

Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing, (2x)

And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

***Call to Worship**

The people who walked in darkness.

Sometimes we walk in darkness.

have seen a great light.

We live in darkness and in light.

Those who lived in a land of deep darkness -

on them has light shined.

Whenever we find ourselves in the night,

God's morning dawns anew.

You have increased the nation's joy.

The people rejoice as at the time of harvest.

For the yoke of their burden you have broken.

**The pressure, the tension, the anxiety of the past fade as
we gather in this place.**

For a child has been born for us.

God's child has come to be with us -

one who will rule with peace and justice forever and ever,

and through whose love we are all children of God.

***Carol The Huron Carol**

1. 'Twas in the moon of wintertime
When all the birds had fled
That mighty Gitchi Manitou
Sent angel choirs instead
Before their light the stars grew dim
And wandering hunters heard the hymn

Refrain:

Jesus your King is born,
Jesus is born In excelsis gloria

2. Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender Babe was found
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapp'd His beauty round
And as the hunter braves drew nigh
The angel song rang loud and high

Refrain

3. The earliest moon of wintertime
Is not so round and fair
As was the ring of glory
On the helpless infant there
The chiefs from far before him knelt
With gifts of fur and beaver pelt

Refrain

4. O children of the forest free
O sons of Manitou
The Holy Child of earth and heaven
Is born today for you
Come kneel before the radiant Boy
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy

Refrain

Prayer of Approach

***Carol** See Amid the Winter's Snow

1. See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears,
promised from eternal years.
2. Lo, within a manger lies
God who built the starry skies,
who enthroned in height sublime
sits amid the cherubim.

Refrain

*Hail, thou ever blessed morn;
hail, redemption's happy dawn;
sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.*

Refrain

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say
what your joyful news today;
wherefore have ye left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep?

Refrain

Prayer of Confession

One: Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself, but often we find it hard to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received.

All: **Forgive us, generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.**

Assurance of Pardon

Fear not, I bring you tidings of great joy for all people!

Christ, our Saviour is born.

As Jesus enters fully into our lives, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***Choral Response** Gloria, Gloria In Excelsis Deo

LISTENING TO THE STORY UNFOLD

Anthem

A Glorious Night

Price/Besig

Learning with Children

Carol Away In a Manger

1. 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
asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus
no crying he makes
I love thee Lord Jesus;
look down from the sky
and stay by my side
until morning is night.
3. 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.

Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 9: 2-7

Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20

Carol Do You Hear What I Hear?

1. Said the night wind to the little lamb
Do you see what I see
Way up in the sky little lamb
Do you see what I see
A star, a star
Dancing in the night
With a tail as big as a kite
With a tail as big as a kite
2. Said the little lamb
to the Shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear
Ringing through the sky Shepherd boy
Do you hear what I hear
A song, a song
High above the trees
With a voice as big as the sea
With a voice as big as the sea
3. Said the Shepherd boy
to the mighty king
Do you know what I know
In your palace wall mighty king
Do you know what I know
A child, a child
Shivers in the cold
Let us bring him silver and gold
Let us bring him silver and gold
4. Said the king to the people
everywhere
Listen to what I say
Pray for peace people everywhere
Listen to what I say
The child, the child
Sleeping in the night
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light
He will bring us goodness and light

Meditation An Olde Fashioned Revolutionary Christmas

RESPONDING IN WONDER

***Carol Good Christian Friends Rejoice**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Good Christian friends rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News!
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! (2x) | 2. Good Christian friends rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye hear of endless bliss:
Joy! Joy!
Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has openedd heaven's door,
and we are blessed for ever more.
Christ was born for this! (2x) |
| 3. Good Christian friends rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace!
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! (2x) | |

Offering and Doxology Praise God, whose dawn transfigures night,
Whose Daystar shines for us on high,
Whose spirit brings into our sight
The hope which to our world draws nigh

Prayers of the People

*(at the pauses we will sing successive verses of
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" as printed)*

God of life, today the world is
reborn with the birth of Jesus.
We thank you for the gift of
your Child, who came to show
us your way.

Pause 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.

Loving God, you are the
guardian of the poor. Many
children are being born tonight
in places no better than that
stable in Bethlehem. We pray
for them.

Pause 2.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep,
their watch of wondering love.¹⁵
O morning stars together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises bring to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.

God of comfort, we thank you that we have a warm place to gather, and friends and family to care for us. We pray for all who are sick, lonely, in trouble, or afraid, that they may be healed and comforted.

Pause 3.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given.
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

God among us, in the birth of Jesus you show us your hope for the world. We pray for ourselves and for each other, that we may be filled with hope and new life, now and always.

Pause 4.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell,
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

***Commissioning and Benediction**

The Word became flesh and lived among us.

(sing) **Hark! the herald angels sing,**

"Glory to the newborn King!"

Go, tell it on the mountains and in the cities, in the wilderness and in the villages, that Jesus Christ is born!

(sing) **Hark! the herald angels sing,**

"Glory to the newborn King!"

Know that God - Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit - lives within us and among us, this day and forever.

(sing) **Hark! the herald angels sing,**

"Glory to the newborn King!"

***Carol Silent Night**

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 (2x)

2. Silent night! Holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight:

glories stream

from heaven afar,

heavenly host sing alleluia.

Christ the saviour is born. (2x)

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 (2x)

