
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



December 24, 2021 – Christmas Eve – Family Service
Worship Leader - Rev. Chris Fickling

Welcome and thank you for sharing in our Christmas celebrations!

Please remain seated until Silent Night

Welcome & Announcements

Opening

Opening Carol **O Little Town of Bethlehem** (Nat King Cole)

***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 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.***

Lighting our Advent Wreath – Christ Candle

One: We light the Christ Candle that everyone
might see Jesus is the Light of the World.
We live in your hope.
We live in your peace.
We live in your joy.
We live in your love. We live in your light.

All: Come, O Jesus, to us we pray.

OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Building our Story

One: We come today to "build our nativity"; to share in our story. Although this story takes place thousands of year ago, the truth of this birth bringing Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love is born fresh in us each Christmas. The tradition of sharing the story in the fashion of a Christmas Putz, is an old European tradition. Related to the old medieval mystery plays, the putz may have originated to help children better appreciate the Christmas story. The word "putz" is from the German "putzen" for "to decorate, especially to adorn a church." The practice was to assign each family, in the village, a character from the nativity story. Then in great secret, they would make their creation; not knowing how large or small, or out of what material, anyone else's character would be. Then, on Christmas Eve, all the families of the village would gather in the town square, sing the songs of Christmas, and tell the story. As it was being read, when your family's character was mentioned, you would bring it forward and place it in the creche. Today, we are having a Putz Celebration, by building our own nativity scene. For those who have made members of our scene, when it comes your turn, please put up your hand – and I'll come and collect it! But first...the story:

Scripture – Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists.² This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria.³ Everyone went to their

own cities to be enrolled. ⁴ Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. ⁵ He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Coming to the Manger (Donkey, Mary, Joseph, Jesus)

Carol Away in a Manger (Pentatonix)

***1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the 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 'til morning is nigh.***

***3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and take us to heaven, to live with thee there.***

4 Repeat verse 1

Scripture – Luke 2:8-20

⁸ Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. ⁹ The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around

them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. ¹¹Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. ¹²This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, ¹⁴“Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.” ¹⁵When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” ¹⁶They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. ¹⁸Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. ²⁰The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

Coming to the Manger(Angels, Shepherds and Sheep)

Carol Angels from the Realms of Glory (Piano Guys)

***1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:***

Refrain ***Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

**4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:**

**Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him,
Every knee shall then bow down. Refrain**

Scripture – Matthew 2:1-2, 7-12

(Some time later) After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. ²They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." ⁷Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." ⁹When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

Coming to the Manger(Wise Ones and Star)

Carol The First Nowell v3-5 (The Five Strings)

***The first Nowell the angels did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields
where they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.***

Refrain: **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

***2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.*** Refrain

***3 With so much noise and confusion in life
Can we see the star that shines so bright?
Do we remember, that because of him,
The world shares its message of hope today.*** Ref.

Reading 'Twas the Evening of Christmas (Glenys Nellist)

Carol **O Little Town of Bethlehem** (Blackmore's Night)

***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 Oh he is born the baby; 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.***

***3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his 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.***

SHARING OUR CHRISTMAS JOY

***We will start to spread the light of Jesus as the light
grows with each person. We use battery candles so that
everyone can enjoy sharing the light of Christmas. As
we light our candles let us hum Silent Night.***

Carol

Silent Night

(Singer)

***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!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.***

***Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.***