
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

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God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT



December 24, 2022 – Christmas Eve – Family Service
Worship Leaders Rev. Chris Fickling and Alison Vicary

Welcome and thank you for sharing in our Christmas celebrations!

Our services are recorded and shared online.

If you would rather not be recorded,
we invite you to sit near the back of the Sanctuary.

*We acknowledge that we are on the Haldimand Tract,
traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and
Haudenosaunee peoples. We acknowledge their care of the
land and give our thanks for their conservancy.*

Please remain seated for all of the singing
(except the final carol, Silent Night)

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude **Away in a Manger** *(arr. Craig Curry)*

Opening

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

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

Lighting our Advent Wreath – Christ Candle
Sung Blessing

VU 6 v5

**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 Christian's true light.**

OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Story of Christmas – *A Wayne in the Manger* by
Gervase Phinn

Carol

Away in a Manger

VU 69

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 you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

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

The Story of Christmas – The Gospel of Luke

Carol

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

VU 48

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!'*

Refrain *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! Refrain*

**3 Hail, the heavenborn 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. Refrain**

The Story of Christmas – *A Wayne in the Manger*

by Gervase Phinn

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

VU 58

**1 Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is born for all.
Christ the babe is born for all!**

**2 Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you!**

The Story of Christmas – The Gospel of Luke

Carol

What Child is This

VU 74

**1 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!***

2 ***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

3 ***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

Prayer adapted by a prayer by Sam Hargreaves

One: Jesus Christ, born in a stable,
Be with the poor and homeless
this Christmas time.

In the coldness of our lives, we decide if
there's warmth enough to share.

**All: As we pray, live and give;
shine your everlasting light.**

One Jesus Christ, born of Mary and Joseph,
be with parents and caregivers,
those with struggles that hide behind
Christmas joy. We pray for those in this room
and around the world.

**All: As we pray, live and give;
shine your everlasting light.**

One: Jesus Christ, visited by Shepherds,
Be with all who have to work this Christmas,
those sacrificing life and peace in order to
provide, and those who long to work.

**All: As we pray, live and give;
shine your everlasting light.**

One: Jesus Christ, who became a refugee,
Be with those who fear for their lives,
who in scary situations have had to leave
homes and families in order to find safety.

**All: As we pray, live and give;
shine your everlasting light.**

One: Jesus Christ, your star lit a way of hope
leading all those toward you,
reminding us that no sky is deep enough,
no time worrisome enough that you would not
shine through.

Be with us tonight and into this near year,
and bring us new hope to reawaken us,
bring us new peace to calm us,
bring us new joy to lift us,
and bring us new love as we open our eyes
to the waiting world that convinces us that
same old, same old is all there ever is. For
nothing is impossible, thanks be to God. **Amen**

SHARING OUR CHRISTMAS JOY



Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

*We share our gifts with the world – using the offering plates
placed at the doorways when you came in.*

*Offering Response **When Heaven's Bright** VU 93 v4
4 *When heaven's bright with mystery
and stars still lead an unknown way,
when love still lights a gentle path
where courts of power can hold no sway,
there with the Magi, let us kneel,
our gifts to share, God's world to heal.*

We will start to share the light of Jesus around the church. We use battery candles so that everyone can enjoy sharing the light of Christmas. As we light our candles join with us as we sing Silent Night.

Carol

Silent 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 Alleluia!

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 dawn of redeeming grace

Jesus Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.



In Memory of family & friends flowers have been placed in the sanctuary by:



Janice Bock

Jim & Teresa Carse

Bill & Dianne Dyck

Maize Evers

Beverly Houston

Joan Kaehler

Lynda Perkes

Edna Rhoda

Evelyn Shantz

Neil Taylor

Corinne Wettlaufer

Carol & Christopher Wilson

Tom & Kathy Butt

Suanne Crouse

Nancy Ebel & Family

Dorothy Hibbard

Terry & Sandra Jardine

Norma Mosgrove

David Potje

Doug & Alison Riddell

Donna & Ralph Szilock

Bernice Uebele

Don & Anne Willcox

Ted Youngs & Family

From our families to yours, may you be blessed in this holy season with hope, peace, joy, & love. May the presence of Christ dwell with you!