
St. James'-Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave. Kitchener ON N2B 1K2

519-742-1002 www.sjruc.ca

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



December 24, 2023 – Christmas Eve – Family Service
Worship Leaders Rev. Chris Fickling and Alison Vicary

Welcome and thank you for sharing in our Christmas celebrations!

*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** (Craig Curry)

Opening

Opening Carol **O Come, All Ye Faithful** VU 60

**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;**

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

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

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

**4 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;**

Refrain

**5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:**
Refrain

Lighting our Advent Wreath – Christ Candle

Sung Blessing **Between Darkness and Light**

English trans. and Music © 2006 Daphna Rosenberg Used with permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense A-724253

First time: Solo, Second time: All

***Between darkness and light I will always walk;
and wherever I will go,
I will open a window of light,
and plant the seeds of love.***

OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Story of Christmas: The Gospel of Matthew/Luke

Unwrapping the Gifts of Christmas: Mary and Joseph

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

Unwrapping the Gifts of Christmas: Angels and Shepherds

Carol **While Shepherds Watched** VU 75

**1 *While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.***

**2 *'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
'glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.***

**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:***

**4 *'The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
and in a manger laid.'***

**5 *Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:***

**6 *'All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace!
Good will to all from highest heaven
begin, and never cease.'***

The Story of Christmas: The Gospel of Matthew

Unwrapping the Gifts of Christmas: Wise Ones

**3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.**

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

**4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.** Refrain

**5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.** Refrain

The Story of Christmas: The Gospel of John

Unwrapping the Gifts of Christmas: Us

**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.**

**2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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.**

SHARING OUR CHRISTMAS JOY

Invitation to Offering (Donate online at sjruc.ca)

Thank you to all those who support the ministry of SJR through time, talents, and treasures. As the ushers pass along the offering plates we invite those who give through PAR or Pre-Authorized Remittance and those who give a monthly gift, to please put a card into the plate so we can celebrate your generosity. Information on how to sign up to donate by PAR can be obtained through the office mail@sjruc.ca 519-742-1002.

For those who wish to donate online through Canada Helps, please visit our website sjruc.ca or scan this QR code:



Offertory **O Little Town of Bethlehem** (Larry Shackley)

*Response **In the Bleak Midwinter** VU 55 v4

**4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

Prayer

One: May the magnificence of the night sky,
shine in your eyes.

May the courage of generations past,
surround you with faith and love.

May angels whisper songs into your ears
tonight, as you dream.

May shepherds listen well,
to share their joy with the world.

May wise ones travel tonight and find
a generous welcome at open doors.

May we listen to the stillness
and hear the promise of God tonight.

May the gift of Jesus help us to be present
with those we love, and all whom God loves.

And may this night be a special gift, full of
wonder, and filled with peace, so that we
never look at our world the same way again.

For Jesus is born tonight: one of us tonight.

In this moment, where humanity becomes you
may the whisper of promise
feel restless across the land, now still and cold
as if angels are readying to sing
and stars preparing to shine.

For the moment of birth is a breath away
the moment where the word leaves the
printed page of ancient scripture and
prophecy and becomes flesh tonight.

With us, tonight. Between us, tonight.

Within us, tonight.

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:**



Barbara Adams	Terry & Sandra Jardine	Donna & Ralph Szilock
Ena Arnot	Joan Kaehler	Gary & Sharon
Janice Bock	Cathy Meyer	Szymkowski
Tom & Kathy Butt	Norma Mosgrove	Neil Taylor
Robert & Gail Campbell	Cindy Mounteer	Denis & Marjorie Tinklin
Jim & Teresa Carse	Cec & Jan Omand	Bernice Uebele
Suanne Crouse	Charmian Patrick &	Fern Ward
Bill & Dianne Dyck	Hong Seang	Corinne Wettlaufer
Nancy Ebel & Family	Lynda Perkes	Judy Wiens
Maizie Evers	Andrew & Dianne Rath	Don & Anne Willcox
Debra Hines	Doug & Alison Riddell	Carol Wilson
Beverly Houston	Evelyn Shantz	Ted Youngs & Family

*In the stillness of this night, may you carry peace with you.
 For you are a hope to this community, in the joy and love you bring.
 Thank you for sharing Christmas with us.*