

# Saint Andrew's United Church

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Christmas Eve 2024

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

++ Please rise in body or spirit

MV = More Voices; VU = Voices United

### PRELUDE

*[Please ensure you receive a taper candle upon entering the sanctuary]*

### SCRIPTURE:

sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord; bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.

**Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;**

let the sea roar and all that fills it;  
let the field exult and everything in it.

**Then shall all the trees of the forest  
sing for joy before the Lord,**

for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.**

- Psalm 96, selected verses.

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*We worship on the unceded territory of the Halq'eméylem-speaking peoples. Following the recommend practice, we acknowledge the territory extemporaneously.*

### CANDLELIGHTING:

*[The four Advent candles are lit as the scripture is read.]*

SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 9:2-7

### GREETING:

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us lift up our hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-7

*[We light the Christ candle]*

++HYMN: VU 40 – “Before the Marvel of This Night”

### PRAYER:

Therefore with the woman who gave you birth,  
with the man who took you on his shoulders,  
with the shepherds who found you in a feed trough,  
with the magi who knew of you from the silent stars,  
and with the aged prophets who saw in you the redemption of the world:

**We sing to you.**

With the angels and archangels who envelop us,  
With all the saints before us and beside us,  
With brothers and sisters, east and west, north and south,

**We sing to you.**

And with our loved ones,  
separate from us now,  
who yet, in this mystery are close to us,  
We sing the hymn of unending praise:

**Holy, holy holy Lord,**

**God of hosts, all praise be given!**

**All your glory fills the earth;**

**all your power fills the heavens.**

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

**Blessed is the one who came,  
bringing love and light divine.  
Blessed is the king who comes  
in the bread and in the wine.**

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

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:8-14

**++HYMN:** VU 60 – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

### **MEDITATION**

#### **PRAYER:**

Blessed are you,  
O God of strength and vulnerability.  
You are the midwife of our lives,  
who pulls us, kicking, into life  
and breathes Spirit into us.

Blessed is your servant Mary  
and blessed is the holy child of her womb,  
born into poverty and exile,  
to proclaim the good news to the poor,  
and freedom to all who are oppressed.

Blessed is your son, Jesus,  
who emptied himself of power  
and became foolishness for our sake:  
heaven's child laid in a manger;  
God's anointed laid in a tomb.  
Born again from the shuddering earth,  
he is embodied forever  
in his living creation  
and in these, its fruits of bread and wine.

Blessed is our brother Jesus,

bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh;  
who, on the night when he was delivered over to death,  
took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said:

**"This is my body, which is for you.  
Do this to remember me."**

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying:

**"This cup is the new covenant in my blood.  
Do this, whenever you drink it,  
to remember me."**

So, as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died;  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.**

Therefore, here in this place,  
we celebrate the life that was born at Bethlehem,  
the life that Jesus has shared  
among his community through the centuries,  
And shares with us now.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:15-20

**OFFERING:** *[The gifts are brought forward.]*

**++DOXOLOGY:** *[Sung]*

**Glory be to God the Father,  
glory be to Christ the Son,  
glory to the Holy Spirit,  
glory to the Three-in-One.  
Here we offer to you gladly  
all the gifts that you impart,  
as we glory in your Presence,  
giving from a grateful heart.**

**PRAYER:**

Made one with him,  
and thus one with each other,  
we lay before you these gifts of bread and wine,  
in token of our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,  
for here we offer and present to you ourselves,  
our bodies, minds and spirits,  
to be a holy and continuous sacrifice to you.

Come now, O Spirit of Christ,  
Brood over these bodily things,  
this bread and this wine.

**May they be for us  
your body and blood,  
Vibrant with life,  
Healing, renewing  
and making us whole.**

And embrace us  
with your life-giving power,  
that as bread and wine are made one with us,  
we may become one with you.

**Bone of your bone,  
Flesh of your flesh,  
living our prayer  
and praying our life  
until love and fidelity embrace,  
peace and justice kiss,  
and all are free as Christ is free.**

**DISTRIBUTION** – *[In the round]*

*[Taper candles are lit from the Christ Candle]*

**HYMN:** VU 67 - “Silent Night”

**BENEDICTION:** *[by candlelight]*

We go now into the magic of this night,  
where Heaven touches Earth  
and all things are possible.

**We go to live the good news:  
the Holy resides in the Human  
and Love unites the world.**

**HYMN:** VU 45 – “Joy Is Now in Every Place”

**POSTLUDE**

**END OF WORSHIP**

**BEGINNING OF SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY**

*Elements of tonight's service are taken from "Resources for the Christmas Season," LaughingBird.Net. Web. Accessed December 21, 2014.*

# Saint Andrew's United Church

## Carols for Christmas Eve 2024

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### Before The Marvel of This Night

Words: Jaroslav Vajda

Music: Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night  
adoring, fold your wings and bow,  
then tear the sky apart with light  
and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,  
that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace,  
sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song,  
this is the day the Lord has made,  
assemble here, celestial throng,  
in royal splendour come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss,  
a teasing taste of what they miss,  
sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss,  
sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known,  
our constant joy and endless light,  
now to the loveless world be shown,  
now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love  
that rules our universe above:  
sing love, sing love, sing God is love,  
sing love, sing God is love!

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

Words: Frederick Oakeley

Music: John Francis Wade

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!

God of God, Light of Light,  
lo, He abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created; [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

## **Silent Night**

Words: Joseph Mohr

Music: Franz Xavier Gruber

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,  
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

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.

Silent night, holy night!  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born

## **Joy is Now in Every Place**

Author Unknown

German carol melody

Joy is now in every place,  
Christmas lightens every face;  
now be with us, in your grace,  
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

May the star that shone that night,  
making your poor stable bright,  
fill our hearts with love and light,  
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

Through the New Year let it stay,  
leading us upon your way,  
making Christmas every day,  
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

Now and ever may we find  
your good news to fill our minds:  
peace and love to humankind,  
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.