

**ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2018 8:00 pm**  
**Christmas Candlelight Service**



# Welcome to St. David's United Church

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*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and Inclusive Community*

**Monday, December 24, 2018 8:00 pm**

Presiding: Rev. Peggy McDonagh

Scripture Readers: Eldon Godfrey and Dianne Trew

Music provided by Music Director Brent Tucker, Choirs of St. David's

Leader (L) **People (P)**

**PRELUDES** *Noel X – Grand Jeu et Duo*  
*In Dulci Jubilo*  
*La Creche*

*L-C. Daquin*  
*D. Buxtehude*  
*A. Guilman*

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

### ENTRANCE INTO CHRISTMAS EVE

L It is night after a long day,  
What is done is done.

What is not done, is not done.

**P On this Christmas eve we rest for a gentle pause.  
Leaving behind our cares, fears and worries  
we breathe deeply in the darkness  
knowing God's holy light of love shines in and around us.**

L This eve we celebrate the Holy One born in us again,

**P now we have reason to hope, to love, to laugh, and to live.**

L Let us be together on this wondrous night.

**CAROL** O Come, all ye faithful

VU #60

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;

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:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.  
Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest:

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

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

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

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

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

#### **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES**

L Hope looked down and saw despair.

**P** “**I will go there,**” said Hope. (*Blue candle is lit*)

L Hope is a young girl’s courage to face the unknown and a husband’s trust as he sought shelter for his young wife.

L Peace looked down and saw unrest.

**P** “**I will go there,**” said Peace. (*Blue candle is lit*)

L Peace is a lonely shepherd hearing the good news of ‘peace on earth’ for everyone.

L Joy looked down and saw sadness.

**P** “**I will go there,**” said Joy. (*Pink candle is lit*)

L Joy is a young mother’s quiet strength and silent delight at the birth of her baby.

L Love looked down and saw hatred.

**P** “**I will go there,**” said Love. (*Blue candle is lit*)

L Love, God’s energy that surrounds and flows through all life.

#### **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

L No matter who we are. . .  
No matter what we are facing. . .  
No matter where we come from. . .  
No matter what may lie ahead. . .

**P** **This night we feel God’s loving energy beating in all Creation**

**and holding us in our human struggles. This night we open our hearts to receive hope, peace, joy and love.**

L We light the Christ Candle, a symbol of God's Holy Light. In the beauty of this night and with quietness in our hearts may we know the peace and fullness of this holy time.

**ANTHEM**

*O Holy Night*

*A. Adam*

**OPENING WORDS**

L Hush, can you hear it?

**P Hear what?**

L The mysterious voice of a divine presence, the startled exclamation of a young woman, the heartbeat of fear and courage.

**READING** Luke 1:26, 28-32

**REFLECTION** *Gift of Courage*

**CAROL** To a Maid Whose Name was Mary vs. 1, 3 & 4 VU #14

1 To a maid whose name was Mary,  
the angel Gabriel came.  
"Fear not," the angel told her,  
"I come to bring good news,  
good news I come to tell you,  
good news, I say, good news.

3 But Mary was most troubled  
to hear the angel's word.  
What was the angel saying?  
It troubled her to hear,  
to hear the angel's message,  
it troubled her to hear.

4 "Fear not, for God is with you,  
and you shall bear a child.  
His name shall be called Jesus,  
God's offspring from on high.  
And he shall reign forever,  
forever reign on high."

**OPENING WORDS**

L Hush, can you hear it?

**p Hear what?**

L The motion of a dream, the perplexed sighs of a carpenter's heart,  
the growing tension of indecision, and a kindness and trust shown.

**READING** Matthew 1:18-21

**REFLECTION** *Gifts of Kindness and Trust*

**ANTHEM** *The Star of Bethlehem*

*S. DeFord*

**OPENING WORDS**

L Hush, can you hear it?

**P** **Hear what?**

L The sighs of reluctant parents on a journey into the unknown and  
the whisper of vulnerability surrounded by hope.

**READING** Luke 2: 1-5

**REFLECTION** *Gift of Hope*

**CAROL** O Little Town of Bethlehem vs. 1-3 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.

**OPENING WORDS**

L Hush, can you hear it?

**P Hear what?**

L The sounds of gratitude in the world's shadowed places and in the heart of humankind.

**READING** Luke 2:8-15, 20

**REFLECTION** *Gift of Gratitude*

**CAROL** While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks vs. 1-4 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 Savior, who is Christ the Lord,  
and this shall be the sign:
4. "The heav'nly Babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid."

**OPENING WORDS**

L Hush, can you hear it?

**P Hear what?**

L The sounds of love and joy in a mother's sigh, a baby's cry,  
and quietly in the heart of a father.

**READING** Luke 2: 6-7

**REFLECTION** *Gift of Love*

**READING** Luke 2:16-18

**REFLECTION** *Gift of Joy*

**ANTHEM** *Great, Great Joy*

*M. Hayes*



- 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.

#### **CHRISTMAS BENEDICTION**

- L So we go out to live the story,  
**P to tell of the Love that is reborn in us this Christmas eve.**  
L Let the gifts of Christmas: courage, kindness, trust, hope,  
gratitude, love, and joy bless our lives with peace  
**P as we share them with all whom we meet this and every day.**  
L Go now with love and in peace. God bless us, everyone.

**POSTLUDE** *Toccata sur "Il est ne, le devin Enfant"* *D. Bedard*

**Thank you for placing the candles in the baskets  
as you leave the church.**

***PLEASE NOTE: The church office will be closed  
from December 25 to January 2, 2019 inclusive.***

**The staff and congregation of St. David's  
United Church wish you all the blessings,  
wonder and beauty of Christmas Hope,  
Peace, Joy and Love.**