

THE UNITED CHURCH OF ST. PAUL & ST. STEPHEN
KENTVILLE, NOVA SCOTIA

DECEMBER 24, 2011

9.00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE

(For Audio-Loop, set your hearing aid to "T")

*For What Are We
Waiting?*

WE GATHER

PRELUDE

WELCOME PASSING THE PEACE ANNOUNCEMENTS

* Denotes: Standing in body and/or spirit

WE ENTER INTO WORSHIP

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

We wait
We wait—
not because we do not know the story of Jesus,
and not because you are not already and always here.
We wait
because to wait
is to expect something more.

To wait is to expect that the story
might enter our hearts

and our world
in new ways,
to bring the change for which we long.
(*Light all four Advent candles.*)

**All: In the stillness of this night,
we sense the first stirrings of Christmas joy
and know the wait will soon be over.
Praise be!**

***CAROL #44** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

This is often a season filled
with flashing colours and boisterous joy.
But now is a time for stillness.
Now is a time to catch our breath;
to settle in and settle down
and reflect on the beauty of this night.

We are aware of the gentle turning of Earth;
the balance and harmony of creation.
We pray:

All: May Love find a welcome here.

We hear stories of acts of love among us
and wait patiently for more promises to be fulfilled.
We pray:

All: May Love find a welcome here.

We give thanks for this community
that works side-by-side for love's restoration.
We pray:

All: May Love find a welcome here.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see— I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in the manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC He Shall Feed His Flock

REFLECTION How Love Is Born

CAROL #64 O Little Town of Bethlehem

WE RESPOND

OFFERING

Invitation

*Dedication

These are our gifts for your Son, Loving God. May they birth his arrival into many more lives this Christmas. We will distribute them where needed, wrapped in love with your name upon them. Amen.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION & CANDLELIGHTING

INVITATION

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God,
who created the universe in darkness
and continually restores all things while we sleep.
Darkness is a womb in which
the secret work of God is done.**

**We believe in Jesus the Christ,
who was born in deep of night
and became Light for the world.
Christ sheds light on
the realm of justice and peace on Earth.**

**We believe in the Spirit,
whose energy is evident
in all that lives and breathes.
Through the energy of the Spirit, re-creation is possible
and love's promises are fulfilled.**

CELEBRATION PRAYER

It was as a baby that you came to us, gracious God.
A child in a manger—crying and smiling,
staring out in wonder and sleeping in contentment.

**As we celebrate this birth once again,
fill us with wonder and contentment.**

In a world of craziness and busy-ness,
still our hearts and minds to the beauty of this sacred moment.
We thank you for Mary, a frightened teenage mother
who dared to say “yes” to you.

We thank you for Joseph, confused father
who learned to trust in your mysterious and wonderful ways.

We thank you for Jesus— child, youth, adult—
who brought your presence into our world for us,
offering hope at times when we feel all is lost.

**As we celebrate his birth, so we commemorate his time
among us,**

We remember, how, on the night that Jesus was betrayed,
he sat at supper with his disciples.

While they were eating, Jesus broke bread and as he shared
it said, “remember me.”

Later he took a cup of wine and shared it with the words,
“remember me.”

And so, as Christ did,
we bless these gifts and share them amongst ourselves,
and in doing so we remember
Christ’s presence with us— always. Amen.

***BREAD AND WINE ARE RECEIVED**

***CANDLES ARE LIGHTED**

***BLESSING**

***CAROL** Silent Night
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 Hallelujah,
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 the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

CHURCH STAFF

Ministers:

**Ordained - Rev. Dr. Randy Crozman-
Staff Associate - Anne Cameron
Organist/Choir Director - Ken Hassell**

PARTICIPATING IN THE SERVICE:

Greeter - Joan Tracey
Layreader - Glenda Mills

NOTICE FROM YOUR MINISTRY & PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: The
Church Office will be CLOSED from December 26th to January 3rd
inclusive. In the event of an emergency during this time please call Rev.
Randy at 670-5272 or 678-0977.

**REMINDER: STARTING SUNDAY , JANUARY 1ST, TIME OF
WORSHIP IS 10:00 a. m.**

**POINSETTIA PLANTS PLACED IN THE SANCTUARY FOR THE
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SEASON ARE DEDICATED TO THE
GLORY OF GOD IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**

Willard Bishop by wife, Diana & Family

Gerry Buchan by wife, Marion & Family

Arthur Byers & son, Jerry by Catherine & Family

Jack Cooper by wife, Flo & Family

Donald & Edith Haines by the families

Sasa Kovac by Georgie Phinney

Joe Marshall by Mary & family

Kenneth M. MacLean, father Kenneth M. MacLean, and Marilyn K.

Large, sister, by Gail Archibald

Janet Neary by Lamont & Mary Larkin

Enid & Jim Petrie by Allison, Doug and family

The Rev. Vincent & Jean Rushton, Phyllis & Kenneth Doyle by Bob
& Barb Rushton

Vernon L. & Alice MacDonald, Leo & Catherine Comeau and

Vernon MacDonald by Mary, Shelley, Michael & Family.

By the White Family

*A BLESSED HOLY
CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!
FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL
AND STAFF*

