

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement:
Rev. Greg Powell

Carol ~ O Come All Ye Faithful VU 60

♪ ♪ O come, all ye faithful, joyful and expectant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, Love in flesh appearing.

REFRAIN:

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 [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]

Opening Prayer

O God of new life, we ask your blessing upon this time together, upon this night of celebration. We thank you for Jesus, one who would show a way of truth and justice, but one born in humble conditions without status or wealth. Receive our gratitude, remind us of your presence here and now. Amen.

Passing the Peace

Reading – Luke 2: 1-7

Carol ~ O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64

♪ ♪ 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.

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 and anthems ring.
for peace to all on earth.

Reading – Luke 2: 8-14

Carol ~ Angels We Have Heard on High VU 38

♪ ♪ Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.

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

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come to him who sets you free!
Let your grateful praises ring.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Reading – Luke 2: 15-20

Carol ~ Away in a Manger VU 69

♪ ♪ Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the baby boy Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the baby boy Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but baby boy Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, dear Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Reflection

Carol ~ It Came upon the Midnight Clear VU 44

♪ ♪ It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold,
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven good news we bring!”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Offering

Choir: *Lullay, Noel* arr. Becki Slagle Mayo

Communion (see blue insert)

Lighting Christmas Eve Candles

Duet: Night of Silence

Carol: Silent Night (see lavender insert)

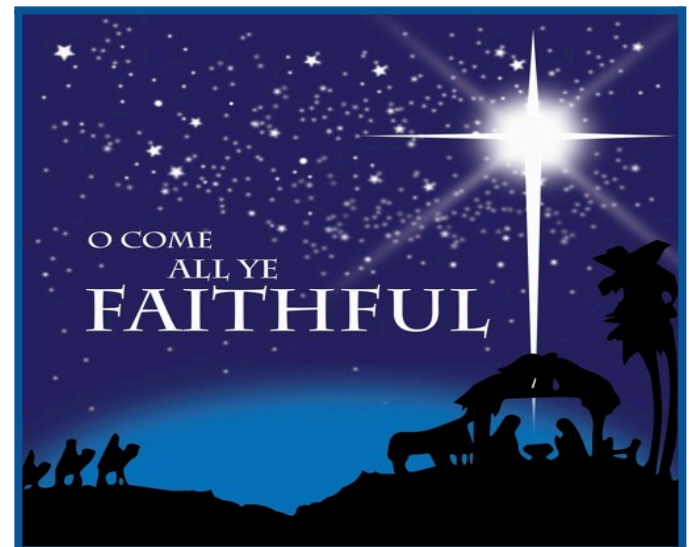
Blessing

Carol: Go Tell it On the Mountain (see lavender insert)

James Bay United Church

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

8:00 pm December 24, 2024



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 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 Christ, at thy birth, Jesus, Christ, at thy birth**

Carol ~ Go Tell it On the Mountain

♪ ♪ **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and
everywhere!**

Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

**While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night**

Behold throughout the heavens there shone a Holy light.

Go tell it ...

**The shepherds feared and trembled
When, lo! Above the Earth rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth**

Go, tell it ...

**Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born
and brought us all salvation that blessed Christmas morn**

Go, tell it ...

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Communion Prayer for Christmas Eve

Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of life, Source of love.
We bless you for all your good gifts.

**On this night of nights we give thanks for the gift
of yourself born into our world.**

We thank you for Mary, for her courageous yes to your call,
her strength in giving birth to your love in the world.

**We thank you for Jesus. Born on life's margin,
he was one of us, full of our joy and subject to our frailty**

From his fullness we all receive grace upon grace.

**Through him we are given to see our worth
and trust the truth of your enduring love.**

He welcomed everyone who was unwelcome elsewhere.

**To one and all he shows another way of being human
together.**

He kept faith with you, even when it cost him his life.

**And yet his death was not the end. In his rising
we come to trust that nothing can limit your love.**

In his rising we come to trust he is with us still.

In his rising we come to trust that every life is NOW!

And so it is on this Christmas Eve we join our voices
with your people of every time and place,
even the whole company of heaven, celebrating his birth
and singing...

♪♪ **Gloria! In excelsis deo!**

In the middle of another night when the end was near
and betrayal was in the air, he shone all the brighter with love

for his friends.

He ate with them. And as he lifted the bread to bless it,
it was as though his whole life was gathered up in that
bread. He thanked you.

"My body," he said, breaking the bread to share with his
friends. "Eat this, and let it become part of you.
Do this in the awareness that I am with you."

**Then he lifted the cup ... as though it was brimming
with his whole life.** He thanked you for it, and passed it
to them, saying, "this is the cup of a new covenant poured
out for you and for all, that the power of forgiveness may
be released among you.

Whenever you do this, remember me."

God of Mercy, we remember also and hold in the light of
your love the whole creation in need of your saving grace.

Hear the prayers of our hearts ...

Pour out your Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts.

**Make us one with Christ in his self-giving,
that our lives too may be broken open and poured out
for the healing of the world.**

Make us one in love for you and the whole creation
**that your justice may roll down like a mighty river,
and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

**In this hope and as your people we praise you,
O Infinite Love, now and forever. AMEN!**

Sharing the bread and cup.

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