

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P.O. Box 6206, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 6J9

76 Queen's Road at Long's Hill

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Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11pm

December 24, 2014

Welcome to St. Andrew's Church! Our prayer this Christmas for you is love. In the singing of the carols, through the reading of the Scriptures, and in your quiet reflections we pray an open mind and heart to His love that will not let you go.

Prelude

Entry of Bible

Choral Introit: 'What star is this?'

Chandler/Woodward

Call to Celebration:

Darkness and stillness on a clear night;

Unsuspecting shepherds huddle against the cold.

A night like so many other nights;

A night just like tonight,

When stars may stray from their course

And carols echo in the heavens;

When our hearts sense something

And our bodies tingle with expectation.

It could happen again;

It is happening now;

Tonight and every night,

When hearts are open and spirits are ready.

Carol #159 'O Come, all ye Faithful'

(Lighting of candles)

Prayer of Anticipation: *(Unison) Holy Child, source of smiling joy and eternal hope, look upon us with tender eyes. Holy Child, bring your gentle light to the hidden corners of our lives so our fears are rendered small and powerless. Holy Child, touch our wounds and lift the hurts and resentments we carry so our words may be clear and our actions may be kind. Holy Child, draw close to those who celebrate this holy season without a special loved one, and be near to those whose failing health dims the angelic chorus. In all and in each, cause our hearts to leap in wonder, our eyes to tear with joy and our souls to swell with love. Jesus, Holy Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Amen.*

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Jenny Pallard

(page 638)

Carol # 166 'Once in royal David's city'

Prayer of Celebration: (Unison) *Dearest God, Holy Creator, Joy of the world! Hope of tomorrow! Light of heaven! Lover of humanity! You are the beginning and the end. Through your Word the world and everything in it exists. You are the maker of red berried holly trees, of fragrant Christmas trees, of tinsel sparkling with many colours of light, of carols to be sung, of gifts given and received, of children born, of blessed rest everlasting, of everything which is beautiful, which is lovely, which is good*

O Holy God, Word made flesh, in the sacred hush of this time and place, help us like Mary to treasure your good news in our hearts. Give us a renewed awe and amazement as we ponder your goodness. Is anything too wonderful for you, O God? No, indeed! Thank you for the gift of this night. Amen.

Scripture Reading: John 1:1-18

Bob Halliday

(page 091)

Carol #138 'While Shepherds watched their flocks by night'

Meditation: 'My Christmas Miracle'

Solo: "O Holy Night"

Kristina Bernardo

Dwight/Adam

Prayer of Intercession: (Unison) *Your love, O God, frees us to look beyond ourselves and the priority of our own needs and wants. On this night we stand with the poor who have long awaited their deliverance. We stand with all those for whom there is no room in any inn - We stand with the broken-hearted, knowing that Jesus Christ is Lord and that no circumstance can separate us now from the love of God. We lift up to you the needs we have seen in our families, communities and world. Grant to your people the opportunity and the courage to make a loving difference in the life of another in Jesus' name. Amen.*

The Christ Candle is Lit

(See Insert)

Ewan, Heather, Jill and Beth Cumming

Carol # 154 Silent Night

Prayer of Love: *(Unison) In the eyes of this Christ child we see glimmers of what is to come: We see him slipping away from his parents to sit in the synagogue; We see him rubbing clay into the eyes of a blind man so that he can see! We hear him uttering words of grace: "Daughter, your faith has made you well." "Rise and walk!" "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." "I will be with you always." Holy Jesus, as you have loved us, show us now how to love one another. Help us, O God, to shine the light of your love to all around. Amen.*

Offering and Offertory

Dedication of Our Offerings

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed 578

Carol # 133 'Go Tell it on the Mountain'

Benediction

Postlude