



KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE - December 24, 2022

Supply Minister: Rev. Linda N. Robinson
Music Director: Suzanne Strahan

* We recommend wearing masks throughout the service. Thank you.

PRELUDE: A Carol Fantasy (Suite Noel) - Franklin D. Ashdown

WELCOME

CAROL: O come, all ye faithful

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:

**CHORUS: 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:

CHORUS

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

CHORUS

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:
"Glory to God in the highest!"

CHORUS

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

CHORUS

READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

CALL TO WORSHIP: (Isaiah 2:4, 11:6, 35:1, 7:14b, 9:2)

Reader: We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ. Advent means coming.

We are preparing ourselves for the days-

ALL: when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Reader: We light the candle of hope.

Reader: The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

**ALL: the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
And a little child shall lead them.**

Reader: We light the candle of peace.

Reader: The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

**ALL: like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.**

Reader: We light the candle of joy.

Reader: The Lord will give you a sign.
Look the young woman is with child

**ALL: and shall bear a son,
and shall name him Immanuel - God is with us.**

Reader: We light the candle of love.

Reader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**ALL: those who lived in a land of deep darkness
on them light has shined.**

Reader: The centre candle in our Advent wreath is the Christ candle. From this light, all good gifts come. We light this candle remembering the One who is the Light of the world.

ALL: Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

ANTHEM: All Is Well - words & music by Michael W. Smith & Wayne Kirkpatrick, arr. by Michael Barrett

PRAYER OF ADORATION

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

READING: Psalm 97 (Read Responsively)

Reader: The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice. Clouds and thick darkness surround him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

ALL: Fire goes before him and consumes his foes on every side. His lightning lights up the world; the earth sees and trembles.

Reader: The mountains melt like wax before the LORD, before the Lord of all the earth.
The heavens proclaim his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory.
All who worship images are put to shame,
those who boast in idols—worship him, all you gods!

ALL: Zion hears and rejoices and the villages of Judah are glad because of your judgments, O Lord. For you, O Lord, are the Most High over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

Reader: Let those who love the LORD hate evil,
for he guards the lives of his faithful ones
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
Light is shed upon the righteous and joy on the upright in heart.

ALL: Rejoice in the Lord you who are righteous, and praise his holy name.

CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem

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 to God the King and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings born 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.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive)

Mystery made manifest, One God,

Have mercy upon us

If You give Your unsearchable riches to us, only to find we happily cling to the counterfeit treasures of this world,

Lord, be patient with us.

If You must see in us that riches are such things as we can count, and touch and feel and own, while we must learn from You a wealth named truth, inherited through pain.

Lord, be patient with us.

If you should find us small, afraid and hidden behind the clutter of things we schemed to get,

Lord, be patient with us.

If we need time to turn away from wants and know your gifts as we know food and bed,

Lord, be patient with us

And if, in the turmoil of our thoughts, we sense at last the act You have performed, committing Yourself to us, inviting us to bring ourselves to you,

Lord, keep us in that faith.

For in Your redeeming love You are manifest to us, and we, your frail and dusty images, become alive to You.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, grant us your peace.

ANTHEM: Little Drop of Heaven

- Words & music by Pepper Choplin

READING: Titus 2:11-14

CAROL: Joy to the World

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:

Let earth receive its King;

Let every heart prepare him room

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven and nature sing,

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns;

Let us our songs employ,

While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains –

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world 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.

READING: Luke 2:1-14

CAROL: Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,

The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,

The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,

But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.

I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,

And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay,

Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.

Bless all the dear children in your tender care,

And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

READING: Luke 2:15-20

MEDITATION: “The Mystery of Christmas”

ANTHEM: This Child - words & music by Mary McDonald

OFFERING * *

**Prayer of Thanksgiving, Intercession, Offertory
and the Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory, forever. **Amen.**

CAROL: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled;
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

**CHORUS: Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.**

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin’s womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

**CHORUS: Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.**

Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give us second birth.
**CHORUS: Hark! The herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.**

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION: A Christmas Blessing
- words & music by Dennis Jernigan, arr. by Suzanne Strahan

POSTLUDE: Joy to the World

- Based on Handel, arr. by Norman Johnson

We are so grateful to gather together to celebrate the birth of
the Christ Child on this Christmas Eve. May God’s blessings of
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love be yours. The Knox Congregation
welcomes you to join us for worship and ministry in the New
Year. We gather for worship at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays.

Note: Christmas Day will be celebrated with family and friends.
No worship service at Knox Stratford on December 25. Please join
us again on **Sunday, January 1st** at 10:30 am for coffee and worship.

* * Your offering may be left in the offering plate in the Narthex. The
loose Christmas offering will be donated to the **House of Blessing in
Stratford**. The deadline for 2022 Knox Stratford contributions is
Saturday, December 31. Donations can be left in the locked mail
box in the Alleyway of Knox or sent by e-transfer to
treasurerknox@wightman.ca



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