

**Hybrid Worship for December 25, 2022**  
**Christmas Day**

**Territorial Acknowledgment and Announcements**

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississauga of the Credit First Nations. The territory is mutually covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Ojibway and other allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in their community, and to share and respect Mother Earth.

**Centering Music: "Still, Still, Still" VU 47**

Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.

The Christ child in his crib lies sleeping,  
angels round him watch are keeping.

Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus softly sleep,  
while Mary sings and gently holds you,  
safely in her arms enfolds you.

Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus softly sleep.

Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!

For through God's holy incarnation

Christ is born for our salvation.

Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!

**Call to Worship**

One: Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.

**All: For out of God's own being,  
Jesus has come to bring light and love to all people.**

One: Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us,  
come to gather our tears and laughter,  
our work and our play, into God's loving embrace.

**All: Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.**

**Opening Carol and Reflection: “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” VU 73 Ian Prentice**

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
the Virgin Mary had a baby boy,  
and they say that his name is Jesus.

Chorus: He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.  
Oh yes, believer! Oh yes, believer!  
He come from the glory,  
He come from the glorious kingdom.

The angels sang when the baby was born,  
The angels sang when the baby was born,  
The angels sang when the baby was born,  
and they say that his name is Jesus.

Chorus:

The shepherds came where the baby born,  
the shepherds came where the baby born,  
the shepherds came where the baby born,  
And they say that his name is Jesus.

Chorus:

**Opening Prayer: *Written by Rev. Nancy Hardy, published in “Worship in the City”***

**All: Thank you, God,  
for memories and memory-making  
of Christmases past and those yet to come,  
mixtures of calm and confusion,  
light and darkness,  
cold and warmth,  
regrets discarded, and  
treasures piles high.  
Thank you  
for anticipation and hope,  
laughter and joy  
from children’s giggles  
and grown-up’s chuckles.  
Gathered, we enjoy the warmth and companionship  
and pray that  
scattered, we continue in thanksgiving**

**for this day and the days to come,  
for the One who gives us life  
and lives your love.**

**There are no words to say at all except  
Wonder, Praise, and Thank you.**

**Amen**

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

One: Our waiting is over.

**All: Today we are filled with hope,  
encircled with peace,  
surrounded by joy,  
enfolded in love.**

*(the four Advent candles are lit)*

One: This circle of dancing light beckons another  
to join it at its heart,  
a light that can fill our world.

**All: We light the Christ candle,  
may its gentle light warm our hearts,  
may its spreading light pull us into the world,  
may its dancing light accompany us.**

*(the Christ candle is lit)*

### **Sung Response: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" VU 58**

Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is born for all!  
Christ the babe is born for all!

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
vigil till the morning new  
saw the glory, heard the story,  
tidings of a gospel true.  
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
Christ the child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!

**A Christmas Story**      *“The Give Away”* Written and Illustrated by Ray Buckley

[https://www.google.com/search?q=The+give+Away&rlz=1C1GCEA\\_enCA768CA768&oq=The+give+Away&aqs=chrome..69i57j46i131i433i512l2j0i131i433i512j0i512j46i512j0i512l2j46i512.3690j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:716b70b1,vid:UFe6fGxUJ2g](https://www.google.com/search?q=The+give+Away&rlz=1C1GCEA_enCA768CA768&oq=The+give+Away&aqs=chrome..69i57j46i131i433i512l2j0i131i433i512j0i512j46i512j0i512l2j46i512.3690j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#fpstate=ive&vld=cid:716b70b1,vid:UFe6fGxUJ2g)

**Carol and Reflection:**    *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”* VU 44 verses 1 & 4 *Christina Mulligan*

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 men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

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

**Music and Reflection:**    *“O Holy Night”* *Jo-Anne Prentice*

O Holy Night!  
The stars are brightly shining  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining  
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees  
Oh hear the angel voices  
Oh night divine  
Oh night when Christ was born  
Oh night divine  
Oh night divine

**Carol and Reflection: “See, Amid the Winter Snow” VU 76 Linda Finlay**

See amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the tender Lamb appears,  
promised from eternal years.

Chorus: Hail, thou ever blessed morn,  
hail, redemption's happy dawn,  
sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem

Lo, within a manger lies  
God who built the starry skies,  
who, enthroned in height sublime  
sits amid the cherubim.

Chorus:

Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a mighty love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

Chorus:

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Hymn of Dedication: Tune VU 75**

We bring our gifts with humble hearts,  
to you our gracious God.  
May all we share and all we do  
bear witness to your love.

**Gift of Music**

**Prayer of Dedication:**

**All: God of gifts and giving,  
today we celebrate your gift of love to the world.  
May all that we offer bring hope and joy,  
love and peace to transform us and others.  
Amen**

**Prayers of the People with Silent Night** *reflection by John Finlay*

One: Loving God, today we pray our thanks to you –  
for communities that support us and nurture us

throughout the changes and challenges we face,  
for acceptance and belonging in our church and our families,  
for all the reasons we have to celebrate at Christmas time.  
And we offer our prayers for others:

*Two: Today, we offer our prayers for all those who wander –  
those who have not found a physical or spiritual home,  
those who live on our streets and need shelter,  
those who struggle to be accepted just as they are,  
those who live in or continue to experience isolation.  
And we pray as we sing:*

***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***

One: Parent God, we pray our thanks for our children,  
no matter what their age may be,  
and we thank you for the perfume of a new-born baby,  
the exuberance of a toddler, the curiosity of teens,  
the blooming independence of young adults,  
the energy of those in their middle years  
and the wisdom of our elders.  
We thank you for families of all sizes and descriptions,  
and we offer our prayers for others:

*Two: Today we pray for children and families:  
large families and small families,  
hearty families and broken families,  
ones with many children, those who yearn for children.  
We pray for all those who wait for a child to be born  
into their families.  
We pray for children and families in distress,  
and all those who need peace in hearts, minds or bodies.  
And we pray as we sing:*

***Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar***

***Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born***

One: Creator of all, we give you thanks for all the good of your earth –  
the stars in the sky, the snow and the rain,  
for people who care for us and for those for whom we can care.  
We thank you for mystery and for wonder,  
for your own presence in a tiny child,  
and your Spirit who walks with each one of us,  
and we offer our prayers for others:

Two: *Today we pray for all those who live with fear –  
those who live with violent surroundings and situations,  
and fear they will never know peace and security,  
those who are hungry and afraid they will not have enough to eat,  
those who are cold and afraid they will not find shelter,  
those who are ill and afraid they will never be well again.  
And we pray as we sing:*

***Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God love's pure light.  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth***

One: Today we pray for those who feel they live in darkness –  
the darkness of worry and despair, the darkness of loneliness,  
the darkness of illness in body mind or spirit.

Two: *May the light we share across our distances  
become a beacon of God's love and acceptance.  
We light our candles and pray as we sing.*

***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.***

**Closing Carol: "Good King Wenceslas Looked Out"**

Good King Wenceslas look'd out,  
    On the Feast of Stephen;  
When the snow lay round about,  
    Deep, and crisp, and even:  
Brightly shone the moon that night,  
    Though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight,  
    Gath'ring winter fuel.

"Hither page and stand by me,  
    If thou know'st it, telling,  
Yonder peasant, who is he?  
    Where and what his dwelling?"  
"Sire, he lives a good league hence.  
    Underneath the mountain;  
Right against the forest fence,  
    By Saint Agnes' fountain."

"Bring me flesh, and bring me wine,  
    Bring me pine-logs hither:  
Thou and I will see him dine,  
    When we bear them thither."  
Page and monarch forth they went,  
    Forth they went together;  
Through the rude wind's wild lament,  
    And the bitter weather.

"Sire, the night is darker now,  
    And the wind blows stronger;  
Fails my heart, I know now how,  
    I can go no longer."  
"Mark my footsteps, good my page;  
    Tread thou in them boldly;  
Thou shalt find the winter's rage  
    Freeze thy blood less coldly."

In his master's steps he trod,  
    Where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod  
    Which the Saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christian folk, be sure,

Wealth or rank possessing,  
Ye who now will bless the poor,  
Shall yourselves find blessing.

**Shared Blessing**      *by Ruth Burgess from the collection "Winter"*

**All: Emmanuel  
God-with-us  
bless us and caress us  
this Christmas Day  
and all the days of our lives. Amen**

**Commissioning**

**Sung Closing: "While Shepherds Watched" VU 75 verse 6**

All glory be to God on high,  
and to the earth be peace;  
good will to all from highest heaven  
begin, and never cease.