

Christmas Eve - December 24, 2020 – 8:00 pm

Call to worship:

L: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: Then the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen God's glory, full of grace and truth.

L: What has come into being in Christ was life, and the life was the light of all people.

P: This light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

L: Let us worship together.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

L: In our church and homes we gather around wreaths to pray our lost hopes, broken peace, limited joys, and love so hard to find and share in this season of coronavirus. We affirm that our candles mean we claim the power to call this season Christmas, when God's Emmanuel comes into the world and nothing can overcome it.

We light the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. (relight candles)

P: We now light the Christ candle even when it may seem as if God is not with us because of...

We pause to name and write things that make it seem to us that God in Christ is not with us like, e.g., a lack of love, kindness and mercy etc.

L: God's love illuminates hatred and a compassionate heart and brightens the path to the birth of Christ.

P: Emmanuel, God be with us in the week to come lighting hope, peace, joy and love on the wick of our lives, so that the world may know that Christ is indeed come and God is with us. Amen.

*Carol: "Oh come, all ye faithful" vv. 1,2,5

#159

1. Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

Oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

2. God of God, Light of light,
born unto Mary, the virgin blest,

very God, begotten, not created:

Oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:

Oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him; oh come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Prayer of Approach

Responsive Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

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

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

L: You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

**P: they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when
dividing plunder.**

L: For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their
oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

**P: For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.**

L: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his
shoulders;

**P: and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince
of Peace.**

L: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the
throne of David and his kingdom.

**P: He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this
time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.**

Musical Reflection: Away in Manger sung by Marsha Laur

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-6

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world
should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius
was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He
went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a

child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

Reflection: Travelling to Register

Carol: "The first nowell" v. 1, 7

1. The first nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winters night that was so deep
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell!
Born is the King of Israel.

6. Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our souls hath bought.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell!
Born is the King of Israel.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (p.58)

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

¹⁵ 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." ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reflection: Travelling to go and see

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

¹ In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah[□] was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reflection: Travelling to Give

Offering – Offertory:

*Doxology: *What can I give him, poor as I am?*

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part,

Yet what I can I give him - give my heart

Musical Reflection: Zoé McAndless

Invitation to Communion

Celebration of Communion

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Light

Carol: "Silent night"

1. 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.

2. 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!"

3. 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.

Benediction

Announcements:

The Province of Ontario has ordered a lockdown of the Province starting on December 26 that will last for one month in Southern Ontario. One of the provisions of the lockdown is that no more than 10 people may be physically present for religious services, weddings, and funerals.

As of December 26, 2020, the sanctuary will be closed for in-person worship. All worship services and any other meetings will be carried out online for the period of one month (unless the Province directs otherwise).



2021 Offering Envelopes are available. Please pick them up on the back pew. You can also come into the office during office hours to pick them up. If you need other arrangements, please call the office and we will try to make accommodations.

There are some goodies in the mailbox at the church (the one marked "bulletins") that is free for anyone to pick up.

You will find:

The new Jan/Feb edition of Today is now here!

The Dec-January edition of Our Daily Bread

The winter issue of Presbyterian Connection!

Printed copies of this bulletin each week

Printed copies of Scott's most recent sermon each week.

