



West River United Church

... seeking, sharing, celebrating abundant life in Christ



Rev. Barbara J. Cairns

Andrea Rogers Family and Youth Ministry Coordinator
and all members of West River United Church

David Cairns

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2020, 4:00 pm

Musical Prelude

Welcome*

One: On Jesus' birthday, the angels appeared to the shepherds, proclaiming: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace and goodwill to all" As we celebrate this holy birth, let us proclaim glory to God as we share the peace of Christ with those around us.

The Christ Candle *

One: Light in the darkness, angels in the heavens, a star in the sky, the goodness of God's presence. This is a night of glorious appearances, a night of hope, peace, joy, and love. *(Four Advent candles are lit.)*

All: We give thanks and praise as we light the Christ candle.

(Christ candle is lit.)

♪ 'A Candle is Burning' VU 6 vs. 1 & 5

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
A candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

We honor Messiah with Christ candle's flame,
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

Call to Worship **

One: He's coming! He's coming!

All: Let us prepare our hearts to greet him!

One : He comes to each one of us, healing and restoring our lives!

All: Praise be to God for God's mighty gift to us.

One: O Come, Prince of Peace, bring Your light to us!

All: We are ready to receive You in our lives! Amen.

Prayers of the people and the Lord's Prayer**

One: Welcome to this most magical night when angels and shepherds mingle
and the birth of a baby changes the world.

All: We come to celebrate with joy and wonder.

One: Celebrate the light that shines all around us.

All: We will sing and praise our most wondrous God.

One: Let us kneel before the Christ child, who makes God's promises come
true.

Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught, saying...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the
kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

♪ 'O Come, All Ye Faithful' VU60 vs 1 & 5

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;

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

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

Invitation To The Offering*

One: Come now and kneel before the Christ child. Bring all that you are and all that you have. Offer your gifts in wonder and surprise and awe. Offer your gifts in joy and delight.

Presentation Of Ourselves And Our Gifts To God

♪ **'In the Bleak Midwinter'– VU 55 vs 4**

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.

Offertory Prayer * (unison)***

All: Generous and loving God, Your gift to us in Christ Jesus still draws us to manger and opens our hearts with wonder. Bless our gifts in his name, so that they may draw others to Your love, to find the blessing we have discovered in the One born for us. Amen

Scripture Luke 2:1-14 NRSV

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

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

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Video – Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale, by Martin Waddell.

Prayers of the People and the Animals: *(*unison*)**

♪ ‘Jesus, Our Brother’ VU56 vs. 2

“I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
“I carried the mother up hill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
I,” said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

All: Dear God, we remember and give thanks for the strength and courage of the donkey; always staying the course and carrying us through.

All: The world needs, and we need, some of that strength and courage now. Come.

♪ ‘Jesus, Our Brother’ VU56 vs. 3

“I,” said the cow, all white and red,
“I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head;

I," said the cow, all white and red.

All: Dear God, we remember and give thanks for the comfort and generosity of the cow; always willing to love and share with us. The worlds, and so do we need, some of that comfort and generosity now. Come.

♪ 'Jesus, Our Brother' VU56 vs. 4

"I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I," said the sheep, with curly horn.

All: Dear God, we remember and give thanks for the warmth and shelter of the sheep; always providing the refuge and security we count on. The world needs some of that warmth and shelter now. Come.

♪ 'Jesus, Our Brother' VU56 vs. 5

"I," said the dove, from the rafters high,
"I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;
I," said the dove, from the rafters high.

All: Dear God, we remember and give thanks for the peace and hope of the dove; always calming our fear and connecting hearts and minds. The world needs some of that peace and hope now. We need peace and hope. Come.

♪ 'Jesus, Our Brother' VU56 vs. 6

Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

All: Dear God, we remember and give thanks that You are alive in all the animals; always giving us strength, courage, comfort, generosity, warmth, shelter, peace, and hope. Grant us the wisdom and understanding to truly 'get that'. The world needs some of that wisdom and understanding now. Come.

Benediction **

Go now in wonder.

Go to bring joy to those who can find no joy, hope to a world steeped in realism.
Go with the songs of angels in your ears, and the love of God in your hearts.
Go and spread the word.
The babe of Bethlehem is born for all.

'Joy to the World' VU 59 vs 1 & 4

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven,
and nature sing.

He rules the earth 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.

Postlude

**Whole People of God, 2019.*

***Ministry Matters, December, December 2020.*

****St. Andrew's U.C., Sioux Lookout, Ont. Norah Laverty*

A Candle Is Burning: Words: Sandra Dean 1986, Music: James R. Murray 1887, Words copyright © 1986 Sandra Dean

O Come, All Ye Faithful: Words: English trans. Frederick Oakeley 1841, et al, French trans. Claude Rozier 1950, Music: attrib. John Francis Wade ca. 1743

In the Bleak Midwinter: Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872, Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906

Jesus, Our Brother: Words: French carol, 12th century, trans. Robert Davis, alt. Music: medieval French melody, attrib. Pierre de Corbeil, harm. Carlton R. Young 1987, Translation copyright © CPP/Belwin, Inc. Harmony copyright © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.

Joy to the World: Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt. Music: attrib. George Frideric Handel 1742, arr. Lowell Mason 1836