

December 24th, 2025 – 07:00 pm

Christmas Eve Service

Candles & Holy Communion



WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

"Tonight we gather in wonder, for Love has drawn near."

Prelude: *What Child Is This* (piano: Tom Reynolds, guitar: Daniel Moore)

Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory

Gillian Graham and Gordon MacNeill

As we gather on this holy night,
we remember that long before we lit candles or sang carols,
this land was already sacred,
a place of story, ceremony, and community
for the First Peoples of Turtle Island.
We honour the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit,
and the many Indigenous Nations who have walked, cared for, and stewarded this land
for thousands of years.
On this night when we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child,
the One who comes bringing love, peace, hope, joy, justice, and reconciliation,
we remember that Indigenous communities continue to cry out for these very gifts.

**As treaty people,
we commit ourselves to listening deeply,
learning humbly,
and working alongside Indigenous neighbours
to heal the injustices of the past and present,
so that the hope born tonight may take flesh in us.**

Silent Reflection

Gathering Words and Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

Gillian Graham and Gordon MacNeill

On this holy Christmas Eve night,
when angels sing and shepherds hurry,
we gather in wonder and gratitude.
The Child of promise is born among us,

Light for our despair and Love for our longing.

**We come with joy, with expectation, with open hearts
to welcome the Christ who dwells with us.**

Tonight we light the Christ Candle,
for the Light has come,

Christ is born!

Love has taken flesh,

and we are invited to walk in the radiance of God's glory. (*Light the Christ Candle*)

Thanks be to God,

Love lives among us!

Christmas Carol: VU 48 "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (vv. 1-2)

**1 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!'
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'**

**2 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 with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'**

Prayer

Words of Welcome and Love

Beloved of God, welcome, all who gather in person and all joining us online. On this holy night, we lean close to the ancient story that still stirs the world awake. Here, Love draws near. Here, God chooses to dwell not above us, but with us. Here, we celebrate the birth of Christ, a Child wrapped in vulnerability, yet radiant with the fullness of God. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whatever you carry tonight, you are home in this story of Incarnational Love.

WE HEAR THE STORY

"Let us listen with our whole hearts, for the Child's birth still changes us."

Introduction to Scriptures:

Tonight, we hear two of Scripture's most cherished visions of hope. Isaiah 9 sings of people walking in deep darkness who suddenly see a great light, a promise of justice, peace, and a reign shaped not by power but by compassion. Luke 2 brings that promise down to earth, into history, a census, an empire, a young couple on the margins, and a Child whose birth turns the world upside down. Together, these readings reveal the heart of Christmas: Love has taken flesh. God has come close. Hope begins again. Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Scriptures:	Isaiah 9:2-7	<i>(Inclusive Bible)</i>	Gillian Graham and Gordon MacNeill
	Luke 1:26-38	<i>(Inclusive Bible)</i>	

Choir Anthem: A King Is Born by Sy Gorieb and Tim Hosman, arr. by Tim Sarsany
Tenor-Bass Sections, Trinity-St. Paul's Church Choir

Scriptures:	Luke 2:1-14	<i>(Inclusive Bible)</i>
	Luke 2:15-20	<i>(Inclusive Bible)</i>

Herein is wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

Christmas Carol: VU 62 "Once in Royal" (vv. 1-3)

1 Once in royal David's city	stood a lowly cattleshed,
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where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.

3

There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

Reflection: *"Jesus (the Christ Child) – Incarnational Love"*

Silent Reflection

WE RESPOND TO THE STORY

"May the Christ Child's love move us from hearing to living."

The Sacrament of Holy Communion:

Invitation

Great Thanksgiving:

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the One who has come to dwell among us.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God...

So with all creation we sing:

Holy, holy, holy God,

God of love and light,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Institution & Re-Enactment

Communion

(The elements are shared at the stations in the sanctuary; those online are asked to eat and drink their elements.)

Instrumental: VU 43 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

Passing of the Peace

Christmas Giving

On this night when God's love comes down to dwell among us, we are invited to share that love with the world. Our Christmas offering tonight supports ministries of healing, shelter, justice, and compassion, places where Christ's light is needed most.

**As God has given us the gift of Incarnational Love,
may we offer our gifts with gratitude and joy.**

(The offering is collected in the sanctuary. For those online, you are welcome to donate to the work of TSP with the QR code below.)



Offering Carol: VU 67 *"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, Christ, at thy birth, Jesus, Christ,
 at thy birth.

Christmas Prayers of Thanksgiving and Petition

Paula Nieuwstraten

WE RETURN TO THE WORLD WITH THE STORY

"Go, carrying Love into every place still longing for light."

Closing Carol & Lighting of Candles: VU 59 "Joy to the World" (vv. 1-2, organ interlude, 4)

During the singing of the first verse, we pass the light of Christ from hand to hand, heart to heart, through the sanctuary. For those online, we encourage you to light a candle as well. May each flame remind us that Love has come, and the darkness cannot overcome it.

1 Joy to the world! Christ 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.

2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
 let all their songs employ,
 while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat the sounding joy,
 repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4 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.

Benediction & Extinguishing of the Candles

Recessional: *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*

With thanks to our musical guests:

Tom Reynolds (Piano), Daniel Moor (Electric Guitar), Kenny
Kirkwood (Conga Drum)



Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

The church will be closed from December 24th-January 2nd, 2026, and will open for Services on December 28th and January 4th at 10:30am. The Church Office will be closed during this time. The building will reopen on January 3, 2026. Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

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