

THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Song Family

Tonight is the night for which we have been waiting. The virgin has conceived and borne a son—God has come amongst us as one of us. The Advent wreath is completed with the Christ Candle in the centre ... We light this candle with a prayer that Christ be the centre of our lives.

Everyone in Prayer

God of wondrous mercy, as your son is born, the exalted stars bend low in homage, humble ox and ass gaze upon him. The humble and the exalted are entwined in this child, our Saviour. With Mary we treasure the birth of your son. His birth gives us much to ponder: What do the squalor and the splendour of his birth portend? Shall he be king or shepherd or judge, or all? Shall our lives be a labour toward his birth in us? Shall we, one distant day, grow up in grace, as did he? How might we embody a wondrous Spirit in human frame? These are hard and mysterious questions, O God. As we celebrate his birth with delight, keep these questions before us. Amen

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession *The Lord's Prayer*

Offering

Our offerings received this evening in the We Respond envelopes will be divided between supporting a weekly free home cooked community meal here at St. Andrew's, and projects of international relief and development through Presbyterian World Service and Development. All contributions of \$20 and over are eligible for a charitable tax receipt.

Offertory

Noël Comment tu oze petite
Rose Balbastre

**Doxology*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn 154

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 "Alleluia:
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.

Benediction & Choral Amen

**Please extinguish your candles after the next hymn, and place them in the boxes as you go out.*

**Recessional Hymn 153*

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.

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.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.

Postlude Noël VI D'Aquin

Christmas Eve, 2019 Kingston ON St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



Prelude Trumpet solo by Karlynn Charette Hansen

**Entry of the Bible and Call to Worship*

**Hymn 159*

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!
O come, let us adore him; (3x) Christ, the Lord!

God of God, Light of light,
Lo he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God begotten, not created. (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

Prayer of Approach to God

... 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, the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

Introit Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light Bach

THE WORD

John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

**Hymn 148*

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"To all the earth good will and peace,
from heaven's all gracious King"
the world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife,
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong,
but we, through din and war, hear not
the love-song which they bring.
Oh hush the noise, oh still the strife
and hear the angels sing.

THE MESSIAH PROMISED

Psalm 96: 1-3, 9-13

O sing to God a new song;
sing to God, all the earth.

**Sing to God, bless God's name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare God's glory among the nations,
God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

**Worship God in holy array;
tremble before God, all the earth.**

Say among the nations, "God reigns!
The world is established, it shall never be moved.

God will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;

let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the forest

sing for joy before God; who comes,

who comes to judge the earth,

who will judge the world with righteousness,

and the nations with His truth.

Hymn 110

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

THE MESSIAH COMES

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel', which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*Hymn 149

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.

Anthem

Sussex Carol arr. Willcocks
*On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring-
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.*

BETHLEHEM

Luke 2:1-7

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.

Hymn 166

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

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love,
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above,
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there God's children gather round,
bright like stars with glory crowned.

Meditation - 'The Embrace'



THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2: 8-20

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 Saviour, 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, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!': 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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Hymn 147

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo (2x)

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo (2x)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee,
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo (2x)