



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2011 December 24

Christmas Eve

6:30PM



Statement of Welcome and Inclusion

In response to God's call, we, the congregation of Robertson-Wesley United Church declare our commitment to opening our hearts and our church family to all people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstance. We recognize that many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore, as a compassionate and caring spiritual community we will stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

Friends in Christ

Prelude: *Christmas Preludes*, Various composers Henry Mokken, piano

Greeting

Welcome: Morris Treasure – Chair of the Board

Opening Hymn: *O Come All Ye Faithful* **Voices United 60 vrs 1-3**

Call to Worship:

A boy has been born for us; A child has been given to us. And his name shall be called

Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Emmanuel, the Prince of Peace.

Once we were no people;

Now we are God's people.

Once we walked in darkness;

Now we have seen a great light.

Prayer of Approach:

Tonight, O God, the soles of your feet have touched the earth.

Tonight, the back street, the forgotten place have been lit up with significance far beyond our wildest dreams.

Tonight, the households of earth welcome the Child of heaven.

For you have come among us, you are one of us. So may our songs rise to surround your awesome mystery as our knees bend to approach your cradle. Amen.

Lighting the Christ Candle

God's Holy Word

Drama: Christmas Present

Hymn: *Joy to the World* **Voices United 59 vrs 1 & 2**

Drama: Christmas Future

Hymn: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* **Voices United 48**

Drama: Christmas Past

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Grateful Response

Offering: *Arabesque*, Claude Debussy

Offertory Hymn: *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Voices United 55, v. 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.**

Prayer of Gratitude

The Peace (*standing*): *We greet the people near us
with gestures of peace and words such as...*

May the peace of Christ, our Emmanuel be with you.
And also with you.

Pastoral Prayers & Candle Lighting

The Lord's Prayer (Voices United p. 921)

Hymn: *Silent Night* **Voices United 67**

Benediction:

Postlude: *Christmas Medley*, Various composers

Worship Thanks

To the youth, young adults, and children of
Robertson-Wesley United Church.

Head Ushers: Eric & Kathy Sauze

Greeters: Celine Sauze, Luc Sauze and Claire Sauze

Pianist: Henry Mokken

Minister of Spiritual Development: Rev. Jim Allan

Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges

Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen

Office Administrator: Tanya Eckenswiller

Custodian: Brad Campbell

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