



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2016 December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00PM

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: *There's a Song in the Air*, David Hegarty Belinda Chiang, organist

Greeting

Welcome Lisa Fairweather, Member of the Board

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

Call to Worship:

On this night,
the stars were shining bright.
Angels sang,
words of hope filled delight.
While Shepherds,
journeyed into the night.
Mary cried,
in joy, at such a sight.
A baby,
whose spirit would unite,
a world,
in need of a re-write.
Gift offered
in love, as an invite.
For peace,
on earth shared on this night.

Hymn: *O Come All Ye Faithful* **Voices United 60 vs 1, 3 & 4**

Scripture:

Isaiah 9: 2-7 • People have seen a great light Jane Chesebrough

Lighting the Candle of hope:

We light the candle of hope.

Hope!

Hope is like a candle in the night. As we light this first candle we celebrate the hope that we have in Jesus Christ, who came to bring hope to the world. Jesus is our guide and our light.

Box of Hope

God's Holy Word

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* **Voices United 64 vs 1 & 2**

Lighting the Candle of Peace:

We light the candle of Peace.

Peace!

We pray for the day when God's peace is fulfilled through the presence of Christ in the world.

Star Gazing

Scripture:

Luke 2:8-20 • Do not be afraid

Rachel Frey and Leo

Sounds from the Manger

Lighting the Candle of Joy:

We light the candle of Joy.

Joy!

With this candle we celebrate the joy that is ours in Jesus Christ.

We pray for the day when God's joy is fulfilled in all of creation.

Hymn: *Away in a Manger*

Voices United 69

Scripture:

Luke 2:1-7 • Baby Jesus is born

Lighting the Candle of Love:

We light the candle of Love.

Love!

We celebrate the love which strengthened Mary and Joseph.

Open our hearts to the Christ child in this season of waiting.

Story time

Rev. Karen Bridges

Pastoral Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

Voices United, p. 921

Grateful Response

Offering: *Christmas Lullaby*, Hughes

The work of the church relies on the generosity of your donations to maintain the beauty of this building and the ministry that it provides along with various outreach programs such as the community dinner and the Spirited Art Studio. Donations of over \$10, placed in the envelopes found in the pews, will receive a tax receipt. Thank you for your support.

Offertory Hymn

(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

Lighting the Christ Candle:

We light the Christ candle.

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of baby Jesus, who shows us how to shine with your love and be a light to the world.

Lighting of our candles

Hymn: *Silent Night*

Voices United 67 vs 1 & 2

Benediction

Postlude: *Toccata on "Adeste Fidelis" (O Come, All Ye Faithful)*

Music Notes

Thanks so much to Belinda Chiang for playing for this service. We are grateful to all the musicians who lend their leadership to this congregation!

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Albert deVos of one portion of the mural in Memorial Hall done by Garnet Thomas based on drawings by our Kids' Church.

Worship Thanks

Scripture readers: Jane Chesebrough & Rachel Frey and Leo

Minister of Spiritual and Pastoral Care Development: Vacant

Minister of Congregation and Community Development: Rev. Karen Bridges

Director of Music: Tammy-Jo Mortensen

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