



*An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada*

2017 Dec 24

Choral Service/Christmas Night

11:00 PM

*Invite in the Light*



## **Welcome and Inclusion**

We open our hearts and our church family to all people in our community, regardless of sexual orientation, age, gender, differing abilities, ethnicity, or economic circumstance. Many people's lives continue to be devastated by hatred, prejudice, and inequality, therefore we stand with those who are adversely affected by injustice, alienation and oppression.

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*Invited to Worship*

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Prelude: *Christmas Favourites*, Various Composers Tammy-Jo Mortensen, organ

Processional Carol: *O Come All Ye Faithful* (Voices United 60)

- 1 **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;  
R: *O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.***
- 2 **God of God, light of light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created: R**
- 3 **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: R**
- 4 **See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R**
- 5 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R**

Christmas Greeting Donna Chmielewski, Robertson-Wesley Church Board

Christmas Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candles

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*Invited to Birth*

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Anthem: *A Rose in the Middle of Winter*, Bob Chilcott

Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Luke 1: 26-38 • A surprise for Mary

Donna Krucik

Reflection: *An Ancient Dance Invitation from God*

Rev. Leigh Sinclair

Carol: *What Child Is This?*

(Voices United 74)

- 1 **What child is this, who laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
while shepherds watch are keeping?  
R: *This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!***

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading. R**
- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, one and all, to own him.  
The King of Kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him. R**

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*Invited to be Surprised*

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Anthem: *For Unto Us a Child is Born (Messiah)*, G. F. Handel  
Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Luke 2:1-7 The Birth of Jesus Maria Adria

Lighting the Christ Candle

Carol: *Joy to the World* (Voices United 59 v. 1, 2, 4)

- 1 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.**
- 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.**

Anthem: *Shepherd's Carol*, Bob Chilcott Choir of Robertson-Wesley

Luke 2: 8–18 · The angel appears to the Shepherds Trisha-Lee Wasmund

Reflection: *A New Dance Invitation from God* Rev Leigh Sinclair

Carol: *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Voices United 38)

- 1 Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!**

**2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?**

**Why your joyous strains prolong?**

**What the gladsome tidings be**

**which inspire your heavenly song?**

**Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!**

**3 Come to Bethlehem and see**

**Christ whose birth the angels sing;**

**Come, adore on bended knee**

**Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!**

**4 See him in a manger laid,**

**whom the choirs of angels praise;**

**Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,**

**while our hearts in love we raise.**

**Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Glo-----ria, in excelsis Deo!**

Offering Invitation Luke 2:19 · Mary's Prayers

Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

Offering: *Pastorale from the Christmas Concerto*, Corelli, arr. Gower

*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 outreach programs such as the community dinner and the Spirited Arts 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.**

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*Invited to tell the Amazing News*

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Anthem: *Ding Dong! Merrily on High*, Louis Harris

Choir of R-W

Lighting our Candles

*Please remain seated for the rest of the service.*

**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 Hallelujah,**  
**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: (Luke 2:20)

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God  
**for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.**  
Go now like them into the night – **go praising God.**  
**We go to tell and telling all of God's love, newly born this day!**

*Please remain seated until the lights go up.*

Postlude: *Variations on the Huron Carol (Jesous Ahatonhia)*, Giles Bryant

*As hearts are joined together on this holy night,  
may each one be touched by the peace and joy  
of the wondrous birth.*

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### Music Notes

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There are carols from many different centuries and from around the world for this service tonight. “O Come All Ye Faithful” was originally a Latin carol, “Silent Night” comes from Germany, and “Angels We Have Heard on High” is a French carol. The offering music is from the Italian Baroque period. “In the Bleak Mid-Winter” (offering verse) and “What Child is This” comes from England, as does two of our choral anthems, by the British composer, Bob Chilcott. His writing is wonderful for voices, I’m sure due in part to his work and touring the world for 12 years with the King’s Singers. The postlude is based on the Huron Carol, written in 1642 in the Huron language and sung to a French tune.

The musicians here at Robertson-Wesley convey our sincere blessings this Christmas-tide and for the New Year!

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## Staff

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