



An Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Canada

2017 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:

God of surprises and new life, on this night we gather together to experience a most wonderful thing, the birth of Jesus.

Open our ears --

to hear the bell ring and the angels sing of the birth of Jesus.

Open our eyes --

to see the signs, the star, and the light which will lead us to Jesus.

Open our hands --

to reach out to each other and offer what we have.

Open our mouths --

to sing Jesus a lullaby

Open our hearts --

to share the love of Jesus with all people in the world.

Open the door --

for Jesus Christ is born, and he brings hope, peace, joy and love to all people.

Let us welcome baby Jesus!

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

Scripture:

Luke 2: 1-7 • Baby Jesus is born Conall MacLellan

What time is it Mary and Joseph?

God's *Holy* Word

Hymn: *Angels We Have Heard on High* **Voices United 38**

Scripture:

Luke 2:8-20 • Do not be afraid Rachel Frey

Looking for the signs!

Hymn: *Away in a Manger* **Voices United 69**

Scripture:

Isaiah 9: 2-7 • People have seen a great light Kathryn Rambow

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 Advent & Christ Candles:

(We will light the Advent candles together.)

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)*, Hegarty

Music Notes

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

Cover Image

Cover image: This picture was taken by Rev. Karen Bridges of the art created by the children last Christmas Eve at the 4PM service.

Staff

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