

St. James United Church

December 24, 2013

Christmas Eve/CarolSing/Communion

Minister: Rev. Terrie Burry
Minister of Visitation/MUN Chaplain: Rev. Pamela Jones-Fitzgerald
Minister of Youth/Christian Education: Susan Sheppard, DLM
Choir: Senior Choir
Organist/Senior Choir Director: Christine Tiller
Carol Sing Leader: David Allen

Please remain seated comfortably until invited to stand.

Welcome



Call to Worship: (responsive)

One: On this Holy Night we have come together because we share a common memory,

All: the memory of a story, the story of God's love made known to us.

One: It begins with Christ being born among the lowly of the world.

All: It tells of a life that made God's love known through loving actions.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

One: As we retell the story in worship, let's all make room in our hearts and lives for the Christ Child this night.

All: We will join the angels in their songs of joy, telling all the world that peace is possible.

One: We will be with the shepherds, the ordinary humble people who heard the good news and knelt beside the manger.

All: We will be among the wise ones who came bearing gifts. We will bring who we are and what we have.

One: Let's gather before the Christ, who comes to us this night as a fragile child, but in His life He will grow to experience the same challenges of life that we encounter. In humble faith may we commit our lives to peace and love to others.

Carol: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* 36

Prayer of Approach: (together)

Loving God, tonight we are filled with joy by the long-awaited arrival of a baby into our midst. Our sense of hope, which is all too often dimmed by the cares of life, is renewed. We are given a vision of a peace that is deeper and richer than just the absence of conflict. In this Child, we feel a joy that

captures our soul and a love that is radical and transforming. Gracious God, as we gather together in worship, we feel a sense of awe and wonder and a profound gratitude for the gift of the Christ Child. Amen.

Anthem: *Still, Still, Still* arr. Ebret

A Christmas Eve Dialogue: Welcome the Light!

Offertory Invitation: (together) Friends, what a gift we have received! Unto us a child is given, and He is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Lord, Prince of Peace. Can there be any other response than our thankfulness? Let us now show that thankfulness in generosity as we present our offerings.

Organ Offertory: *I Wonder as I Wander* Appalachian Carol

Offertory Carol: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks, v.6* 75

Offertory Prayer: (together)

Giving and generous God, You have freely lavished us with so many gifts and blessings! Tonight we have gathered in this peaceful place to celebrate the gift of gifts, Your child, Jesus the Christ, who is Your love revealed to us in fullness. Through the giving of our offerings, we present ourselves that You might be glorified. Amen!

THE WORD OF GOD

First Testament Reading: Micah 5: 2-5a

Anthems : *O Come Little Children* Liebergen

Gospel: Luke 2 : 1-20

Carol: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* 44

Sacrament of Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving: (responsive)

One: Glory to God in the highest.

All: And on earth, peace to all!

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is good to give our thanks and praise.

Sanctus and Benedictus (sung)

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Communion Liturgy

Invitation: The celebration of communion is always a festival of friends, a pulling together of our loves and our hopes, our moments of agony and our glimpses of victory. It is here, where bread is broken and wine is shared, that we can most fully be ourselves and see others for who they truly are: sons and daughters of the living God. Here, the common things of life – bread and wine, memories and dreams – become Holy, touched by God. Here, that which is earthly becomes divine, and that which is human becomes more than it has ever dreamed.

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer after Communion: (together)

God of the Ages, we thank You that You have called Your people from east and west, north and south, to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. Keep us faithful to Your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, to our places of labour and leisure – that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose Name we pray. Amen.

Carol: *Silent Night*

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Benediction: “Travel safely, and may you find your stable with a manger and a child. Listen carefully, and hear the child cry to you and take Him to your heart. Watch closely, and see the guiding light that shows you the road to travel. And as you listen for the cry, and watch for the light on your journey, feel the presence of hope, peace and love with the blessing of our Creator, Son and Holy Spirit within you, beside you and before you. Amen!”
(Richard Becher, England)

Organ Postlude: *Trumpet Tune on Wachet auf*

Sobaje

Ushering this week is provided by:

Ushers in Charge: Kevin Pardy

Ushers: ,Baxter Howse, Jennifer Tremblett