

This bulletin is dedicated:
In memory of
Adolphe Penney
Always remembered by Minnie Penney

December 24, 2023, 7:00 P.M.
Christmas Eve: Carols and Candlelight

Leading worship: Rev. James Ravenscroft
Leading music: Bob Rose, Jean Rose and Glen Warren
Ushers: Kim, Gerry, Katelyn and Laura Mayo,
Jennifer Tremblett, Claire Neary, Susan Pike,
Marilyn Adams and Jean Thompson

We Come to Worship

PRELUDE

WELCOME; ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND AND KINSHIP

We give thanks for the land and the Indigenous peoples who steward it.

SOLO: "Wexford Carol" (*Traditional*)

A POETIC WORD: "In the December Darkness" by Ann Weems

LIGHTING OF CHRISTMAS CANDLE AND OPENING PRAYER

Reader 1: Through the prophets, God promised a Messiah, and on this night, we affirm that God's promise has been kept.

Reader 2: In the birth of Jesus, a vulnerable baby, God is most closely identified with us, become Emmanuel, "God with us."

Reader 1: As we light our candle, we affirm that this astounding news of long ago, still astounds us, "God with us" born to Mary and Joseph, revealed to shepherds in the words of angels.

All: Holy One, we thank you for fulfilling your promise in the birth of Jesus, your gift of love and light to the world. Like the shepherds keeping watch as angels sing, may we welcome the one called Saviour and Prince of Peace. May this night so fill our hearts with hope and joy that we'll tell everyone the good news of Christ's birth. Amen.

CAROL: "O Come All Ye Faithful" (*Voices United 60, 1, 3, 4, 5*)

OFFERTORY: *We receive offerings given for the work of God's love in the world. Tax receipts issued at*

year-end if donor's name and address are provided. In gratitude we sing together "In the Bleak Midwinter" VU 55.

**What can I give him, poor as I am.
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise one, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.**

We Listen for Wisdom

READINGS AND CAROLS

Reading: Isaiah 9:2-5 and 7

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (*Voices United 64*)

Gospel (Part 1): Luke 2:1-7

Poem: "The Christmas Silence" by Margaret Deland

Duet: "Still, Still, Still" (*Traditional; Translation by John Rutter*)

Gospel (Part 2): Luke 2:8-14

Carol "Angels We have Heard on High" (*Voices United 38*)

Gospel (Part 3): Luke 2:15-19

REFLECTION

SOLO: "Angel's Carol" (*Carolyn Hanney*)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We take time to pray for the needs of our global and local communities, knowing that what we pray for we also are called to do something about.

THE PRAYER OF JESUS (*Voices United p. 921*)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

SHARING OF LIGHT: "Silent Night" (*Voices United 67*)

A FINAL POEM: “Christmas Light” by May Sarton

We Leave to Serve

CONCLUDING WORDS AND BLESSING:

One: So go now into the night, blessed with the light of God's love, held in the knowledge that One we call Emmanuel has been born.

All: We go into the night to share the blessing of God’s love.

HYMN: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (*Voices United 43*)


POSTLUDE

St. James United Church

Council Chair:	Michelle Skinner
Minister:	Rev. James Ravenscroft
Minister Emeritus:	Rev. Dr. Donovan Brown
Music Director:	Amy Dalziel
Associate Music Director:	Bob Rose
Technology Support:	Jake Thompson
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