

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING

As we go from our worship this holy day:

May the joy of the angels sing in our voices;
may the hope of the shepherds enliven our minds;
may the strong faith of Mary strengthen
our spirits;

and may the love of the Baby shine in our heart.

God's blessing be upon us all, now and
forever.

CHORAL "AMENS"



POSTLUDE

Some resources for this service were drawn from the seasonal worship magazine "Gathering" and from "Celebrate God's Presence."

Some have been rewritten or otherwise modified.

We wish everyone a New Year filled with
 happiness and good health.

Many thanks to those who contributed music
 for this service.

KNOX UNITED CHURCH

December 31, 2017

First Sunday of Christmas

As we gather for worship today, we acknowledge that the land on which we gather is Treaty 6 territory, the ancestral land of several Indigenous nations, and part of the homeland of the Metis. We respect the sacredness of our shared home and the ground on which we walk, and we are grateful for its stewardship through the centuries.



PRELUDE

INVITATION HYMN - *Angels From the*
***Realms of Glory* (VU 36)**

CALL TO WORSHIP & GATHERING PRAYER

Into this sanctuary of prayer, we gather to
 worship and rejoice.

In this time of music and people and
energy, we gather to remember all your
gifts, Holy Love.

2

Send your Spirit here, we ask, to every celebrating and suffering heart. Give us courage to admit when we are wrong.

Give us the wisdom to try to mend what is broken.

Give us the humility to ask for forgiveness.

At this hour, speak your word of grace and peace. Amen.



WORDS OF ASSURANCE

An invitation was issued from heaven, through angels singing and a star shining. It is an invitation to meet God in the flesh. It is an invitation to new life: salvation, forgiveness, eternal life. You are included in the invitation.

Thanks be to God, Christ came for me!

What a merry Christmas!

HYMN - O Come, ALL Ye faithful
(VU 60, vv. 1,3,5)



LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

GREETING GOD'S FAMILY:

The peace of the living Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

3

HYMN - The First Nowell (VU 91)

WORDS FROM OUR SCRIPTURES

Song of Zechariah- (VU p.900)

Gospel - Luke 2: 22 - 38

Song of Simeon "Nunc Dimittis"

SOLO - Candlelight Carol - John Rutter
Phyllis Rugg, Soloist



REFLECTION - The Enduring Appeal of the Nativity!

HYMN - What Child Is This (VU 74)

MISSION MESSAGE & OFFERING

"What Songs Were Sung" John Jacob Niles
Wendell Owen, Soloist

COMMUNITY PRAYER and LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN - Joy to the World (VU 59)

