

# Knox United Church Christmas Eve 2018

## Stories for Christmas

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### Prelude Music:

*The Robin's Carol* - Michael Head

*The Little Road to Bethlehem* - Michael Head

*What Songs Were Sung* - John Jacob Niles

*Maria Wiegenlied* - Max Reger

*In the Bleak Midwinter* — H. Darke

Terri-Lynn Mitchell

### Welcome and Introduction

**Prayer** (adapted from Rev. Tom Schade)

**O Come, All Ye Faithful** (VU 60, verses 1, 3 & 5)

- 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.

- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest. **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:**

words: English trans. Frederick Oakeley 1841; music: attrib. John Frances Wade ca. 1743

**Introduction to Isaiah:**

**Scripture Reader:** Isaiah 11:1, 7:14, and 9:2-7 (abridged)

**A Prophet's Story**

**Candle Lighting: Candle 1 - Hope**



**Scripture:** Matthew 1:18-24

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-7

**Mary's Story**

**Candle Lighting: Candle 2 – Peace**



**Hark, The Herald Angels Sing** (VU 48)

- 1 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'  
**R:** Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel! **R:**

- 3 Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth. **R:**

words: Charles Wesley 1739 (alt), Music: Felix Mendelssohn 1840,  
arr. William Hayman Cummings 1856

### An Angel's Story

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 8-12



### A Shepherd's Story

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 13-20

**Candle Lighting: Candle 3 – Joy**



### *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (VU 64)

- 1 O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

- 2 For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth.
- 3 How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

Words: Phillips Brooks 1868, words: Lewis Henry Redner 1868

**Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12**

### A Wise One's Story

**Candle Lighting: Candle 4 – Love**



## Offering

Your offering at this Christmas Eve service creates Knox United Church's "Benevolent Fund" for 2019, helping people who struggle to meet the basic needs of their daily lives, and supporting Knox's social development programs.

### Offering Music: *O Holy Night*

Terri-Lynn Mitchell

### Candle Lighting: The Christ Candle



## Prayers of the People



### Carols and Candle-Lighting

Please make sure that **lit candles stay upright**, and **only unlit candles are tipped** to be lit.)

### *Away in a Manger* (VU 69)

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Music: William James Kirkpatrick 1895, arr. Desmond Hassell 1992

### *Silent Night* (VU 67)

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.

words: Joseph Mohr 1818, trans. John young 1863 et al.  
music: Franz Xavier Gruber 1818

## Living the Stories

### *Joy To The World* (VU 59)

- 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.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground  
far as the curse is found,  
far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.



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.

Words: Isaac Watts 1719 alt.;

Music: attrib. George Frederick Handel 1742, arr. Lowell Mason 1836



*Thank you to our readers, singers  
and musicians, who have made this  
evening's service so memorable.*

**Merry** \* \* \*  
**\* Christmas!**