

Northlea United Church

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve Service 11:00 p.m.

Minister - Lee-Ann Ahlstrom

Music Director - David Jafelice

Song Leader - Ian Backstrom

(Please stand if you are comfortable and able.*

Bold letters indicate words to be said by the whole congregation.

Please ask one of our greeters if you would like a large-print hymn book
or an assisted hearing device.

~ Gathering ~

*Before or during the prelude you are welcome to come to the front and light a
candle and/or enter your prayer requests in the book provided.*

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Light looked down and saw darkness

"I will go there" said light

Peace looked down and saw war

"I will go there" said peace

Love looked down and saw hatred

"I will go there" said love

So he,

The Lord of Light

The Prince of Peace

The King of Love

came down

and crept in

beside us.

Let us snuggle up tight at the manger

Bring our hearts to the table

and worship God.

~ Christ Candle is lit ~

Opening Hymn: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Voices United #48

Opening Prayer

God of all wisdom,
we come with expectation.

**Our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love,
Our minds search for the light of your Word.**

Increase our longing for Christ,

**Strengthen us to grow in love,
that at the dawn of his coming,
we may rejoice in his presence
and welcome the light of his truth.**

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ,
Amen.

~ Listening ~

Gospel: Luke 2:1-6

Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Voices United #64

~ Listening ~

Gospel: Luke 2:7-12

Solo: *Gesù Bambino*

Pietro Yon

Gospel: Luke 2:13-20

~ Responding ~

Invitation to Offering

Offertory Music: *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Offertory Response

Voices United #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 man, I would do my part,
yet what I can I give him - give my heart.*

Offertory Dedication

For all that we have received through love,
and by grace, we are thankful.

For all that we share of our lives and our gifts,
we give with love.

May all our gifts, our time, our talent and our treasure,
serve our world, enable connection and nurture the Spirit.
Amen.

Stable to Table

~ Sacrament of Holy Communion ~

Invitation to Communion

Hymn: *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Voices United #58

Communion Prayers

Tonight we gather around the manger
Yearning for the presence of the Holy in our lives

**Seeking peace,
Reaching for tenderness,
Searching for meaning**

Tonight we gather around this table
Celebrating Immanuel – God with us
**Sharing in the Spirit of peace,
Trusting in the Promise of hope,
Feasting in the New Covenant of love.**

We come to the manger
An unexpected way for God to enter the world
Mingling with barn animals and hay bales
Bringing together strangers
A helpless infant cradled in a mother's arms

**We come to the table
Remembering the sacrifice
A crucified man cradled in a mother's arms
God, willing to experience the fullness of human suffering
So that we can know love and never be alone.**

Sharing of the Meal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

This, tonight has been a meeting place of heaven and earth

**We have been to the stable
where God risks coming to us
open and vulnerable... a babe in a manger.**

We have been to the table
where we have risked coming to God
open and vulnerable... inviting God inside.

**Tonight we have found Christmas
It has been a risk
It has been a joy
It has been us
It has been God**

God has kept a promise that we hear in the Christmas Story;
a promise that we feel in our bones

God is with us. Amen.

Commissioning and Benediction

Hymn: *Joy to the World*

Voices United #59

Postlude

Thank you for helping with this evening's service...

Welcoming and Reading: Bob Atkinson, Anne Murray, Stan Murray

Sound Technician: Ron Scott

Serving Communion with Lee-Ann: Lois Scott



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

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