



**The United Church of Canada  
Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge  
Christmas 1  
December 28, 2025  
Joint Service at Kilbride, 10 a.m.**

*Photo by Darla MacLean Audfroid*

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**Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

**Life and Work of the Church**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

*(Lois Van Leer in Rex A. Hunt Liturgies, Christmas 1B, 2020)*

We light the Christ Candle on the brink of a new year

**Letting go of what has been**

Open and hopeful for what may come

**Renewed, restored, ready**

To live Life fully anew

**May we move forward with intention.**

**Gathering Song:** VU 79 (v. 1 & 4) – Arise, Your Light Is Come

The chancel choir and congregation of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, Georgia, take this hymn at an energetic pace, led by their organist, who adds interludes between each verse. Composed by William H. Walker in 1872, the tune is appropriately known as FESTAL SONG, and, echoing Isaiah 60:1, Ruth Duck penned the lyrics in 1974.

[Arise, Your Light Is Come! | The Chancel Choir of Trinity Church](#)

- 1 Arise, your light is come!  
The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God,

which shines on you today.

- 4 Arise, your light is come!  
The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong.

**Call to Worship & Opening Prayer:**

*facing east*

From the East, the direction of the rising sun,  
we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*facing south*

From the South comes warmth, guidance,  
and the beginning and the end of life.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*facing west*

From the West comes the rain,  
purifying waters, to sustain all living things.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*facing north*

From the North comes the cold and mighty wind,  
the white snows, giving us strength and endurance.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*facing upward*

From the heavens we receive darkness and light,  
the air of your breath,  
and messages from your winged creatures.

**We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*facing downward*

From the earth we come and to the earth we will return.

**We are grateful for your creation, Mother Earth, O God.**

As we face the coming year,

May we walk good paths, O God,

**living on this earth as brothers and sisters should,**

**rejoicing in one another's blessing,**

**sympathizing in one another's sorrows,**

**and together with you, renewing the face of the earth. Amen.**

**Hymn:** VU 82 – A Light Is Gleaming

Musicians of Golden Ears United Church perform Linnea Good's 1992 Epiphany hymn. As part of the "story behind the song," Good writes, "I believe that Jesus is a way in to the healing energy of God. I can see now that I described him in verse 3 as one who 'showed us a brighter path to walk' – a guide and mentor or role model. Now I would

describe him as a pathway through which God is drawing me toward God's Self. That Jesus creates an illumination of the Holy."

### VU 82 A Light is Gleaming

*A light is gleaming,  
spreading its arms throughout the night,  
living in the light.  
Come share its gladness,  
God's radiant love is burning bright,  
living in the light.*

- 1 When light comes pouring into the darkest place,  
it hurts our eyes to see the glow.  
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears,  
our memories and tears. R
- 2 When night is round us and every shadow grows,  
a star is there to light our way.  
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:  
"God's light will ever stay." R
- 3 And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.  
He showed us things we hadn't seen.  
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,  
and this will be a sign: R
- 4 So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,  
and let us rise to see the dawn.  
We trust that God is here a-sparkle and a-blaze,  
warming all our days. R

### **Prayer for Grace & Assurance of Grace**

#### **Prayer for Illumination:**

*(Rex A. Hunt Liturgies, Christmas 1B, 2020)*

The delight of a story well known fills our hearts as we listen for its familiar end.

**May we hear in these stories, familiar and new, both wisdom and meaning for the days ahead. Amen.**

### **Gospel Reading:** Luke 2:22-40

#### **Response:**

The words of our faith spoken among us.

**May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

## **Reflection**

### **Hymn:** VU 45 – Joy Is Now in Every Place

Choir members of Northlea United Church in East York, Ontario, recorded this hymn earlier this month. While the author of the text remains unknown, the music is based on a medieval carol that English composer Ralph Vaughan Williams arranged in 1906.

#### **Joy Is Now in Every Place**

- 1 Joy is now in every place,  
Christmas lightens every face;  
now be with us, in your grace,  
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.
- 2 May the star that shone that night,  
making your poor stable bright,  
fill our hearts with love and light,  
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.
- 3 Through the New Year let it stay,  
leading us upon your way,  
making Christmas every day,  
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.
- 4 Now and ever may we find  
your good news to fill our mind:  
peace and love to humankind,  
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

## **Offering Prayer**

### **Offering Music:** VU 81 (vv. 1 & 3) – As with Gladness Men of Old

Recorded at Ipswich Minster in Suffolk (previously known as St Mary-le-Tower Church), this performance aired on the BBC One hymn channel *Songs of Praise*. The instrument you see at the beginning is a large three-manual pipe organ whose origins date from 1690 . . . which is perhaps not so surprising when you consider the church that houses it is more than a thousand years old!

#### **As With Gladness Men Of Old**

- 1 As with gladness men of old  
did the guiding star behold,  
as with joy they hailed its light,  
leading onward, beaming bright,  
so, most gracious Lord, may we  
evermore your splendour see.

- 3 As they offered gifts most rare  
at that manger crude and bare,  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

### **Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**

**Carol:** VU 43 (vv. 1 & 3) – Go, Tell It on the Mountain

American country singer-songwriter Josh Turner offers a terrific toe-tapping performance of this Christmas spiritual – well worth a listen! This song can be found on Turner's ninth studio album, *King Size Manger* (2021).

[Josh Turner - Go Tell It On The Mountain \(Performance Video\)](#)

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.*

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. R
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth! R
- 3 Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn. R

### **Commissioning & Benediction**

**Sung Sending Forth:** VU 79 (v.1 & 4) – Arise, Your Light Is Come

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The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing;  
God's power will make us strong.

**Online Postlude:** Go Tell It on the Mountain

I can't help but include a second video of this spiritual, posted just a few weeks ago by the Backwoods Bluegrass Band, a four-piece ensemble hailing from southern Indiana. Enjoy!

[Go Tell It on the Mountain - Backwoods Bluegrass Gospel](#)