

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH
Lunenburg, Nova Scotia
December 24th, 2025 – The Nativity of Jesus

Minister: Rev. Daniel MacDonald

Minister of Music: John Scott

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VU: Voices United (red book)

MV: More Voices (spiral-bound book)

We welcome and celebrate human diversity - including spirituality, ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation. Here, people of any faith or none can question and discover the sacred in life through openness, struggle, laughter, prayer and music.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL SING

Please feel free to join us in singing a few Christmas carols as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

WORDS OF WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

VU #60

WE LIGHT OUR ADVENT WREATH

The Francis Family

In a world of uncertainty...

We light a candle for hope.

In a world of conflict and trouble...

We light a candle for peace.

In a world of heartache and loneliness...

We light a candle for love.

In a world filled with sorrow and fear...

We light a candle for joy.

Warmed and embraced by this circle of light,

We tell our story of hope, our story of peace,

Our story of great joy and even greater love.

Warmed and embraced by this circle of light,

We tell our story of a little one born to migrant parents

A sign of hope for a weary world,

a sign of love in unsettling times.

Warmed and embraced by this circle of light,

we tell our story to encourage and remind one another...

that even when the shadows loom, and the tensions rise,

even in the midst of all this world's sorrow and fear,

heartache and uncertainty...

There is still room for hope.
There is still room for peace.
There is still room for joy.
There is still room for love.
And God is still with us.
God is still with us.

So, come, beloved, draw near,
as we hear the Good News once again.
God is still with us. There is still room.
Christ the Saviour is born!
Christ the Saviour is born!

A CHOIR CAROL: “*On Christmas Night / The Sussex Carol*” – Eng.Trad.

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before his grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
'Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and for evermore. Amen.'

A PRAYER OF WELCOME AND COMMUNITY:

**Jesus who loves to be with us,
when you were born, you were born into community.
A community of wise ones and wandering ones,
young ones and questioning ones
baaing and bleating and befuddled ones.
All drawn together by your love.**

**Jesus who loves to be with us,
who was born into community,
draw us together as your community tonight.**

**A community of young and old, wise and wondering
those with status and influence and those with none,
a community of different genders and races,
a community that includes people and animals
and the whole of creation.**

**Draw us together as a community that meets in joy:
that has heard the angels' song of peace and goodwill,
a community that has seen a star in the sky
and has followed it with curiosity and hope.
A community united by your love.**

**Jesus who loves to be with us,
draw us together as your community tonight;
help us to welcome you,
and to welcome each other
in kindness and caring love.
Amen.**

HYMN: *“Hark, The Herald Angels Sing”* **VU #48**

WE HEAR THE CHRISTMAS STORY AGAIN ~*Meghan Ernst*
Luke 2:1-20

HYMN: *“O Little Town Of Bethlehem”* **VU #64**

REFLECTION

HYMN: *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”* **VU #58**

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO THE MANGER

Invitation

Offertory Hymn: *“In The Bleak Midwinter”* verses 1 & 4 **VU #55**

Dedication of Our Gifts:

**God of every good and perfect gift,
with the shepherds and the wise ones
we joyfully bring our gifts to you tonight,
gifts of time, gifts of laughter, gifts of compassion,
gifts of finance, gifts of kindness, gifts of wisdom.
gifts of our hands and hearts and lives.**

**Receive and bless all that we bring with joy
that our gifts may be used to make hope real,
to make peace possible, to make love and joy known
throughout the world, this and every night.
Amen.**

WE CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF LIGHT

SOLO: “*O Holy Night*” -words by John Sullivan Dwight, music by Adolphe Adam
~ Hannah Ernst, Soprano

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

A MUSICAL OFFERING OF HOPE AND PEACE

CHOIR ANTHEM: “*There’s Still My Joy*” Melissa Manchester

*I took my tree down to the shore
The garland, and the silver star
To find my peace, and grieve no more
To heal this place inside my heart*

*On every branch I laid some bread
And hungry birds filled up the sky
They rang like bells around my head
They sang my spirit back to life*

*One tiny child can change the world
One shining light can show the way
Through all my tears, for what I've lost
There's still my joy
For Christmas day*

*The snow comes down on empty sand
There's tinsel moonlight on the waves
My soul was lost, but here I am
So this must be amazing grace*

*One tiny child can change the world
One shining light can show the way
Beyond my tears for what I've lost
There's still my joy
There's still my joy
For Christmas day
There's still my joy for Christmas day*

All are invited to add their voices as we continue in song with
Let There Be Peace on Earth and *Silent Night*.

Let There Be Peace On Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;—

— let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to

be.—— With God our cre - a - tor,—— chil - dren all are

we.—— Let us walk with each oth - er—— in per - fect

har - mo - ny.—— Let peace be - gin with me; let

this be the mo - ment now.—— With ev - ery step I

take, let this be my sol - emn vow:—— to take each mo - ment and

live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.——

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.

The musical score is written on ten staves in 3/4 time. The melody is simple and accessible, with lyrics written below the notes. The score includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 3/4. The lyrics are: 'Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;—', '— let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to', 'be.—— With God our cre - a - tor,—— chil - dren all are', 'we.—— Let us walk with each oth - er—— in per - fect', 'har - mo - ny.—— Let peace be - gin with me; let', 'this be the mo - ment now.—— With ev - ery step I', 'take, let this be my sol - emn vow:—— to take each mo - ment and', 'live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.——', and 'Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.'

Silent Night



Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright 'round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child;
at the sight, glo - ries stream_ from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light, ra - diant beams_ from thy ho - ly face,

ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace, _____ sleep_ in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! _____ Chris, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth, _____ Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*A big thank you to all who helped to make this
Christmas Eve service so special!*

*On behalf of Rev. Daniel, John, Carrol, Mike, and the whole congregation,
Merry Christmas!*



Poinsettias have been placed:

- In loving memory of Josephine & Albert Skinner, with love from Juliette, Elizabeth and Angela
- In loving memory of Charlotte & Russell Smith, with love from Christy & family
- In loving memory of Robb and Bob Hartlen, with love from Donna, Dawn, Jamie, Meghan & Hannah
- In loving memory of Leon & Elaine Ernst, with love from Dawn, Jamie, Meghan & Hannah
- In loving memory of family, with love from Sheila Tanner

Memorial donations have been received:

- In memory of Arthur Dolimount from his wife, children, granddaughter Makayla, great-granddaughter Ellie, and six grandsons.
- In memory of Deborah Dolimount Boudreau, from daughter Makayla, mom, and family.
- In loving memory of our parents Rocky and Rose Weaver, Love Cindy, Sherry and Chris.

