

Little Current United Church Pastoral Charge

www.littlecurrent-sheguandah-unitedchurch.org
Box 254, Little Current ON P0P 1K0 368-2941

Minister: Rev. Whitney Bruno

Music Ministry: Judith Mosher, Ruth McDonald & Choir
** an invitation to stand in body or spirit in the service
~ **BOLD PRINT**- Congregational Participation

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 2025, 6:30 pm Little Current United Church

WELCOME: People of all ages, identities, and walks of life are welcome. Wherever you are, whoever you are, we welcome you in love and community to worship. Our hearts are always close.



Centering - Still, still, still (VU47)

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory

We gather this evening on land in Little Current. Before we spoke English on this land, we spoke French and called here Le Petit Courant. Before we spoke French here, we spoke Ojibwe, also known as Anishinaabemowin, and called here Waebijewung. Many names. Many peoples. Many generations. One place. In honour of all who have come before us, may we never forget history didn't begin with English here. There are more sacred stories. In hope of all the people after us, may we weave our lives with the peoples who call this place home.

We are all sacred people – beloved children of the Holy One.

Lighting the Christ Candle

Reader 1: Again, we light a candle for hope - hope for ourselves, hope for God's beloved world. [light the shortest blue/purple candle.]

Reader 2: Again, we light a candle for peace -peace among us and peace on earth. [light the next shortest blue/purple candle.]

2.

Reader 1: Again, we light a candle for joy - joy in our hearts, joy for the world. [light pink or rose candle.]

Reader 2: Again we light a candle for love - God's love for the world, love shown in Jesus, love for one another. [light last blue candle]

Reader 1: Today we remember our centre, our light, the Christ.

Reader 2: We light this Christ Candle, and remember Christ is the light of the world!" [light Christ Candle in the center]

Hymn: VU#7 Hope is a Star (vs. Christ & refrain)

vs4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.

*When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.*

Call to Worship

Christ is at home in your heart

Place your hand over your heart

Close your eyes and see the candle's light in your mind's eye.

Sit quietly and notice where Christ is stirring...

(pause)

Rest in the light of His beckoning...

breathe... breathe... breathe...

(pause)

All: Welcome, Christ, Welcome!

Stir in our souls

Find your birthing place in our living.

Warm our hearts.

Burn within us.

Radiate from us.

Welcome, Christ, Welcome! (+1)

Invocation (unison)

God Incarnate, God-in-Human-Form, we are in awe tonight. You chose to cross the distance between Creator and Creation. You chose to seek us out, come to us, and meet us right where we are. May we view the everyday as miraculous once again. May we know the awe of Christ. Amen.

3.

**OPENING HYMN: Huron Carol – Wendat Carol – D.L.Seabronn
(see insert & screen display)**

Story: Luke 2:1-6 (CEB)

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant.

[Animals brought forward during singing of this verse.]

Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 1). VU#64 Remain seated

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 street shineth
 the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
 are met in the tonight.

[The figures of Mary & Joseph brought forward during this part of the story.]

Story: Luke 2:6,7

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

[Baby Jesus brought forward and placed in manger during this song.]

Carol: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (vs. 1) VU#58 Remain seated

1.Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
 oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,

4.

noels ringing, tidings bringing:
 Christ the babe is born for all,
 Christ the babe is born for all!

Story: Luke 2:8-17

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors."

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High (v.1, refrain) VU#38

1.Angels we have heard on high
 sweetly singing o'er the plains,
 and the mountains in reply,
 echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

[Angel, Shepherds and sheep brought forward during this 3rd verse.]

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High (v.3, refrain) VU#38

3.Come to Bethlehem and see
 Christ whose birth the angels sing;
 come, adore on bended knee
 Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

5.

Story: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the territory of Judea during the rule of King Herod, magi came from the east to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We've seen his star in the east, and we've come to honor him." When King Herod heard this, he was troubled, and everyone in Jerusalem was troubled with him. He gathered all the chief priests and the legal experts and asked them where the Christ was to be born. They said, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for this is what the prophet wrote: You, Bethlehem, land of Judah,

by no means are you least among the rulers of Judah,
because from you will come one who governs,
who will shepherd my people Israel." [a]

Then Herod secretly called for the magi and found out from them the time when the star had first appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search carefully for the child. When you've found him, report to me so that I too may go and honor him." When they heard the king, they went; and look, the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stood over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. They entered the house and saw the child with Mary his mother. Falling to their knees, they honored him. Then they opened their treasure chests and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Because they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

[Camels and 3 Magi brought forward during this song.]

Carol: *The First Nowell (vs.3 & 5) VU#91*

3. And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to see for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

6.

5. Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense **R.**

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

Anthem by the Choir ***"He Is Born"***

Your Generosity Matters

Invitation to the Offering

We don't pass a plate around here but do invite you to give with gratitude through etransfer, through the brown box before or after service, or through pre-authorized remittance. Your gifts are like the magi gifts - gifts to help Christ and his followers to share the news all are loved, all are cherished, all are children of God.

Offertory Hymn: **(VU 541)**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator Word, and Spirit, One.**

Offertory Prayer

Bless these gifts, generous God. Send them near and far to share your Good News: Christ is among us! The time of your love is now! Hallelujah Amen!

Benediction

They find nothing in the end but an ordinary baby
Born in the dark of night
Born a peasant child in poverty
And the baby's cry, like bells ringing, makes people wonder...
What God's presence might really look like, sound like, feel like...

Let us step into that wonder as we sing **Silent Night.**

Turn on your Candle Lights.

Hymn: Silent Night, Holy 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.



Benediction

We already possess all the gifts we need in this season:

Ears to hear the music of hope
Eyes to behold wonder and joy
Hands to build true peace on earth
Hearts to hold each other in love
May God's blessing be with us
as we share these gifts of Christ's presence this Christmas.

Go out and share the Christ! Merry Christmas!

You are invited to join folks in the community for a free Christmas Dinner on Dec. 25th. At 1:30pm. Are you alone or new to the area? All are welcome, live entertainment by Cole Hughson starting at 11am.

Join us Jan. 4th 2025@ 10AM in person & on-line



Resources sourced – used with permission

(+1) - by Lori Megley Best, adapted by Whitney Bruno and Shawn Redden

Welcome to Worship

With
Little Current and Sheguiandah
Pastoral Charge



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service - 6:30PM
December 24, 2025