



Jesus Came Bringing Us Peace

Blue Christmas

December 7, 2025

Gathering Music
*“Isaiah the Prophet
Has Written of Old”*

Welcome



Announcements

Light the Christ Candle

**We welcome you O Christ, Light of the World.
In the midst of our suffering, help us to
worship you in spirit and in truth.**



Prelude

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”



Call to Worship

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The Word became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all.

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never been able to extinguish it. Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will spring up quickly. The Lord will always be with you to save you.

God's presence will protect us on every side.

When you call the Lord will answer;

When we call for help, God will say, "I am here."

Opening Prayer

Merciful God, in this season of rejoicing, we come to you weary and grieving.

In this season of feasting, we hunger for healing and relief. In this season of light, our hearts are veiled in sorrow and shadow. Will this season ever end ?

“Yes.” We hear your, “Yes.” Those who are weary will find rest, those who mourn will be comforted, those who hunger will be filled.

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it. Amen.

Hymn VU # 18

“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness”

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God !
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
where God, our God, may go !

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
 get thee up to the heights and sing !
Proclaim to a desolate people
 the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
 like grass our works decay;
the power and pomp of nations
 shall pass, like a dream, away.

3 But the word of our God endureth,
 whose arm is ever strong;
God stands in the midst of nations,
 and soon will right the wrong.
God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
 the lambs so gently hold;
to pastures of peace will lead them,
 and bring them safe to fold.

4

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
 a call from the ways untrod:
prepare in the desert a highway,
 a highway for our God !
The valleys shall be exalted,
 the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places
 where God, our God, may go !

The Scripture

Isaiah 11:1-5

*read by Bev and Dave
(A Free Transcription)*

On this humbled ground, a tiny shoot, hopeful and promising, will sprout from Jesse's stump, a branch will emerge from his roots to bear fruit. And on this child from David's line, the Spirit of the Eternal One will alight and rest. By the Spirit of wisdom and discernment, He will shine like the dew. By the Spirit of counsel and strength, He will judge fairly and act courageously. By the Spirit of knowledge and reverence of the Eternal One, He will take pleasure in honouring the Eternal.

He will determine fairness and equity; He will consider more than what meets the eye, and weigh in more than what he's told. So that even those who can't afford a good defense will nevertheless get a fair and equitable judgment. With just a word, He will end wickedness and abolish oppression. With nothing more than the breath of His mouth, He will destroy evil. He will clothe himself with righteousness and truth the impulse to right wrongs will be in his blood.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.
We give thanks for inspiration.**

Time with the Young People

by Yun-Hee

(Children collect the prayers which the people wrote on the blue strips of paper.)

Children Song

“Advent Song”

(The children may now proceed with their guardians to have sharing time.)



Candle Lighting

led by Bev and Dave

Light one blue candle

Bev: This candle represents our suffering and the suffering of the world. In the light of God's love, we claim God's gift of truth. There is no need to hide or deny. God welcomes us as we are.

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.
(Psalm 86:1)



Light one blue candle

Dave: This candle represents our suffering and the suffering of the world. In the light of God's love, we claim God's gift of lament. We recognise our wounds and cry out to God. We accept God's invitation to express every feeling and question.

**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me ?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the
words of my groaning ? O my God,
I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night, but find no rest.**

(Psalm 22:1-2)



Light one pink candle

Bev: This candle represents our suffering and the suffering of the world. In the light of God's love, we claim God's gift of courage. Courage to be honest, to seek help, to comfort one another. Courage to dare to love and dream again.

**The Lord is my strength and my shield;
in him my heart trusts; so I am helped,
and my heart exults, and with my song
I give thanks to him. (Psalm 28:7)**



Light one blue candle

Dave: This candle represents our suffering and the suffering of the world. In the light of God's love, we claim God's gift of hope. God is good. God is strong. God is near, leading us to a day without tears and pain, without sin and death. Healing and deliverance are coming; if not now, then on that day.

**By awesome deeds you answer us with
deliverance, O God of our salvation;
you are the hope of all the ends of
the Earth and of the farthest seas.**

(Psalm 65:5)





Choir Anthem

“Peace
on
this Silent Night”



Reflection

by Rev. Yun-Hee

Hymn VU # 716

“My Life Flows On”

1 My life flows on in endless song,
 above Earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn
 that hails a new Creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
 I hear the music ringing:
It finds an echo in my soul -
 how can I keep from singing ?

2

What though my joys and comforts die ?

My Saviour still is living.

What though the shadows gather 'round ?

A new song Christ is giving.

No storm can shake my inmost calm,

while to that Rock I'm clinging:

since Love commands both Heaven and Earth,

how can I keep from singing ?

3

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,
and hear their death knells ringing:
when friends rejoice both far and near,
how can I keep from singing ?
In prison cell and dungeon vile
our thoughts to them are winging:
when friends by shame are undefiled,
how can I keep from singing ?

4

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths,
since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing:
all things are mine since I am Christ's -
how can I keep from singing ?

Prayer Time

Our Lord Jesus, you are full of compassion, you understand our pain. Our suffering changes our experience of you and the celebration of your birth.

We are caught between remembering happier times and grieving what might have been. In our loss, we feel cut-off, disconnected, adrift, alone.

May you root us in your steadfast love: Anchor us in your faithful promises.

May you hold us, and all who weep this holy season throughout the world - those who mourn, those far from home, those looking for work, the lonely, the addicted, the homeless, the abused, the estranged, the oppressed, the enslaved, the poor, victims of war, the sick and dying.

May you shelter and sustain us all with your healing and hope, your peace and light. We love you, we need you, we trust you, we ask this in your name.
Amen.

Affirmation of Faith for Christmas

(Adapted from the Poem *First Coming* by Madeleine L'engle)

Brothers and sisters, what do you believe ?

**God did not wait 'til the world was ready,
'til nations were at peace.**

**God came when the Heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.**

God did not wait for the perfect time.

God came when the need was deep and great.

God dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine.

God did not wait 'til hearts were pure.
In joy, God came to a tarnished world of sin and
doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame,
God came and God's Light would not go out.
God came to a world which did not mesh;
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.

In the mystery of the Word made Flesh,
the Maker of the stars was born.
We cannot wait 'til the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
God came with Love: Rejoice ! Rejoice ! Amen.

The Lord's Prayer VU # 960

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowéd be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in
Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against
us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us
from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.



Musical Offering HYMN VU # 540

Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.



Offering Prayer

Generous God, may you waken our hearts to know the power we have to make a difference; give us wisdom to trust your voice, prompting us to act, to risk reaching out in love. May you make us bold: generously offering hot chocolate and cookies and a kind word to a stranger; discovering you reflected in the joy of dancing in a crowd. Gracious God, may you waken our hearts to know when we have made a difference. This we ask with our gifts today. Amen.

Hymn VU # 47 (vs 1 & 2)

“Still, Still, Still”

- 1 Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.
The Christ child in his crib lies sleeping,
angels round him watch are keeping.
Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.

- 2 Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep,
while Mary sings and gently holds you,
safely in her arms enfolds you.
Sleep, sleep, sleep:
sweet Jesus softly sleep.



3 Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy !
For through God's holy Incarnation
Christ is born for our salvation.
Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy !



Blessing

We pray for the grace to bear our sufferings as Christ bore His for us, as Christ bore his for all.

All I will ever suffer; all we all will ever suffer; will be made known; will be made whole through his love and self-giving. In this I believe, and trust, and follow, and hope. In this I am made new. Thanks be to God !

The Grace of Christ attend you,
the Love of God surround you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you.

Amen.





Commissioning “Go Now in Peace”

*Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every
day.*

*Go now in faith, steadfast strong and
true.*

Know God will guide you in all you do.

*Go now in love and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can
see.*

*God will be there within, around, above.
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen.*

**We thank God for being with us
And
thank you for worshipping today
in person and by Zoom
And
for your participation in the Service !**



(adapted from the United Church of Canada's Resources, 'Gathering'
<https://ministryforum.ca/posts/blue-christmas-longest-night-of-the-year-resources>
<https://presbyterian.ca/wp-content/uploads/Longest-Night-Service.pdf> and Images from the public domain)