

Tsawwassen United Church

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2007, 10:00 P.M.

*The flowers on the Communion table are dedicated in loving memory of
Hilary Noelle Glover by John, Judy and Alison.*

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

*The Advent wreath — representing the gifts of Hope, Peace,
Joy and Love — is lit as we gather to worship God.*

PRELUDE: Night of Wonder

~ Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Come, people of God, come to Bethlehem!

All: **We come, to celebrate with Mary and Joseph, the birth of the baby Jesus.**

One: Let us rejoice!

Women and girls: **For God's gift of love is a tiny, helpless baby.**

One: Let us sing with joy!

Men and boys: **praising God with the shepherds for what God has done.**

One: Let us kneel in awe and wonder,

All: **as we worship God.**

*PROCESSIONAL CAROL: O Come All Ye Faithful

VU 60 (v. 1,3&5)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE IN THE ADVENT WREATH

(with Joan Hay, Lynne Meinert & David Meinert)

PRAYER:

O God, we have arrived at our destination.

**We have come to where the Christ Child lies,
to where your love is revealed and new life begins.**

**Fill this evening with your presence
that we may wonder and adore
and, leaving this place,
never be the same again.**

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CAROL: Once in Royal David's City

VU 62 (v. 1,2&4)

READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Reader: Ron Wasik)

pew Bible O.T. p. 606

Isaiah paints a picture of what it will be like when the Promised One comes.

CAROL: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

VU 44 (v. 1&4)

(The congregation may remain seated for the singing of this carol.)

- ANTHEM: O Wondrous Child ~ Willard A. Palmer
- READING: Luke 1:26–38 (Reader: Archie Mullan) pew Bible N.T. p. 53
Mary is visited by the angel Gabriel.
- CAROL: Hark, the Herald Angels Sing VU 48 (v. 1&2)
- READING: Matthew 1:18–25 (Reader: Mary Sambell) pew Bible N.T. p. 1
God speaks to Joseph in a dream
- TRIO: Sleep, Little Holy Child ~ Mark L. Williams
(Sandra Timuss, Jan McLaurin, Marilyn Merry)
- READING: Luke 2:1–20 (Reader: Christie Sambell) pew Bible N.T. p. 55
Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem and the angels have news for the shepherds.
- CAROL: Angels We Have Heard on High VU 38
- READING: John 1:1–14 (Reader: John Glover) pew Bible N.T. p. 87
In the beginning was the Word and the Word was made flesh.
- CHOIR'S ANTHEM:
Were You There on That Christmas Night ~ Natalie Sleeth

WE CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION:

May God be with you
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts!
We lift them up to God!
Let us give thanks to God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

PRAYER:

Blessed are you, gracious God,
Creator of light, giver of all life, source of love.
We bless you for all your gifts.
You bring Creation to birth and send prophets to awaken us
to your advent among us.

**We praise you for this holy night of hope
and for the wonder of this time of joy.
We thank you, for those – who like Mary -
have the strength and courage
to give birth to your love in our world;
for those who – like the shepherds –
care to seek out the Child of Bethlehem.**

We praise you that your everlasting light
is shown to us in womb and tomb,
in cradle and cross,
in tenderness and compassion.

For Jesus Christ – in whom you gather
the hopes and fears of all the years –
we bless your Holy Name.

Joining with all your people of every time and place,
and with angels and archangels
who proclaim the holy birth,
we sing:

Holy, Holy, Holy

VU 932

**“Holy, holy, holy are you,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!”**

Mighty and tender God, in Jesus of Nazareth,
we recognize the fullness of your grace:
light, life and love revealed;
in words that confront and comfort us,
in teachings that challenge and change us,
in compassion that heals and frees us.

**And now we gather at this table to remember
and be filled with such longing for your realm
that we may rise together
to turn our worship into witness
and to follow in your way.**

We remember that on the night in which Jesus was betrayed,
when he was handed over to suffering and death,
Jesus took bread and when he had given thanks
he broke it saying:

**“This is my body that is for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”**

In the same way, after supper he also took the cup
saying:

**“This cup, poured out for you, is the promise of God
made in my blood.
Whenever you drink it, remember me.”**

At this time, we also remember those
with whom you would have us share your feast.
We pray for those who are in sorrow or in pain ...
those who are ill or alone....
for those who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...
and all whom the world counts as last and least.

We pray for your church and its varied ministries...
for nations as they strive for peace and justice...
for our families and our friends...

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace,
remembering Christ's life and death,
proclaiming his resurrection, and waiting in hope
for his coming again.

**Grant that in praise and thanksgiving
we may so offer ourselves to you
that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Send, O God, your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts
of bread and cup
that we who share in this feast may be the body of Christ;
light, life and love in the world.

In this hope and as your people we praise you:

**Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours,
God most holy, now and forever. Amen.**

The bread is broken.

Friends, we break this bread – **the Bread of Life.**

The cup is filled.

And we share this Cup – **the Cup of Blessing.**

PRAYER FOR AFTER COMMUNION:

**God of grace and goodness,
for your love offered to us anew in the child Jesus,
for the new life offered in bread and cup,
accept our thanks.**

**Grant us peace and joy in all things
that we who share Christ's body
may live his risen life,
and that we who drink his cup
may offer life to others.**

Amen.

CAROL: Joy to the World

VU 59 (v. 1,2&4)

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: Coventry Carol

~ Lani Smith

SUNG RESPONSE: In the Bleak Midwinter

VU 55 (vs. 1&4)

(The congregation may remain seated for the singing of this hymn.)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**As once you came in the hush of darkness, O God,
so still our hearts by the wonder of this night.**

**Make us wise with the wisdom of a little one,
that truth might be born afresh in us.**

**Let not our hearts be busy inns with no room,
but doors, opened wide to welcome a holy guest
who is Christ Jesus.**

In his name we pray. Amen.

(The Congregation is invited to move so that we may form a circle around the Sanctuary. Please take your order of service with you. You will be invited to light a candle and then stand and hold it while we sing the following carol.)

CAROL: Silent Night

VU 67

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

GOING FORTH:

Friends, let us go out into God's world gently,
as servants of the Prince of Peace.

**Let us go to carry his light,
out into our own lives, into our communities
and into God's world.**

Christ is born!

Thanks be to God!

*CHORAL BENEDICTION: A Christmas Benediction ~ Winnagene Hatch

**May the joy of this holy season fill your hearts with love,
And while the peace of this glorious season falls from heaven above;
May the Holy Spirit be your guide, and a light on every pathway
May the Christ-child lead you ever onward,
Onward to the face of God.**

POSTLUDE: Christmas Lullaby

~ Sarah Douglas



*Your church staff, Rose-Hannah, Leona & Mary wish all of you the warmth
of a Christmas filled with happiness, love, joy and peace.*

Christmas Church Office Hours

The church office will be closed from Tuesday, December 25th, to Tuesday, January 1st. It will reopen on Wednesday, January 2nd. If there is a pastoral emergency during that time please contact the minister, Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin, at 604-812-2501.