

# Tsawwassen United Church

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2008, 10:00 P.M.

*John, Judy and Alison have placed flowers in the sanctuary today  
in loving memory of Hilary Noelle Glover.*

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

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

PRELUDE: A Christmas Eve Pastorale

~ Dennis Eliot

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 Sandra Timuss)*

**God of Holy Mystery,**

**tonight is a night of hope and anticipation,**

**a night of expectation and renewal.**

**We come to the manger,**

**humble, open, ready, and with thanksgiving.**

**Help us to carry the gift of this wonderful light**

**all the days of our lives.**

**Help us to share glad tidings of great joy**

**with all those around us. Amen.**

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.)*
- TRIO: Gabriel's Ave ~ arr. by Ken Berg  
*(Sandra Timuss, Jan McLaurin, Marilyn Merry)*
- 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*
- ANTHEM: Prayer for Christmas ~ Ruth Elaine Schram
- 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.*
- ANTHEM: Midnight Clear ~ Frombach & Courtney  
*Soloist: Sandra Timuss*

## 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: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

~ Lani Smith

SUNG RESPONSE: In the Bleak Midwinter

VU 55 (vs. 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!**

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: How Silently, How Silently

~ Stanley E. Saxton



*Your church staff, Rose-Hannah, Brenda, 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 Wednesday, December 25th,  
to Friday, January 2nd. It will reopen on Monday, January 5th.

If there is a pastoral emergency during that time  
please contact Rev. Neill McRae at 604-940-0334.

# Tsawwassen United Church

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Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday to Friday

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