

Tsawwassen United Church

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2008, 4:00 P.M.

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

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: O Little Town of Bethlehem

~ arr. by Dan Forrest, Jr.

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 (vs. 1,3&5)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE IN THE ADVENT WREATH

(with Erin Blewitt)

**God of all that is good,
today we light the last candle in our Advent wreath;
a birthday candle for Jesus.**

**Help us to carry this light with us today, tomorrow,
and everyday.**

**Help us to share the wonderful gift you gave to us
with everyone we meet. 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.

READING: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Reader: Danny Stanger)

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

JUNIOR CHOIR: Follow the Star

~ L.S. Bailey and B.S. Mayo

EXPLORING OUR FAITH WITH THE CHILDREN — Nativity Tableau

READING: Luke 2: 1–5 (*Reader: Melanie Williams*)
(*Mary and Joseph take their places.*)

CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64 (vs. 1,2&3)

READING: Luke 2: 6-7 (*Reader: Erin Blewitt*)
The birth of Jesus.

CAROL: Away in a Manger VU 69

READING: Luke 2: 8-14 (*Reader: Scott Stanger*)
(*The angels come forward and share the good news with the shepherds.*)

CAROL: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing VU 48

READING: Luke 2: 15-18 (*Reader: Brianna Almond*)
(*The shepherds come forward and travel to the stable.*)

CAROL: Angels We Have Heard on High VU 38 (vs. 1,2&3)

READING: Matthew 2:1,2 & 9–11 (*Reader: Dianne Almond*)
(*The kings come forward and gather at the stable.*)

CAROL: As With Gladness Men of Old VU 81 (vs. 1,2&3)

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: Gifts for the Child ~ Eugene Butler

SUNG RESPONSE: While Shepherds Watched VU 75 (v. 1,2&6)
(*The congregation will remain seated.*)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

**God of light and truth we thank you for Jesus,
your Promised One whose birth we celebrate this night.**

**As you have blessed us with this most perfect gift,
bless now the gifts we now offer in his name.**

Amen.

JUNIOR CHOIR: What Are You Dreaming of? ~ Ruth Elaine Schram

CAROL: Silent Night VU 67 (v. 1&3)

GOING FORTH:

Let us go forth into God's world

ready to carry the light of Christ wherever we go.

What is the good news we celebrate this night?

Christ is born! Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: Little Jesus, Sweetly Sleep

~ Franklin Ritter