

Tsawwassen United Church

2nd Sunday After Christmas

January 4, 2009, 10:00 AM

*The season of Christmas is a twelve day celebration
of the gift of Jesus to the world.*

*Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.
At the points marked “*”, those who are able are invited to stand.*

CONNECTING WITH LIFE

PRELUDE: Stars of the Morning

~ Dennis Eliot

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: God calls us together to worship this morning.

All: **From our work and play within the world,**

One: God gathers us to give thanks for creation's goodness,

All: **for the strength to labour and for the wisdom to relax.**

One: From amidst our friends and family God brings us here to
participate in a community of faith,

All: **Christ's people, a new family.**

One: From everyday conversations, talk, and chatter,

All: **God invites us to engage one another in dialogue,**

One: to speak in truth from the depths of heart and mind, to pray freely.

All: **Let us heed God's call and rejoice in what God enables.**

One: Welcome to worship!

GATHERING PRAYER:

**We greet you, welcoming God, with our many morning moods.
Some of us could not wait to get here; some of us just made it.
Some of us know exactly why we've come; others are still not sure.
Still, something calls us each to you and we come to seek and to
worship.**

**We remember before you all that has made life good in recent days
– the dear, daily love of family and friends, the satisfaction of work
well done, the sweetness of a good night's sleep. For any and all
things which make us glad to be alive, we rejoice!**

**And we remember, also, all people who do not share our rejoicing or
who do so even while in peril – the lonely, the sick, those imprisoned
or at war. For our sisters and brothers facing any distress, we pray
your strength and peace will find and sustain them.**

And, though it's hard for us, we pray for those we dislike and mistrust, hoping that they, too, pray for us. Grant that these prayers may open our eyes and hearts to one another and so make "love" and "peace" more than just slogans in the church and the world. Because you love us, because we love you, may this be so! Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: This Is the Day

VU 412

CHILDREN'S TIME: The Story of Riley

Sing: Like a Rock:

**Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet
Like the starry night sky, God is over our heads
Like the sun on the horizon, God is ever before
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore!**

*HYMN: It Takes a Whole Village

1. **It takes a whole village to raise one child,
In love and beauty undefiled.
To grow in wisdom or to run wild,
It takes a whole village to raise one child.**
2. **It takes a whole city to care for the poor,
The homeless and hungry at our front door.
Open your heart, you'll receive much more,
It takes a whole village to care for the poor.**
3. **It takes a whole nation to build our pride,
Working together side by side.
Respecting our people we have to decide,
It takes a whole nation to build our pride.**
4. **It takes a whole planet to set us free,
From fear of extinction and misery.
We'll cherish our planet each river and tree,
It takes a whole planet to set us free.**
5. **It takes a whole village to raise one child,
In love and beauty undefiled.
To grown in wisdom or to run wild,
It takes a whole village to raise one child.**

~ Jim Strathdee

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

Isaiah 43: 1-7

Psalm 8

pew Bible O.T. 637

VU 732

REFLECTION: Monologues: "Connecting With Life"

*HYMN: Draw the Circle Wide

**Draw the circle wide,
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
No one stands alone,
Standing side by side,
Draw the circle wide.**

- 1. God the still point of the circle.
'Round whom all creation turns;
Nothing lost, but held forever,
In God's gracious arms.**
- 2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
So encompass great and small;
Let our loving know no borders,
Faithful to God's call.**
- 3. Let the dreams we dream be larger
Than we've ever dreamed before;
Let the dream of Christ be in us;
Open every door!**

~ Gordon Light

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN:

Open & close prayers with singing:

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

VU 400

THE LORD'S PRAYER

VU 916 (*paraphrase version*)

TRIO: Jesus, What A Wonderful Child

~ Rollo Dilworth

(*Jan McLaurin, Sandra Timuss, Marilyn Merry*)

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION:

May these gifts bring light to those walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and justice to those who are oppressed. Grant to each giver a sense of participation in the most important opportunity of all time: to share your love in the world. To this end, we dedicate our offerings and ourselves. Amen!

*HYMN: How then Shall I live?

1. **Took a step outside of my walking
Stepped inside another's shoes
Walked the dusty borders between us
Paths I'd never chosen to choose**

**How then shall I live?
How then shall I live?
How then shall I live, O God?
How the shall I live?**
2. **Heard a sound outside of my list'ning.
Felt the living hum of the ground.
Waited on the voice of the spirit,
Singing with its new-old sound.**
3. **Saw the world outside of my looking.
Gazed upon the eyes of its soul.
Held the hopes and fears of tomorrow,
Found the pieces making the whole.**
4. **Took a step outside of my walking.
Found within a beat that we share.
Walk'd with you the length of a lifetime,
And made of life a living prayer.**

~ Linnea Good

*COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION:

Friends, continue your journey walking in love.
Care for one another, care for the earth.
Seek justice and make peace.
God goes before you.
Live boldly, celebrate, and sing!

Sing: Go, Make a Diff'ence
**Go make a diff'ence. We can make a diff'ence.
Go make a diff'ence in the world. (x2)**

POSTLUDE: The Star in the Eastern Sky

~ David Paxton

We wish to thank the 2009 Wandering Worship Team for leading us in worship today: Fiona Ross, Frannie Heeney, Nicholas Giardini & Eric Hamlyn

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