

Tsawwassen United Church

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2009, 4:00 P.M.

The flowers on the communion table are placed by Steve and Bonnie Dane and family, in loving memory of Harry and Bernice Dane, Thomas and Gertrude Brett, and Bonnie's brother Michael Brett.

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

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 Tara Britnell)

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: Sandra Timuss)

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

YOUTH CHOIR: Come Rejoicing
(accompanied by guitarist Jamie Perry)

~ Greg Gilpin

EXPLORING OUR FAITH WITH THE CHILDREN — Nativity Tableau

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

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

READING: Luke 2: 6–7 (*Reader: Jason Almond*)
The birth of Jesus.

YOUTH CHOIR: Little Drummer Boy ~ *Katherine Davis*

READING: Luke 2: 8–14 (*Reader: Godfrey Nash*)
(*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: Danny Stanger*)
(*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: Pauline Mushens*)
(*The kings come forward and gather at the stable.*)

CAROL: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear VU 44

OFFERING/OFFERTORY: O Holy Night ~ *Adolphe Charles Adam & John Sullivan Dwight*
(*with guitarist Jamie Perry & Sandra Dawn*)

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.**

YOUTH CHOIR: Away in a Manger VU 69
(*Congregation, please join in on 3rd verse.*)

CAROL: Silent Night VU 67 (vs. 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: Still, Still, Still ~ *Walter Ehret*

We thank Jamie Perry for sharing his musical gifts with us today.