



**TRINITY UNITED CHURCH  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020  
Christmas Eve**

**We acknowledge that we meet and live  
on the traditional territories of the  
Mississauga Anishinaabe People.**

**We give thanks for their care for the land  
over thousands of years and  
for their deep spirituality and  
honouring of the Creator and the creation.**

**May we live with respect in God's creation  
and in harmony with our neighbours.**



*This Holy Night we celebrate with people around the world  
God's great gift of love in the birth of Jesus.  
Whether you are nearby or across an ocean,  
we welcome you to this service.  
May we unite hearts and voices in joy,  
as we welcome once again Emmanuel, God with us.*

*"A celebration is very different from a spectacle,  
where actors or musicians play to entertain an audience.  
In a celebration, we are all actors and all audience.  
It is not a true celebration unless everyone participates."*

*~ Jean Vanier*

**PRELUDE:** "The Coventry Carol" arr. by Noel Piercey  
(The Bells of Trinity; Shelley Evans, handchimes)

**HYMN: VU60<sup>1</sup> (v. 1- 4) "O Come All Ye Faithful"**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:  
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

God of God, light of light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created: R

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: R

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R

## WORDS OF WELCOME

**CANDLE LIGHTING: <sup>2</sup>**

**Hymn: VU6 (v.5)<sup>3</sup>**

We honour Messiah  
with Christ candle's flame,  
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

## Prayer

**We come in worship, to honour  
and to welcome baby Jesus,  
your infinitely precious gift, O God.  
May his humility, inspire ours.  
In his self-giving love, may we find a model  
for our own loving attitudes and actions.  
In the humanity of Jesus and your choice  
to come among us, may we find affirmation  
of our own humanity.  
May this celebration of your coming,  
speak good news to all your beloved world. Amen**

**HYMN: VU59<sup>4</sup> (1 &2) "Joy to the World"**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

**HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING:** Isaiah 9:1-7

**VU1 Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice!**  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

## **CONNECTIONS**

*The Birth of Jesus in Word, Music and Image*

## **A 2020-STYLE PAGEANT<sup>5</sup>**

## **CONNECTIONS**

**Luke 2: 1-20**

## **JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

**HYMN: VU64<sup>6</sup> “O Little Town of Bethlehem” (v. 1-3)**

O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

## **JESUS IS BORN**

**HYMN: VU62<sup>7</sup> (v. 1&2) “Once in Royal David’s City”**

Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattleshed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
who, with God, is over all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
There among the poor and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

## **SHEPHERDS IN THE FIELDS ABIDING**

**CHOIR ANTHEM: “While Shepherds Watch”**

Joseph Martin

## **ANGEL SIGHTINGS**

**HYMN: VU48<sup>8</sup> (v.1) “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”**

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'

## **OFF TO BETHLEHEM TO SEE**

**HYMN: VU69<sup>9</sup> (v.1&2) “Away in a Manger”**

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky  
looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

### A MOTHER REFLECTS

HYMN: VU47<sup>10</sup> (v.1&2) "Still, Still, Still"

Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.  
The Christchild in his crib lies sleeping,  
angels round him watch are keeping.  
Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep,  
while Mary sings and gently holds you,  
safely in her arms enfolds you.  
Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus softly sleep.

### NEWS FOR THE WORLD

DUET: "Joseph's Song" Jim Strathdee  
(Bob Grandy and Dave Freeman)

### SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### Invitation

#### Great Thanksgiving

Minister: God be with you.

People: and also with you.

#### Minister and Worship Leader:

Come, let us gather round the manger and pray.

Gracious God:

We yearn for the presence of the Holy in our lives. ....

.....our nurture, our hope, our life, our celebration.

### Distribution of the Communion Elements:

*This is Christ's table. All who seek to follow his way  
are welcome to receive Communion.*

### Prayer After Communion

CHOIR ANTHEM: "A Rustic Star Carol" Joseph Martin  
(Karla Buckborough, soloist)

### CONNECTIONS

HYMN: VU67<sup>11</sup> "Silent Night"

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.

### BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

(The Bells of Trinity)

arr. by Barbara Kinyon

*May your hearts sense the wonder of divine love  
at Christmas and throughout the year*

## Joseph's Song

When I learned that "Joseph's Song", which is described as a big favorite at Trinity, was written by Jim Strathdee, I emailed to let them know. Jean replied with the following story. - Joanna

*"Jim wrote that song as he was doing "night duty" with our daughter Rachel (just turned 44 this Sunday), who arrived 3 weeks early and effectively interrupted all the music rehearsals for Christmas. Jim began to wonder if Joseph did anything like that 2000 years ago, and ended up writing the song that next day. It was sung two weeks later on Christmas Eve in Ridgecrest 1976."*

## Credits

- <sup>1</sup> Text: Irregular with refrain; John F. Wade, ca. 1711-1786.
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## Assisting in this Evening's Service:

Minister: Rev. Joanna MacQuarrie  
Minister of Music: Robert Grandy  
The Chancel Choir  
Lay Worship Leader: Lyn Braun  
Advent Candle Lighters: Eunice Raby and Cheryl Kenniphaas  
Lay Readers: Nathan & Rianna White  
Sanctuary Guild: Margaret Brown

The Church Office will be closed **December 25-28 inclusive**. There is always a minister on call. If at any time you need immediate pastoral care, please call the minister at 705-874-8603 *and leave a message*.

**All donations for the 2020 tax year must be received at Trinity no later than December 31.**

Your donations are appreciated and used carefully to further Christ's work in the community.

## **3 ways to Donate**

1. Cheques placed in **secure mailbox** beside main door of church
2. **PAR** (pre-authorized remittance monthly). Contact church office and they will make arrangements.
3. Electronically through **e-transfer** or by using **Canada Helps**, a Canadian not-for-profit organization. Just go to Trinity's web page <http://trinitypeterborough.com> and click on the 'Donate Now' button located at the upper right hand side of the page. Canada Helps will issue a tax receipt in Trinity's name.

