

Christmas Eve 2018

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel” Text, Latin, 12th C
Music: Hal H. Hopson, Arranged by Emily Lund

Lighting the Christ Candle

Greeting

Opening Prayer

**Holy One, if we had only one prayer this night,
surely it would be thank you!**

**Thank you for the gift of yourself
born into our world**

**that we may know your love as close as breath
and live with your passion and power for life.**

We welcome you O Christ this night.

**How we need your healing grace,
your love,
your truth**

to shine in our lives and the life of the world.

**With grateful hearts welcome you O Christ this
night. Amen.**

Carol # 60 O Come All Ye Faithful

Luke 2: 1-7

Carol # 58 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Luke 2: 8-14

Carol # 38 Angels We Have Heard on High

Luke 2: 15-20

Carol # 70 There's a Star in the East

Reflection

O Holy Night soloist: Louise n ha'ruby

Offering our gifts

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Communion Carols:

47 Still, Still, Still

55 In the Bleak Midwinter

74 What Child is This

Receiving and Sharing the light

Silent Night

Blessing

Joy to the World!

**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 ...**

**Silent night. Holy night. Shepherds quake at the
sight: glories streams from heaven afar,
heavenly host sing Hallelujah.
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 ...**

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

**He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love ...**

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James Bay United Church



Blessed is the one who comes to us
by the way of love
given into our arms
as love itself
that we may be struck
with a joyous shock
of mutual recognition:
there, the eternal resemblance
the beauty, the dignity,
the shining, shining love

Christmas Peace calligraphy created by Joan Ryan

Communion Prayer for Christmas Eve

Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of all life, Source of love. We bless you for all your good gifts.

On this night of nights we give thanks for the gift of yourself born into our earthy world.

We thank you for Mary, for her courageous yes to your call, **for her strength in giving birth to your love in the world.**

We thank you for Jesus. Born on life's margin, he was one of us, **full of our joy and subject to our frailty**, our brother and your delight.

From his fullness we all receive mercy after mercy, grace upon grace.

Through him we are given to see our worth **and trust the truth of your enduring love.**

He welcomed everyone who was unwelcome elsewhere. **To one and all he shows another way of being human together.**

He kept faith with you, even when it cost him his life.

And yet his death was not the end. In his rising we come to trust that nothing can limit your love. In his rising we come to trust he is with us still -- we are not alone. **In his rising we come to trust that every life is NOW!**

And so it is on this Christmas Eve we join our voices with your people of every time and place, **even the whole company of heaven**, celebrating his birth ...

Gloria! In excelsis deo!

In the middle of another night when the end was near and betrayal was in the air, he shone all the brighter with love for his friends. He ate with them. And as he lifted the bread to bless it, it was as though his whole life was gathered up in that loaf. He thanked you. "My body," he said, breaking the bread to share with his friends. "Eat this, and let it become part of you. Do this in the awareness that I am with you."

Then he lifted the cup ... as though it was brimming with his whole life. He thanked you for it, and passed it to them, saying, "this is the cup of a new covenant poured out for you and for all, that the power of forgiveness may be released among you. Whenever you do this, remember me."

God of Mercy, we remember also and hold in the light of your love the whole creation in need of your saving grace. **Hear the prayers of our hearts ...**

Pour out your Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts. **Make us one with Christ in his self-giving, that our lives too may be broken open and poured out for the healing of the world.**

Make us one in love for you and the whole creation **that your justice may roll down like a mighty river, and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

In this hope and as your people we praise you, God most holy, now and forever.