**

*We recognize the lands upon which we worship as the*

***ancestral, cultural, traditional and unceded lands***

***of the Səl̓ílwətaʔ,  Xʷməθkwəy̓əm, & Sḵwx̱wú7meshsi,***

***Musqueam***, *Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.*

***Lakeview Multicultural United Church is a safe place***

***for all people to worship***

***regardless of race, creed, age, cultural background or sexual orientation***

**Lakeview Multicultural United Church**

**Vancouver, BC**

***♦*** *Please stand where indicated, as you are able & comfortable*

***Congregational responses are in bold***

**Christmas Sunday**

**December 30th, 2018**

**A Christmas Prayer For You**

**That may hold forever in your heart**

**the golden memories of every Christmas Day**

**you have ever known.**

**That you may be brave in the hours of trial**

**when the cross is laid upon your shoulders,**

**when the hill you must climb seems very high,**

**and the beacon lights of hope are far away.**

**That every gift God has given you**

**may grow with the years,**

**and fill the hearts of those you love with its fragrance.**

**That in every hour, you may have a friend**

**worthy of your friendship**

**to whom you can confidently reach a hand**

**when the storms break,**

**and with whom you can ford the torrent**

**and reach the sun-kissed heights.**

Patrick Scanlan

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♪ **Praise Music**

 Acknowledgement of the Territory

 Welcome and Announcements

**Gathered ‘Round The Manger**

 **Words of Gathering:**  **Luke 2: 10-11**

 “Behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which shall be

 for all people. For unto you is born a Saviour, who is Christ,

 the Lord.”

 **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all!**

♦♪ **Carol:** ‘Angels From The Realms Of Glory’ ***VU 36***

**Prayer**

 Our hearts, O God, are a manger, sweet and warm – where the

 Christ Child may find welcome. Thank You for Christmas:

 for the love of family and friends, for the beauty of this Holy

 Season, and most especially for the birth of Jesus – born again

 for us as Emmanuel, God with us. Like the shepherds and the

 Magi of old, may we bow in wonder, thanksgiving, and praise.

 Amen

 Greeting Each Other With Christmas Joy

 **Scripture:** John 1 *(selected verses)*

 The Christmas Story *(told from a child’s perspective - video)*

♦♪ **Carol:** “Away In A Manger” ***VU 69***

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**Sharing The Gifts Of Christmas**

♪ Offertory

♦♪ **Offertory Hymn: *VU 74***

*So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.*

*The King of Kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.*

*This, this is Christ the King; whom shepherds guard and angels sing;*

*haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!*

♦ Offertory Prayer: *(together)*

May these gifts give thanks for the blessings You have given

 us this Christmas:

 the gift of childlike wonder;

 the gift of radiant hope;

 the gift of peace that passes all understanding;

 the gift of deep joy which cannot be taken away.

 With these gifts, we bring ourselves, O God, in response to the

 greatest gift of all – Jesus, the Word made flesh. Amen

 Prayers of the People

♦♪ **Carol:** “A Hallelujah Christmas” *(please sing with the video)*

  *(based on the song by Leonard Cohen*

 *with words ‘The Clovertons’)*

1. I've heard about this baby boy

 Who's come to earth to bring us joy

 And I just want to sing this song to you

 It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth

 The minor fall, the major lift

 With every breath I'm singing Hallelujah

 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

 *continued over …*

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2. A couple came to Bethlehem

 Expecting child, they searched the inn

 To find a place for You were coming soon

 There was no room for them to stay

 So in a manger filled with hay

 God's only Son was born, oh Hallelujah

 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

3. The shepherds left their flocks by night

 To see this baby wrapped in light

 A host of angels led them all to You

 It was just as the angels said

 You'll find Him in a manger bed

 Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah

 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

4. A star shown bright up in the east

 To Bethlehem, the wisemen three

 Came many miles and journeyed long for You

 And to the place at which You were

 Their frankincense and gold and myrrh

 They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah

 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

5. I know You came to rescue me

 This baby boy would grow to be

 A man and one day die for me and you

 My sins would drive the nails in You

 That rugged cross was my cross, too

 Still every breath You drew was Hallelujah

 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah

 

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♦ Benediction:

As the shepherds returned on that first Christmas night, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard,

so you, too, are invited to go forth, glorifying and praising God by the living out of your lives in hope and gratitude. And may the presence of the Christ Child among us – the mystery of Emmanuel: God with us – bring you light in your darkness,

joy in your heart, and peace everlasting. Amen

**Welcome to Lakeview Multicultural United Church**

**and blessings on this Christmas Sunday.**

**May you find here a strengthening word, caring friends,**

**and the embracing spirit of Christ.**

Interim Minister: Rev. Valerie Taylor

email: valtaylor1981@gmail.com

church phone: 604-874-0634

emergencies: 604-434-6388

Pianist: Mark Dumagpi

Church website: www.lakeviewunited.ca

