



## December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



**Welcome & Announcements** ~ Jan Richardson

**Centering Song ~ *O Holy Night***, composed by Adolphe Adam in 1847,  
played, sung and recorded by Garry Fix

**Gathering Words ~ *Telling the Story***, poem by Jan Sutch Pickard, ecumenical Iona  
Community

**Musical Interlude ~ *Emmanuel, Emmanuel***,

Page 114, *Book of Praise*, PCC. Words & Music: Bob McGee. Copyright (c) 1976 C.A. Music (div. of C. A. Records, Inc.).

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.**

**God with us, revealed in us,  
his name is called Emmanuel.**

**Advent Candlelighting ~**

*(light the candles which surround the center candle)*

Hope, peace, joy and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God; and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle.

*(light the candle at the centre of the wreath)*

**A Prayer at the Culmination of Advent:**

God of hope, peace joy and love.

We wait; we remember; we ready ourselves; we pray.

We pray hope. Hope for the hopeless; the hopeful; for all people; for healing; for meaning.

Hope for peace. Hope for now. Hope for the future. Hope for ever.

We pray peace. Peace for people; for all places; for all times; for all situations; for all circumstances. Peace in our hearts; our minds; our lives. Peace in everything.

We pray joy. Joy for the young; the old; for all people. Joy in happiness; in sadness; in work; in play. Joy in everything.

We pray love. Love for others; for self; for family; for friends. Love for neighbours; for strangers; for enemies. Love for the lonely; the lost; those sick; those left out. Love for everyone; for the world; for life; for You.

We pray Christ. Christ who brings hope; who brings peace; who brings joy; who brings love. Christ for the world; for all people; in all people. Christ for our lives; in our lives. Christ who is the way; who is of God; who is with us - Always. Amen. © Jon Humphries.

<http://pilgrimwr.unitingchurch.org.au/?p=677>

**Special Music: *The Stars that Night***, composed, sung, and recorded by David Goodwin, accompanied by Barbara-Lynn Goodwin.

Audio link: <https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/2d586d74-4ff6-470b-bac9-2746b7ca242d/downloads/The%20Stars%20That%20Night.mp3?ver=1604944888675>

Lyrics:

Did you see the stars that night?  
Twinkling, sparkling, burning bright?  
It was so amazing,  
more than just stargazing.  
I think I saw the face of God.

Did you hear the song that night?  
Wings of angels taking flight?  
Singing Hallelujah,  
Glory Hallelujah.  
I think I heard the voice of God.

Did you feel the love that night?  
Underneath that star of might?

In a stable lowly  
lay a child most holy.  
I think I felt the hand of God.

Did you see, did you hear, did you feel that night  
when our God came down to earth?  
Oh, the stars, and the songs, and the love,  
all belong to our Lord Messiah's birth.

Newborn babe so soft and sweet.  
Shepherds kneeling at your feet.  
Starlight streaming o'er you,  
all the heavens adore you,  
Emmanuel, the Son of God.

## **The Christmas Gospel in Story, Song & Reflection ~ Luke 2:1-20**

*Hearing & Pondering the Christmas story – how will it speak to us anew this night?*

**Medley of Christmas Hymns: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* #64 verse 1; *Angels, from the Realms* #36 verse 1; *In the Bleak Midwinter* #55 verse 4; *Still, Still, Still* #47 verse 3** These hymns are used with permission through being in the Public Domain, or covered through OneLicence.net Annual Renewal A-605521.

## **Prayers of the Community & The Prayer Jesus Taught**

### **Lighting our Christmas Candles**

In Christ there is a love that radiates in the world and calls us to another way of live. We are called to be the light-bearers. Hold the light to the darkness and the darkness will not overcome it.

### **A Hymn by Candlelight ~ *Silent Night* #67**

Words: Joseph Mohr 1818. English translation: John Freeman Young 1863, et al.  
Music: Franz Xavier Grüber 1818. **Public Domain.**

### **Benediction:**

May the gift of God's love  
in the light of Christ's life  
shine brightly around you,  
warmly within you,  
and boldly beyond you  
this radiant night and forever more. Amen.  
Written by Christopher Bowman, copyright 2004. Brethren Press.

**Blessing Song: *Dona Nobis Pacem* (*Grant us Peace*)** Sung by Emma Werbowesky  
Accompanied by Veronica Weber