

Christmas Eve Family Service

December 24, 2021

6:30 p.m.

Gathering in God's Presence

Musical Prelude - Sleigh Ride Leroy Anderson
Dana Yuan & Daphne Lin, piano duet

Welcome

Call to Worship

Come, the night is cold, the welcome warm.

**We come to hear the story,
the story told long ago,
the story retold this night.**

It is a story of trust, faith, and love.

It is the story of the birth of a child.

It is the story of God coming to be with us,
coming to share our days.

It is God's story, it is our story

Opening prayer

We sing for joy, O God, and our gratitude for your gifts to us: hope and peace, joy and love, and the best gift of all, Jesus Christ, light and life for all. We thank you and praise you with all of our hearts, minds and souls. Amen.

O Come All Ye Faithful (verses 1-3)

VU 60

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

As we gather on this holy night, we relight the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love to remind us of God's greatest gift born in a stable.

On this night we come in hope that we may remember the story and the gifts of this night that they might be born in us so we might share them with the world.

Tonight we celebrate God's greatest gift to the world. The waiting is over. It's time to celebrate!

We light these candles for the story, for the Christ child, the Light of God, the joy of the world.

Ministry of Music - Huron Carol

First Handbell Choir (Trad. Arr. K. King Martin)

Luke 2:1-7 - the Family Story Bible by Ralph Milton

Story - Rachel - The Innkeeper

Lynne Blake-Dickson

Away in a Manger (verse 1)

VU 69

Story - Rachel continues

Away in a Manger (verse 2)

VU 69

Luke 2:1-7 continued

Away in a Manger (verse 3) VU 69

Offering our Gifts

Offering dedication: In the bleak midwinter (verse 4) VU 55

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wiseman, I would do my part;
Yet what can I give him -- give my heart*

Scripture (Luke 2:8-20)

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1-2) VU 38

Story - The Child from the Inn - 30 years later Rev. Rose Ann Vita

A CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

All Poor Ones and Humble Mezo-Willingham family
with Gerard Yun

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Tonight we celebrate God's greatest gift to the world. The waiting is over. It's time to celebrate! We light this candle for the story, for the Christ child, the Light of God, the joy of the world.

A Candle is Burning (verse 5) VU 6

**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.**

"In the Still of The Night"

Rev. Harry Disher

Going into God's World

Silent Night VU 67

Blessing and Benediction

Postlude: In Dulci Jubilo J. S. Bach

The Staff of First United Church wish to take this opportunity
to extend the blessings of Christmas to you all.

Harry, Rose Ann, Kathleen, Harold, Sheena, Jay & Craig