

BRECHIN UNITED CHURCH  
WORSHIP SERVICE for DECEMBER 26<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Christmas 1

Prelude: "We Sing of Christmas" Craig Bay Choristers

Welcome and announcement: service lead by Revs. Kris and Peggy Jensen

Candle lighting: *We light this candle remembering the infant Jesus.*

*Jesus is the light of the world.*

Call to Worship:

One: *Have you made out your list?*

**All: That was done last week!**

One: *Not a list for Santa. Have you made out your list of God's gracious dealings, all the things that God has done that need praising?*

**All: Oh, like a list of God's great goodness to all the families of the earth!**

One: *Yes! Like: compassion lavished generously; extravagant love; prayers answered and hope-filled opportunities!*

**All: At the top of the list is the most wondrous thing God ever did!**

One: *God didn't send someone else to help us with our lives or carry us along.*

**All: God came to us in person!**

One: *Let us worship and praise God during this Christmas season!*

Opening prayer: *Let us pray together;*

**God of Joy, the spirit of Christmas lingers and the festivities continue, so it is good to slow down and reflect on the meaning and impact of the season. As we sing the timeless carols, help us to hear the message with clarity, and as we reflect on the reason for our gathering, may we realize the connection between Bethlehem and Brechin. Help us keep the message alive in our hearts, we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen**

Hymn/Carol: "Angels We have Heard on High" VU 38

Scripture readings: **Luke 2:8–20**

Reflection: *Pondering the Christmas story*

Hymn/ Carol: "Joy to the World" VU 59

Scripture: **Colossians 3:12-17**

Reflection: *Words of guidance for the New Year*

Hymn: "Dream a Dream" MV #158 Craig Bay Choristers

Prayers of the People and Lord's prayer (version by Parker Palmer):

**Heavenly Father, heavenly Mother,**

**Holy and blessed is your true name.**

**We pray for your reign of peace to come,**

**We pray that your good will be done,**

**Let heaven and earth become one.**

**Give us this day the bread we need,**

**Give it to those who have none.**

**Let forgiveness flow like a river between us,**

**From each one to each one.**

**Lead us to holy innocence**

**Beyond the evil of our days —**

**Come swiftly Mother, Father, come.**

**For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy:**

**Forever your name is All in One.**

**Amen**

Offering: message by Blaine Wilkins

Mission and Service Video

Hymn/ Carol - "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

VU 43

Commissioning:

*One: This is not the end of the story, but the beginning.*

**All: We go to find a new beginning to our stories, finding joy in the midst of life's struggles, growing like Jesus, into wisdom.**

*One: We go to live the story birthed into our lives again!*

**All: We go forth in anticipation—not sure what to expect, but confident in Jesus companionship every step of the way.**

Benediction: *May the Love of God, the Peace of Christ and*

*the Hope filled presence of the Holy Spirit be with you today and always. Amen*

Sung response:

(Resources: Call to worship was written by **Jeff Warner**, Bolton UC, Bolton Ontario

Opening Prayer was written by **Laura Turnbull**, Penticton UC, Penticton, BC.

Commissioning was written by **Gord Dunbar**, Port Nelson UC, Burlington, Ont.

Gathering: Boxing Day Service Mission and Service Sunday, United Church of Canada)