



Diocese of
New Westminster
ANGELICAN CHURCH OF CANADA



St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

serving North Vancouver since 1899

December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. Family Service

Officiant: The Reverend Patrick Blaney

St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church

220 West 8th Street, North Vancouver BC V7M 1N1

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Welcome *We are glad you have joined us for worship this evening. Please turn all cell phones and other electronic devices off or to "silent". Thank you.*

Christmas Letter 2023

I am always moved by the fact that each Advent week has its own theme. The movement toward Christmas gives us the Sundays of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. These words for me express the monumental importance of the celebration of Christmas. When God thought we needed it most, God sent Jesus to be born to a poor, young, unmarried couple in a dusty cold barn. God was finally living amongst us and living as we do. This child would grow up to teach that the least among us are valued children of God and humanity. This child would grow up to teach that forgiveness is the way of God and that we should, as best we can, live a life forgiving others. This child would grow up to teach that love is the way, the life and the truth and that to love each other unconditionally is our calling as Christians, and the means by which we involve ourselves in personal growth and help build a better world for all.

Our world and our community have certainly faced challenges this year. The terrible war in Ukraine carries on. As well, the tragic war in the Holy Land deeply saddens the soul of us all. We pray for peace and the end to all human hostilities. In our community we have carried the grief of the deaths of a number of parishioners. We fondly cherish their memory in our hearts and hold on to their vision of a world of love. As we move our way through Advent, we get the time to dream once again of exactly that vision – a world of love. When we light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve, we see it as a symbol that once more opens us to the idea that all things are new again, that anything is possible with the love of God.

At Christmas God sends us a message, as he did to the poor shepherds, that our saviour is born. Two thousand years ago abiding in their fields an angel told them this good news of great joy. Imagine knowing and feeling and living a life of impoverishment, and fear and hunger and prejudice and injustice. Then imagine a host of heavenly

angels coming to you, to you specifically, and announcing the Son of God has been born for you. It would be inspiring. It would be fulfilling. It would be life changing, and it still is today for all of us.

My wish for you and your family and loved ones this Advent and Christmas season is that the peace, joy, hope and love of the Christ child be with you and guide you and inspire you. As you share wonderful moments with family and friends in this blessed time of year, please also put aside the time pray for those less fortunate than us and those in hardship. The Christ child came for all of us and let us rejoice and sing and be not afraid to say aloud the dreams that we dream, because it was a miracle, and it still is today for all of us. Joy to the world!

The Reverend Patrick Blaney

Ministering this evening at our 5:00 p.m. service:

Officiant:	<i>The Reverend Patrick Blaney</i>
Liturgical Assistant:	<i>Jill Parsons</i>
Musician:	<i>Galina Martyniuk, piano and organ</i>
Guest Musician:	<i>Martha Kendall, soprano</i>
Choir Director:	<i>Christie Smith</i>

Flowers in the Sanctuary today *have been donated by members of the Parish of St. John. Please see back pages for dedications.*

Please note that there is no Eucharist during this service. For those wishing to take communion, it will be offered at the end of the service.

All who love God and desire Christ are welcome to receive communion. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please let the Eucharistic Administrator know if you wish to receive one. Please note intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine), is not permitted.



Territorial Acknowledgement

Celebrant The community of St. John's acknowledges that we live,
work and worship on the ancestral and unceded land of
the Coast Salish Peoples: The Musqueam, Squamish, and
Tseil- Waututh Nations. May the reconciling love of Christ be
reflected in our words and in our actions.

The Gathering of the Community

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all.

All And also with you.

Celebrant Almighty God,
**All to you all hearts are open,
all desires are known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you, and worthily,
magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Collect

Celebrant Eternal God,
**All this holy night is radiant
with the brilliance of your one true light.
As we have known
the revelation of that light on earth,
bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly
glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Advent Candle

we sing all verses of the hymn.

Hymn Hope Is a Star

**Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.**

Refrain:

**When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

Refrain

**Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.**

Refrain

**Love is a flame that burns in our heart.
Jesus has come and will never depart.**

Refrain

**We honour Messiah with Christ Candle's flame.
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.**

Refrain

Liturgy for the Christ Candle at Christmas - Fulfillment

First Voice The Advent time of waiting and preparing is over!
We have lit four candles that remind us about
longing and peace and joy and love.

(The four Advent candles are lit)

Second Voice These candles remind us that God promises to be
with us, to comfort us, to help us rejoice, and to
teach us to love.

Today we celebrate that God has come to be with
us in the baby called Jesus.

Today we light one more candle, and we call it
the Christ candle.

(The white Christ candle is lit)

First Voice This candle reminds us of all God has done for us.
God fills us with good things, like hope and peace and
joy and love. God is faithful to us. God is with us, now
and always.

**All O God, come, travel with us through our lives.
Give us courage to spread your light in the world.
Amen.**

A Christmas Story: A Night Like No Other

Part One. This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The children will show us how to go. The little town we seek sits in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years the houses have gathered there on the hilltop like a family breaking bread. "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread."

In the centre of the village is a small inn. On this night it is overflowing with people seeking sleep and a place to eat. Behind the inn is a dark stable. A gray donkey chews his barley and broken straw while a weary cow leans and rests after the day's plowing in the valley. A sheep nearby is nearly asleep.

All is still and quiet in the little town.

Hymn On to Bethlehem Town

During the singing of the hymn, the children bring forward the donkey, the cow, and the sheep.

1. On to Beth-le-hem Town; Join the crowd and tra-vel down;
2. There we'll see the boy; Hearts a-glow with bound-less joy;

down the road that leads us to the cra-dle. Come all who are
in the ev-er-las-ting word. We will bow be-

a-ble. Come, come to the sta-ble with hearts full of
for Him. Come, come and a-dore Him Bring-ing gifts of



13 joy, as we kneel and pray. Come and
gold, frank - in - cense and myhr. On to

17 see the child, with his mother Ma - ry mild. Come a - long and
Beth - le - hem Town; Join the crowd and tra - vel down. Down the road that

21 wor - ship at the cra - die.
leads us to the cra - die.

Part Two. As night gathers, the last two travellers come slowly up the road. Look, there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to come to this city where King David was born, so long ago.

They have come, like so many others, because the Roman emperor wants to count each one, so he can take their money as a tax. But it is late, and Mary is so weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.

Hymn During the singing of the hymn, the children bring forward Mary and Joseph.

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

IRBY 8 7 8 7 7 7 irregular

melody by Henry John Gauntlett 1805-1876
harmonized by Arthur Henry Mann 1850-1928

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle - shed,

where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed.

Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round.

Cecil Frances Alexander 1823-1895

Part Three. Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly, from the stable, comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed box that his father has filled with straw.

Hymn During the singing of the hymn, the children bring forward the baby Jesus.

CHRISTIAN YEAR Christmas/Epiphany

126 Away in a Manger

Capo 1

E

C#m

F#m

11 11 11 11 11
GRADLE SONG

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love you, Lord Je - sus — look down from on high,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.
and fit us for heav - en to live with you there.

Text: American (19th cent.).
Music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838–1921), adapt.

Part Four. In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter: the faces of angels. The fearful shepherds then hear music in the sky, and a voice says clearly, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the City of David a Savior is born! He is Christ, the Lord."

Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all people, everywhere."

The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find Nativity itself in the centre of all that love.

Hymn During the singing of the hymn, the children bring forward the shepherds and the angel.

CHRISTIAN YEAR Christmas/Epiphany

136 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Descant

5 "All glo - ry be to God on high, and

1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night all
 2 "Fear not," said he, for migh - ty dread had
 3 To you in Da - vid's town this day is
 4 the heaven - ly babe you there shall find to

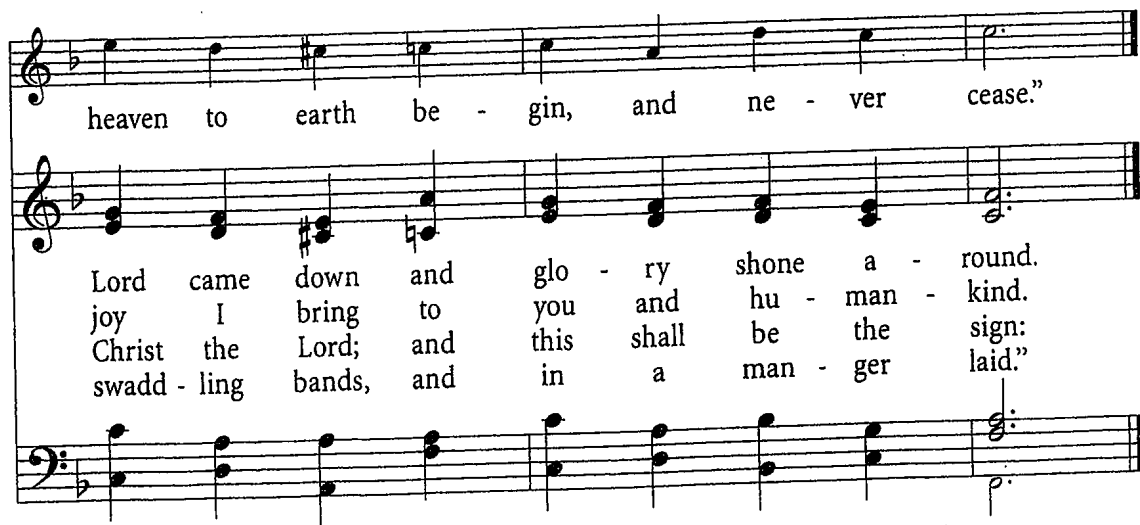
to the world be peace; good will hence - forth from

seat - ed on the ground, the an - gel of the
 seized their trou - bled mind. "Glad ti - dings of great
 born of Da - vid's line a Sav - iour, who is
 hu - man view dis - played, all mean - ly wrapped in

Text: Luke 2:8-14; para. Natum Tate (1652-1715), alt.
 Music: Melody, Whole Book of Psalms, 1592; descant, Salar Lang (1891-1971).
 Desc. © Novello & Co., Ltd. Reprinted by permission of Shawnee Press, Inc. (ASCAP).

WINCHESTER OLD





heaven to earth be - gin, and ne - ver cease."

Lord came down and glo - ry shone a - round.
 joy I bring to you and hu - man - kind.
 Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
 swadd - ling bands, and in a man - ger laid."

5 "All glory be to God on high,
 and to the world be peace;
 good will henceforth from heaven to earth
 begin, and never cease."

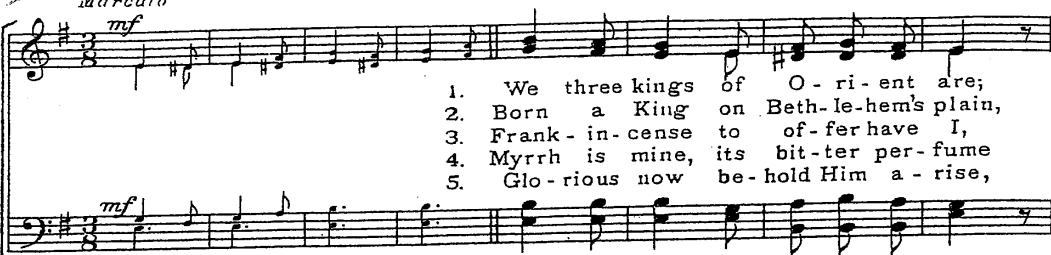
Part Five. Three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert, perhaps from as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry three kings, the wise ones, the Magi. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King its shining shows them.

Hymn During the singing of the hymn, the children bring forward the three kings.

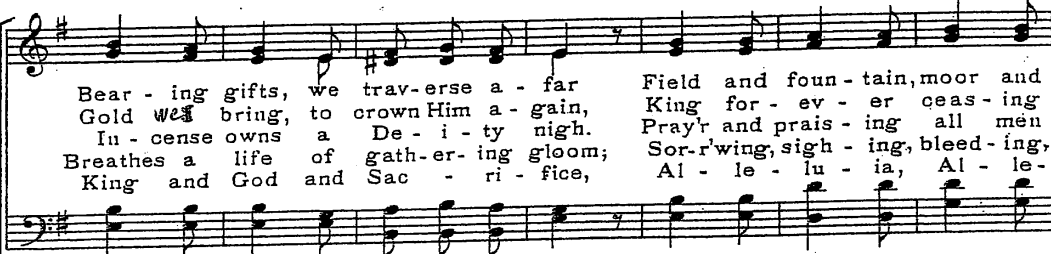
We Three Kings of Orient Are

JOHN H. HOPKINS, 1857

Marcato
mf

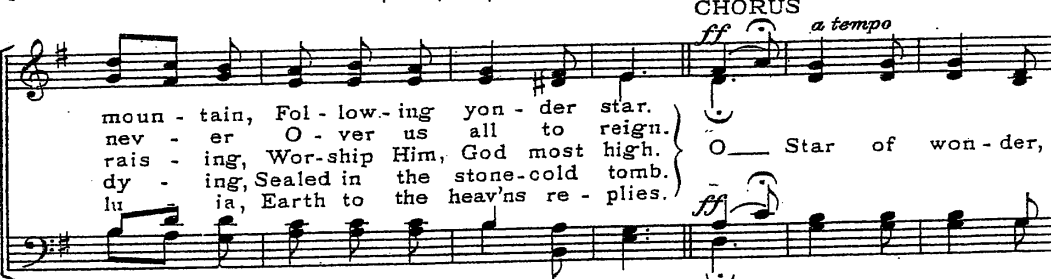


1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are;
2. Born a King on Beth-le-hem's plain,
3. Frank-in-cense to of-fer have I,
4. Myrrh is mine, its bit-ter per-fume
5. Glo-rious now be-hold Him a - rise,

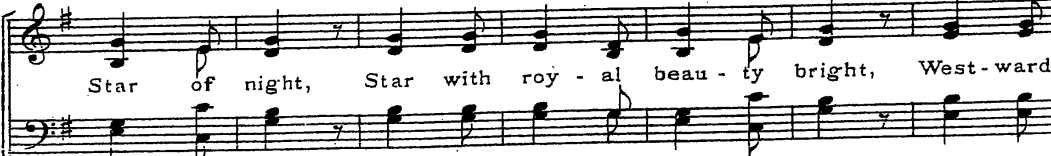


Bear - ing gifts, we trav-erse a - far Field and foun-tain, moor and
Gold we bring, to crown Him a - gain, King for - ev - er ceas - ing
In - cense owns a De - i - ty nigh. Pray'r and prais - ing all men
Breathes a life of gath-er-ing gloom; Sor-r'wing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing,
King and God and Sac - ri - fice, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -

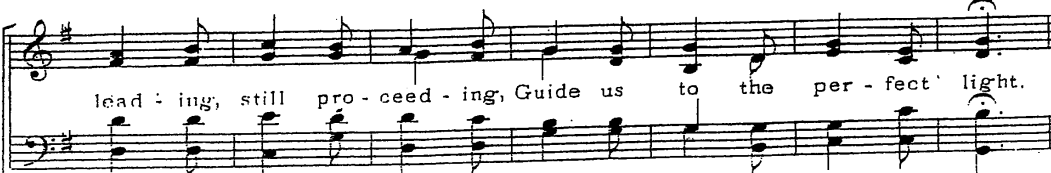
CHORUS
ff *a tempo*



moun - tain, Fol - low - ing yon - der star.
nev - er O - ver us all to reign. } O — Star of won - der,
rais - ing, Wor - ship Him, God most high.
dy - ing, Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.
lu - ia, Earth to the heav'ns re - plies.



Star of night, Star with roy - al beau - ty bright, West-ward



lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, Guide us to the per - fect light.

Part Six. The kings' journey ends in a new kind of king. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall to their knees and give him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense and bitter myrrh, brought so far with so much love.

So now we all come, following the star, to find God-with-us. We come, as people have come all through the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God's gift to us.

Come forward now. Bring your gifts of stars and of yourselves to place around the manger. Show us the way into the Mystery of Christmas, as we sing, for this night is holy and filled with overflowing silence.

Hymn *During the singing of the hymn, the children bring forward stars to place in and around the stable.*

119 Silent Night

Capo 1

1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm,
 2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight: glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light rad - iant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild, sleep in
 heav - enly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia, Christ the
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus,

heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Sav - iour is born, Christ the Sav - iour is born.
 Lord, at thy birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Blessing

Dismissal

Presider Go forth in the name of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

Celebrant Words of dismissal.

All Thanks be to God.



We wish you all a wonderful Christmas

For those wishing to attend a Christmas Day, a service will be held on December 25th, 10 am, at St. Catherine's Anglican Church located at 1058 Ridgewood Dr, North Vancouver.

Christmas Flower Dedications

Flowers in the Sanctuary were generously donated by members of our parish.

Donated by

Madeline Cooper

Sandra Dunlop-Miller
Ryley

Barbara Backer

Howard & Cathy Dallimore

Brookfield and Friday Families

Dedication

Jean Sampy

George, Freda Batt, Tom and Rosemary

The Ancestors, Gone before

The Dallimore, Thomas & Miles families

Hannah, Eveleen & Leonard Brookfield
Hon & Fred Friday