

Christmas Eve 2025

THIS WEEK AT BRECHIN

Minister: Rev. Katherine Brittain

Music Director and Choir Leader: Tim Weger

Readers: Clare Brittain; Eileen Carolan, Bonnie Haapala, Val Neilson, Rob Russell, Judy Wiebe

Greeters: Marilyn & Rob Russell & Anne Harris-Freed & Betty Vieira

Power Point: Prepared by Matt Haapala; presented by Angela Donaldson

Audio Visual: Matt Haapala

Italics – leader; **Bold** - congregation

Opening Reading

CAROL: VU 60 “O Come, All Ye Faithful” (verses 1, 3, 5)

(Words: English trans. Frederick Oakeley 1841, et al., French, trans. Claude Rozier 1950

Music: attrib. John Francis Wade, ca. 1743, Public Domain)

**1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

**3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: R**

**5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R**

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: They have heard it on the hills,
they have heard it in the streets;
the rumour prevails, and none can contain it.

All: **Some are looking up the prophets
some are studying the skies,
others speculate or calculate,
but none deny the facts.**

One: Some are dancing back to sheepfolds
some are traveling foreign roads,
some await more information,
others celebrate the news.

**All: In a foreign place, a ruler has imposed a new tax
in a hilly place, an old woman nourishes her son;
in a royal place, an old ruler senses a new threat;
in a busy place, a young couple cope with their new child.**

One: And in what seems the wrong time,
and in what seems the wrong place,
among those who seem the wrong people,
God has decided to bless and disturb and visit us.

**All: Welcome, Emmanuel, God-with-us.
Welcome Christmas!**

Lighting our Advent Wreath:

One: How does a weary world hold onto hope,
practice peace, spread joy, or know love?
How does a weary world combat cruelty?
How does a weary world shine a light into
our bleakest night?

**All: We do all these things with God's help.
For tonight, a child is born in Bethlehem.
Tonight, Christ draws near. Tonight, we light
the Christ Candle. Tonight, we are not alone.**

One: God is near. Love has drawn close.
Rejoice! For God loves this weary world.

THE FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2-7

CAROL: VU 64 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (verses 1 & 2)

*(Words: Phillips Brooks 1868, Music Lewis Henry Redner 1868
Public Domain)*

1. **O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**
2. **For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

THE SECOND LESSON: Luke 1:26-38

Carol: VU 38 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

*(Words: French trad., trans. James Chadwick 1860;
Music: French carol melody, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes 1937, Public Domain)*

**1 Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.**

**Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
 Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? R**

**3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R**

**4 See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. R**

THE THIRD LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

CAROL: VU 69 "Away in a Manger"

*(Words: Author unknown;
Music: William James Kirkpatrick 1895, arr. Desmond Hassell 1992
Arrangement © 1992 Desmond Hassell, Public Domain)*

- 1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**
- 2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
 I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
 and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**
- 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
 close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
 and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

THE FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-15

CAROL:

VU 59 “Joy to the World”

*(Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt.; Music: attrib. George Frideric Handel 1742
arr. Lowell Mason 1836, Public Domain)*

- 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**
- 2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

REFLECTION

Rev Katherine Brittain

Carol:

“O Holy Night” (verses 1 and 3)

(Placide Cappeau 1847 [lyrics] and Adolphe Adam [music], Public Domain)

- 1. O Holy Night!
The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Saviour’s birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.
‘Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine!**

3. Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Oh, praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

THE FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:16-20

ANTHEM: "Come to the Light"

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THE SIXTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

Call to Offer Our Gifts

Offering Carol: "We Three Kings" (verses 1 & 5)

(Words: Joseph Mohr 1818; English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863, et al.

Music: Franz Xavier Gruber 1818, Public Domain)

1. We three Kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts, we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Refrain: O Star of wonder, Star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

5. Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice,
Alleluia; Alleluia;
Earth to heav'n replies. R

Prayers

Lighting the Tapers

Carol: VU #67 "Silent Night"
(To be sung from memory with the lights off)

(Words: Joseph Mohr 1818; English trans. John Freeman Young, 1863, et al.

Music: Franz Xavier Gruber 1818, Public Domain)

Benediction and Christmas Blessing