



Carlisle and Kilbride United Church  
Friday December 24, 2021  
Christmas Eve Family Service  
On Zoom at 4:30

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**Opening Hymn:** VU 60 O Come, All Ye Faithful

"This hymn invites us to sing with the angels, sing with our families, sing with our fellow believers, and with every fiber of our being, worship Christ the Lord" (hymnary.org). I invite you to sing with the enthusiastic One Voice Children's Choir as they perform verses 1, 3, and 5.

[O Come, All Ye Faithful \(Official Music Video\) | One Voice Children's Choir - YouTube](#)

- 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;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
- 2 God of God, light of light,  
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created: R
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God in the highest: R
- 4 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; 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

### **Call to Worship:**

One: Animals came to prepare your bed.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

One: Shepherds stood guard, marveled and said:

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

One: Angels sang to calm your cries.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!**

One: And all the world gave one great sigh:

**All: Yes, Lord Jesus, you've come!**

### **Hymn:** VU 6 A Candle is Burning v.1-5

**This is the conclusion to Steve Johnson's Advent gift. Do you recognize the various tunes he pieces together?**

[A Candle Is Burning Christmas Eve - YouTube](#)

- 1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.
- 2 A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:  
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.
- 3 A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.
- 4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.
- 5 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.

### **Lighting of the Advent Candle Wreath:**

Voice 1:

We've been rushing and rushing

With no time to sit  
But amid all the hustle  
Four candles were lit.  
A candle for HOPE,  
One for PEACE like a dove,  
A candle for JOY  
And a candle for LOVE.  
*(light 3 purple candles and pink candle)*

Voice 2:  
Preparations are over  
It's time to be still  
And ponder kind thoughts  
Of peace and goodwill.

Voice 1:  
It's time to thank God  
For the dear baby's birth  
When the angels brought tidings  
And God came to earth.

Voice 2:  
So let us rejoice  
Knowing none can destroy  
The hope, peace and love  
Found in Mary's new boy.  
*(the white Christ candle is lit)*

**Advent Song: tune:** Santa Claus is Coming to Town  
Oh, with hearts open wide,  
With hands open too  
Living God's love, each and every day through —  
Jesus people, walking Christ's way.

Opportunities here,  
Opportunities there,  
Using our talents, God's gift we will share —  
Jesus people, walking Christ's way.

This Advent flame is burning,  
To brighten day and night,  
Invites us to discipleship —  
To shine out the Christ light!

Oh, with hearts open wide,  
With hands open too  
Living God's love each and every day through —  
Jesus people, walking Christ's way!

**Kilbride: Christmas Song:** Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer – Kevin and Kaiha

**Opening Prayer:** One: We have gathered here tonight so we can tell this great story of love once again. Holy God, open our hearts and help us hear the parts we remember and love and help us hear some new things. Every part of the story is gift. Every part tells us something about your love. Help us find our part in the story. Amen.

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Hymn:** VU 75 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night v.1-4

The renowned King's College Choir, Cambridge, performs this hymn as part of their "Carols from King's 2011." I encourage you to sing along with verses 1-4 and then enjoy the choir's fifth and final verse, complete with a descant sung by the boy sopranos.

[While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night {Hymn} \[King's - 2011, No 10\] - YouTube](#)

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night  
all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around.
- 2 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread  
had seized their troubled mind;  
'glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and humankind.
- 3 'To you in David's town this day  
is born of David's line

a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;  
and this shall be the sign:

- 4 'The heavenly babe you there shall find  
to human view displayed,  
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,  
and in a manger laid.'

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 8-14

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

**Hymn:** VU 38 Angels we Have Heard on High

I hope you enjoy the creativity of The Piano Guys while they showcase the abilities of the piano as both a string and percussion instrument. If you'd like a chance to sing along, try the second link: this 2009 performance was part of the annual *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn*. The choir sings verses 1-3 before repeating the first.

[Angels We Have Heard on High \(Christmas w/ 32 fingers and 8 thumbs\) - The Piano Guys - YouTube](#)

["Angels We Have Heard on High", Christmas Celtic Sojourn 2009 \[HD\] - YouTube](#)

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

**Scripture:** Luke 2: 15-20

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Hymn:** VU 69 Away In a Manger

Feeling a little bit country? I encourage you to sing along with American singer-songwriter Alan Jackson's gentle performance on his 2002 album *Let It Be Christmas*. Although the words to this late nineteenth-century carol were long attributed to the German religious reformer Martin Luther, they are now thought to be American in origin . . . although they have undergone a lot of variation over the years.

[Away In A Manger - YouTube](#)

- 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.

**Story:** Michael Mouse – Cloth for the Cradle p.102

**Hymn:** VU 64 O Little Town of Bethlehem v.1,2,4

Enjoy the tight harmonies of the Gaither Vocal Band in this a cappella performance . . . especially that memorable ending! If you wish to sing along, please note that the middle verse in the performance is different.

[Gaither Vocal Band - O Little Town Of Bethlehem - YouTube](#)

- 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.
  
- 4 O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.

**Holy Communion**

Gathering around the table as we celebrate new life borning,  
we remember so many stories shared around tables;  
tables where bread is broken and cup is poured out,  
where families gather and generations share,  
where stories are remembered, refined, reshaped.

Gathering around the table on this holy night,  
we remember the story of the Sacred daring to share our life,

the story of the Holy donning human flesh and dwelling among us,  
a story that is at once both ethereal and earthly.

Gathering around this table at this holy time,  
we remember the babe who grew into a boy and then a man.  
A man who walked with the outcast, ate with the marginalized,  
showed compassion for those suffering and brought healing to all.

Gathering around the table on this Christmas night,  
we break the bread and remember the paradox  
that it is in our brokenness that we become whole;  
we fill this cup and remember the abundance  
discovered in each new sharing of our sacred stories.

Together, around the table, we pray:  
Come, holy Spirit, come.  
Bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine.  
Bless all of us in our eating and drinking  
that our eyes might be opened,  
that we might recognize the Spirit rising in our midst,  
indeed, in one another.  
Come, holy Spirit, come.

### **Partaking of the Grain and Fruit of the Vine**

Mary responded to God with great joy and exultation.  
We, too, are invited to respond to God's presence in our lives. Let us offer ourselves in  
joy as we receive the bread of life and the fruit of blessing.

**Hymn:** VU 67 Silent Night, Holy Night

**Cedarmont Kids is a gospel music series for children that was founded in the early nineties. In this recording children perform verses 1 and 3 of one of the world's most popular Christmas carols. "Silent Night" was premiered by voice and guitar in St Nicholas Church, Oberndorf, Austria, in 1818.**

[Cedarmont Kids - Silent Night, Holy Night - YouTube](#)

- 1     Silent night! Holy night!  
      All is calm, all is bright  
      round yon virgin mother and child.  
      Holy infant so tender and mild,  
      sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
  
- 2     Silent night! Holy night!  
      Shepherds quake at the sight:

glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.

3 Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**Benediction:**

As you go, May the Angels rush in with their hands full of stars to light your way into Christmas.

**Online Postlude:** What Child Is This?

Once again, One Voice Children's Choir delivers an excellent performance, this time from the set of the crowd-funded television series *The Chosen*. The words to the carol "What Child Is This?" were penned in 1865 by William Chatterton Dix, the manager of a marine insurance company in Glasgow, while he was recovering from a sudden and severe illness. Dix published numerous volumes of his hymn lyrics, including many Christmas and Easter carols such as "As with Gladness Men of Old."

[What Child Is This \(from The Chosen Christmas Special\) | One Voice Children's Choir - YouTube](#)

**Announcements:**

All in-person activities have been cancelled and will be delivered on Zoom instead.

Worship services for Sunday December 26 and January 2 will be on Zoom at 10:00 am, followed by coffee hours on Zoom at 11:00 am. Links will be in the Events Calendar on the Carlisle website.