



Carlisle/Kilbride United Church
Sunday December 26, 2021

Service on Zoom 10:00 am

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Lighting of the Christ Candle:

The light of Christ shines anywhere and everywhere.

(light the candle)

We welcome the light.

Acknowledgement of Land

Opening Hymn: VU 71 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Heather Dale performs "The Huron Carol" as most of us have probably never heard it: in four different languages. The Jesuit missionary Jean de Brébeuf wrote the lyrics in Wyandot, the language of the Wendat people; Dale also sings this carol in French and English, and Lisa Mahabir provides American Sign Language. Because of its association with misunderstood cultures and colonialism, however, this carol raises difficult questions. To embrace the spirit of truth and reconciliation, Dana Lynn Seaborn, a Métis woman who has lived on Wendat territory, has composed new lyrics ([The Huron Carol | Seaborn Song](#)) that reflect the stories of the Wendat and acknowledge the influence of the Jesuit.

[Heather Dale: Huron Carol, in 4 languages \(Huron, French, English, American Sign Language\) - YouTube](#)

- 1 We gather at midwinter dark to share this hallowed night.
Within our longhouse, warm and dry, the fire glows with light.
Our Elders sing a teaching song;
it fills the night that seems so long:
 This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
 Shining stars proclaim the dawn.

- 2 Sky Woman came down from above, but found no place to stand,

till Toad put mud on Turtle's back, and that became the land.
Sky Woman died in giving birth;
her holy body fed the earth.

This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
Shining stars proclaim the dawn.

3 A valiant Little Turtle rode a cloud up to the sky;
she used the lightning to make fire, and made our Sun to shine.
He journeys 'neath the world we see,
returns to make the shadows flee.

This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
Shining stars proclaim the dawn.

4 The Black Robes came from lands afar, and told us of a day
Judea had been colonized, and Rome must be obeyed.
A mother bore a child of light;
rejoicing filled the starlit night.

This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
Shining stars proclaim the dawn.

5 Rejoice! Have courage one and all! The stars shine overhead,
the same stars that shone down upon a baby's humble bed.
The infant grew to be a man;
his words, like stars, light many lands.

This is our sacred home, 'neath heaven's dome,
Shining stars proclaim the dawn.

Call to Worship:

One: When the Holy Child is born into our hearts

All: there is a rain of stars

One: A rushing of Angels

All: a blaze of candles

One: This God bursts into our lives

All: and Love is running toward the dawn. Amen!

Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance

Hymn: VU 68 All Poor Ones and Humble

The Cathedral Choir at Hyde Park Community United Methodist Church in Cincinnati performs a sensitive arrangement of the first verse of this carol. Katharine Emily Roberts made translations/paraphrases of several traditional Welsh carols, including this one, for publication in *The Oxford Book of Carols* (1928).

[Poverty Carol.mov - YouTube](#)

1 All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,
 come hastening, and feel not afraid;
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,
 in lowly poor manger was laid.
Though wise men who found him
laid rich gifts around him,
 yet oxen they gave him their hay,
and Jesus in beauty accepted their duty;
contented in manger he lay.
 Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
 our service he ne'er can despise;
 whose love still is able to show us that stable,
 where softly in manger he lies.

2 The Christ Child will lead us, the Good Shepherd feed us
 and with us abide till his day.
Then hatred he'll banish; then sorrow will vanish,
 and death and despair flee away.
And he shall reign ever, and nothing shall sever
 from us the great love of our King;
his peace and his pity shall bless his fair city;
his praises we ever shall sing.
 Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
 our service he ne'er can despise;
 whose love still is able to show us that stable,
 where softly in manger he lies.

Prayer of Illumination:

Let us hear and ponder – and wonder – and take it in – the mystery and the promise;
the challenge and the hope that all lie here within the words of our Faith Stories. Amen.

Scripture: Luke 2: 21-32

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. ²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before

he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Hymn: VU 73 The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Can you sing with as much enthusiasm as this crowd being broadcast on the Hymn Channel? I encourage you to sing out, and be ready to clap along to this West Indian hymn!

[The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy - YouTube](#)

- 1 The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name is Jesus.
 He come from the glory, (*clap, clap*)
 he come from the glorious kingdom.
 He come from the glory, (*clap, clap*)
 he come from the glorious kingdom.
 Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
 He come from the glory, (*clap, clap*)
 he come from the glorious kingdom.
- 2 The angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus. R
- 3 The shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus. R

Scripture: Luke 2: 34-40

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too." ³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came,

and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Hymn: VU 74 What Child Is This

Are you familiar with the piece "Child of the Poor/What Child Is This"? In 1993, Scott Soper published a beautiful duet arrangement of the English carol "What Child Is This," combining it with newly composed material. Here, the piece is performed by The Hound + The Fox, a husband-wife duo from Oregon.

[What Child Is This / Child of the Poor | The Hound + The Fox - YouTube](#)

- 1 What child is this, who laid to rest,
 on Mary's lap is sleeping?
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 while shepherds watch are keeping?
 This, this is Christ the King,
 whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
 haste, haste to bring him laud,
 the Babe, the Son of Mary!

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
 where ox and ass are feeding?
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here
 the silent Word is pleading. R

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
 come, one and all, to own him.
 The King of Kings salvation brings;
 let loving hearts enthrone him. R

Hymn: Your Choice

Prayer of Dedication/Offering:

Oh God, we give you thanks for our community of faith and we give in gratitude for your watchful presence with us throughout the years. Amen.

Hymn: Your Choice

Prayers of the People:

As you have drawn us to your cradle of wondrous love, O God, draw us together in this place, that we might pray for your people and your world.

Today, we give you thanks for the gift of your child, Jesus Christ, who in birth, life, death, and resurrection revealed your unending love for all people and opened to us the purpose and promise of life together.

We give thanks also for the gifts of this season:

hope for the vision of justice you promise, even in the midst of despair;
for peace within and among your people, even in the midst of conflict;
joy found in reunion and celebration, even amid the challenges of this life;
and love, with the power to transform and heal all things, even in the midst of brokenness.

We pray for those who still long for these, your gifts, God of Love:

for those who will spend this season alone or anxious...

for those who grieve an empty place at the table this year...

for those who are ill, in body or in spirit...

for those in hospital and in care...

for those who endure the terror of conflict and oppression...

for those who will go hungry this day, and who long for the simplest of creation's gifts...

for your people and your world, we pray, O God.

Let us listen to the angels' song again, your song of love for this world.

Move us to return that song in what we say and do,

that we may be instruments of your hope and peace and joy and love.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus, who became the Christ,

and who taught us when we pray to say,

Our Mother and Father,

Who art in heaven, hallowed by your name,

thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power and glory, forever and ever, Amen.

Hymn: VU 43 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

I hope you enjoy this unique performance that came about from a partnership between two American country musical groups: Home Free, the cappella group that won NBC's *The Sing-Off* in 2013, and Texas Hill, a new trio formed from contestants on *The Voice* and *American Idol*. The performance was filmed in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

[Home Free & Texas Hill - Go Tell It On The Mountain - YouTube](#)

(R) Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. R
- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth! R
- 3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. R

Benediction: Colossians 3:12-17

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through him. **Amen!**

Online Postlude: Il est né le divin enfant (He Is Born, the Holy Child)

This traditional French carol is performed by Les Prêtres, a trio of singers and clergy members from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Gap and Embrun in France. Inspired by the success of the Irish group The Priests, they formed an ensemble initially as a charity: to record an album as a fundraiser to build a church for their diocese and a school in Madagascar. They were so successful they were also able to donate profits for a school in India, and they went on to record three other albums. Can you guess what the excited children are preparing for in the video? I won't spoil the surprise!

[Les prêtres - Il est né le divin enfant \(clip officiel\) - YouTube](#)

Announcements

Sunday Zoom Coffee Time – Every Sunday at 11 am, following our Zoom service, join our Zoom coffee time. Link in the Events Calendar.

Devotional group – We are moving to Zoom for our meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month.