

## THE CHRIST CANDLE

Tonight is the night for which we have been waiting. The virgin has conceived and borne a son—God has come amongst us as one of us. The Advent wreath is completed with the Christ Candle in the centre: we light it praying that Christ be the centre of our lives.

**Prayer** Sarah Suubam & Chris Hansen  
God of wondrous mercy, as your son is born, the exalted stars bend low in homage, humble ox and ass gaze upon him. The humble and the exalted are entwined in this child, our Saviour. With Mary we treasure the birth of your son. His birth gives us much to ponder:

**What do the squalor and the splendour of his birth portend? Shall he be king or shepherd or judge, or all? Shall our lives be a labour toward his birth in us? Shall we, one distant day, grow up in grace, as did He? How might we embody a wondrous Spirit in human frame?**

These are hard and mysterious questions, O God. As we celebrate his birth with delight, keep these questions before us. Amen

### Everyone in Song

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.

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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

### Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

**Offertory** O Holy Night (Bob and Dennis Clark)  
Adolph Adam (1803-1856)

### Offering & Dedication

### Distribution of Candles

*\*The flame will be distributed for lighting during the singing of the next carol. Parents are requested to supervise the candles of their children.*

### Hymn

(seated)

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.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Saviour is born!"

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 & Choral Amen

*\*Please extinguish your candles after the next hymn, and place them in the boxes as you go out.*

### Recessional Hymn

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her king;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
*and heaven and nature sing, x2*  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
*repeat the sounding joy, x2*  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

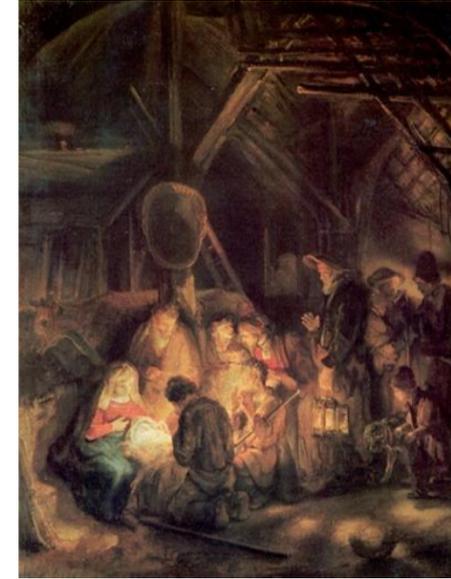
No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
*far as the curse is found, x2*  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
*and wonders of his love, x2*  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Postlude** Aria from Cantata 43  
J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Trumpet Larry House  
Organist John Hall  
Minister The Rev. Andrew Johnston

## Christmas Eve, 2015 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Kingston



Rembrandt - Adoration of the Shepherds (1646)

**Prelude** From heaven above to earth I come  
J. Pachelbel (1638-1706)

### Entry of the Bible and Call to Worship

### Hymn

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; Christ, the Lord*

God of God, Light of light,  
Lo he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God begotten, not created

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

### Prayer of Approach & Lord's Prayer

... Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

**Introit** Sweet Little Jesus Boy  
R. MacGimsey (1898-1979)

## THE WORD

**John 1: 1-14** Donna Delacretaz  
In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

### Hymn

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

But with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the angel strain have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong  
And man, at war with man  
hears not the love song which they bring  
O hush the noise ye men of strife,  
and hear the angels sing!

## THE MESSIAH PROMISED

**Psalm 96:1-4, 7, 9, 11-13** Rory Warnock

O sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**Sing to the Lord, bless his name;  
tell of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations,  
his marvellous works among all the peoples.

**For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
he is to be revered above all gods.**

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

**Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before him, all the earth.**

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;  
**let the sea roar, and all that fills it;**

**let the field exult, and everything in it.**

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy  
before the Lord; for he is coming,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with his truth.**

**Hymn** (seated)

’Twas in the moon of wintertime,  
when all the birds had fled,  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou  
sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wondering hunters heard the hymn:

*Jesus your King is born,  
Jesus is born, in excelsis gloria.*

Within a lodge of broken bark  
the tender Babe was found,  
a ragged robe of rabbit skin  
enwrapped His beauty round;  
but as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
the angel song rang loud and high:

O children of the forest free,  
the kin of Manitou,  
The holy Child of earth and Heav’n  
is born today for you.  
come kneel before the radiant Boy,  
who brings you beauty, peace and joy.

## THE MESSIAH COMES

**Matthew 1:18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Hymn**

Child in the manger, Infant of Mary;  
Outcast and stranger, Lord of all;  
Child who inherits All our transgressions,  
All our demerits On Him fall.

Once the most holy Child of salvation  
gently and lowly Lived below;  
now as our glorious Mighty Redeemer,  
See Him victorious o’er each foe.

Prophets foretold Him Infant of wonder;  
Angels behold Him on His throne;  
worthy our Saviour Of all our praises;  
Happy forever Are His own.

**Anthem** Starry Night  
David Willcocks (1919-2015)

**Meditation** ‘O come let us adore him’

## BETHLEHEM

**Luke 2:1-7**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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** (seated)

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful all ye nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”

*Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn king!”*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate deity,  
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.

## THE SHEPHERDS

**Luke 2: 8-20**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

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.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**Hymn**

The first Noël the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.  
*Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël, Born is the King of Israel.*

Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our souls hath bought.  
*Noël, Noël, Noël, Noël, Born is the King of Israel.*