



“Arise, shine for your light has come!” Isaiah 60

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**Christmas Eve, 4:00 pm**  
**Worship Bulletin**  
**Manor Road United Church**  
**240 Manor Road East, Toronto, ON M4S 1R8**  
**[www.manorroadunitedchurch.com](http://www.manorroadunitedchurch.com)**  
**The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea,**  
**Minister of the Congregation**  
**Tom Marcaccini, Music Director**  
**Allison Marcaccini, Children’s Ministries**  
**Marianne Eschker, Office Administrator**  
**Manuel Ferreira, Custodian**

*Christmas Eve*  
*Service of Worship*  
*Saturday, December 24, 2022*  
*4:00 pm*

“May you never be too grown up to search the skies on  
Christmas Eve” ~ Rebecca Shiners

**Responses and Prayers in bold type are for congregational participation.**

**Please rise in body or spirit.**

**PRELUDE**

**CHRISTMAS WELCOME**

**Dr. JJ and Allison**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TERRITORY**

As we gather for worship, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional home of the Wendat, the Tionontati (also known as Petun), and the First Nations collectively known as the Neutrals. We also gather upon the current home of the Mississaugas. Over generations, this territory has become home to many First Nations, Métis, Inuit, Settler, and immigrant peoples. We strive to seek justice and walk in right relation with all peoples on Turtle Island. May we be connected to the heartbeat of the Spirit as one.

**CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

O sing to the Lord a new song: tell of salvation from day to day. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. Honour and majesty flow from the Sacred Presence, strength and beauty fill the sanctuary.

**GATHERING MUSIC**

## **CAROL VU 59**

### **“Joy to the World” Verse 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.**

“Joy to the World”

Text: Isaac Watts, Tune: George Frideric Handel

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## **WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Open liturgy is adapted from Luke 2:10-15)

Do not be afraid; for see -

I am bringing you good news of great joy.

**To us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah,  
the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in cloth and  
lying in a manger.

**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace!**

Let us go now to Bethlehem.

## **CAROL Verse 1 VU 62**

### **“Once in Royal David’s City”**

**Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a  
mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed. Mary was that  
mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, Tune: Henry J Gauntlett

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## **OPENING PRAYER**

Living God, on this holy night we gather—  
to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory;  
to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work;  
to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise;  
to sit with Mary, cradling your love.

**May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of  
our great joy: for to us is born a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.  
Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.**

## **READING: I Corinthians 15:1-2, 21-22 ~ Carol Foley**

Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

## **RESPONSE**

O Come let us adore him, O Come Let us adore him,  
O Come Let us adore him, **Christ the Lord.**

## **CAROL VU 60**

### **“O Come, All Ye Faithful” Verse 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.**

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Text: Frederick Oakeley, Tune: John F. Wade

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## **LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE AND INVOCATION**

### **THE GIFT OF A SAVIOR**

Tonight we celebrate the one moment, the one birth, and the one life that forever changed the world!

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Because you came to us, we have experienced the ultimate hope to combat even the darkest moments.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Because you came to us, we have seen the fullness of love to the highest degree.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Because you came to us, we have seen the face of peace in its purest form.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

Tonight, we celebrate your birth that unleashes hope, love, peace, and joy into the world from now until the day of your return.

**O come, O come, Emmanuel.**

## **CANDLE LIGHTING**

*Tonight is the night we have been waiting for, when waiting is transformed into awestruck wonder. We celebrate Jesus coming into this world and light all five candles. The first candle reminds us of the ultimate hope that comes through our Savior's birth. The second candle beckons us to the peace of Christ that surpasses all understanding. The third candle reminds us of the Good News of great joy that tells us God's joy is stronger than human sin.*

*The fourth candle invites us to share the love of the shepherds and angels announcing the Savior's birth. The Christ candle reminds us that from the moment he took his first breath until the day of his glorious return, Jesus says to each of us, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

## **SUNG RESPONSE VU 6**

### **"A Candle Is Burning"**

**We honour our Messiah with Christ's candle 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.**

"A Candle Is Burning"

Text: Sandra Dean, Tune: James R. Murray

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## **ENCOUNTERING THE CHILD WITHIN**

### **READING: Isaiah 11:1-4, 6 ~ Ella Morris**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them.

## **RESPONSE**

O Come let us adore him, O Come Let us adore him,  
O Come let us adore him, **Christ the Lord.**

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Great and glorious God, through Jesus Christ our Savior you have shown us that the blessed age of grace has appeared and the hoped-for time of salvation has come.

**Yet we cling to the glories of the present age — worldly passions and impious pursuits, self-indulgent, crooked, and ungodly ways.**

Redeem us from the shadow and cleanse us from sin, through Christ, who gave himself for us, so that we might be your people, holy and whole.

**Amen.**

## **SILENT REFLECTION**

### **ASSURANCE**

Hear this good news of great joy:  
in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

Glory to God in the highest,

**And peace to God's people on earth.**

## **ANTHEM "I Hear the Prophet Calling"**

### **READING: Micah 5:2-5a ~ Ainsley McKinnon**

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders.

## **RESPONSE**

O Come let us adore him, O Come Let us adore him,  
O Come let us adore him, **Christ the Lord.**

## CAROL VU 64

### “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Verse 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.**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Text: Phillips Brooks, Tune: Lewis H. Redner

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### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:**

Loving God, by the gift of your Spirit, teach us, like Mary, to treasure your words and ponder them in our hearts; through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh.

**Amen.**

### **READING: John 1:1-5, 14, 18 ~ James McKinnon**

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.

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. No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.

### **RESPONSE**

O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,  
O Come let us adore him, **Christ the Lord.**

### **READING: John 1: 6-7, 19-23 ~ Eila Fowler**

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. Now this was John’s testimony when the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to ask him who he was.

He did not fail to confess, but confessed freely, “I am not the Messiah.” They asked him, “Then who are you? Are you Elijah?”

He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” He answered, “No.”

Finally they said, “Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?”

John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, "I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord.'"

## **RESPONSE**

O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,  
O Come let us adore him, **Christ the Lord.**

## **CAROL Verse 1 VU 38**

**"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

**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!**

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

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

Text: Traditional French carol, Contributors: GLORIA  
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## **READING: Luke 1:26-28 ~ Sian Morris**

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

## **RESPONSE**

O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,  
O Come let us adore him, **Christ the Lord.**

## **CAROL VU 48**

**"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Verse 1**

**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!"**

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

Text: Charles Wesley, Tune: Felix Mendelssohn

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### **READING: Luke 2:1-7 ~ Grace Macdonald**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

### **RESPONSE**

O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,

O Come let us adore him, **Christ the Lord.**

### **READING: Luke 2:8-14 ~ The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea**

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

### **RESPONSE**

O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,

O Come let us adore him, **Christ the Lord.**

### **CHRISTMAS REFLECTION**

**"*Silent Night Sacred Lights*" ~ The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea**

### **SILENT REFLECTION**

## **ANTHEM “Mary Sat a’Rockin”**

### **READING: Luke 2:15-20 ~ Betty Kelman**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

### **RESPONSE**

O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,  
O Come let us adore him, **Christ the Lord.**

### **OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK**

### **OFFERTORY MUSIC**

#### **CAROL VU 69**

#### **“Away in a Manger” Verse 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.**

“Away in a Manger”

Tune: CRADLE SONG, William J. Kirkpatrick

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### **READING: Matthew 2:1-12 ~ Grant Lorenz**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are

by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

## **RESPONSE**

O Come let us adore him, O Come let us adore him,  
O Come let us adore him, **Christ the Lord.**

## **SOLO CAROL ~ Tom Marcaccini**

### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Let us pray.

Great God, accept these gifts we offer as we wait in hope for your coming again.

Use all that we have and all that we are as you bring light in every darkness, ease heavy burdens, and turn our endless warring into your endless peace.

*Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.*

***Our righteousness will go before us, and the glory of God will be our rear guard.***

Let us join Glory to you, O God, for good news of great joy that you give to all people.

Thank you for Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who lived among us and now reigns on high.

Thank you for his light that shines in the darkness. With the angels, we sing praise to you, celebrating your glory in all the earth, in the Son given to us, and in your promised salvation.

Gathered as a community on this Christmas Eve, we pray for your church in every place, that we may make known to others what has been told to us about this child.

Help us to bear Christ's light in every place of need.

*Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear.*

***Our righteousness will go before us, and the glory of God will be our rear guard.***

Draw near to those who spend this night apart from the community: travelers and those far from home, people who live alone, one who waits in a hospital room, one who sits in a prison cell, one who is working deep in the night, one estranged from family or friends. Comfort those who are poor and vulnerable: the child at risk, the homeless on the streets, the family that is hungry, and those contending with prejudice and scorn.

Restore those who have lost faith, lost hope, or simply lost their way. End the hostilities and wars we construct by ushering in the endless peace of your design.

Establish your reign of justice and righteousness. You are the Lord of hosts who, with zeal, will do this.

## **THE 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 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 the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **CAROL VU 67**

**“Silent Night, Holy Night” Verse 1-3**

**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 Hallelujah, Christ the Saviour 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.**

"Silent Night, Holy Night"

Text: Joseph Mohr, Tune: Franz X. Gruber

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## **COMMISSIONING**

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**



elcome!

*We are glad you have come! If you are a visitor, make yourself known to the Minister, Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea.*

## **A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS**

Presider: Susan Johnson, Allison Marcaccini

PowerPoint: Betty Kelman, Carol Foley, Joanne Nicolson

Co-host: Joanne Nicolson (Film Editor), James Nicolson

Zoom Host: Justin Ancheta

Lectors: Carol Foley, Susan Johnson, Suzi Morris, Eila Fowler, Mike

Russell, Betty Kelman, Grace Macdonald, Jill Strapp, Grant Lorenz

Virtual Greeter: Liz Smith, Sharon Smith

Candle Lighters: James and Ainsley McKinnon

Sound: Matthew Coynes

Editor: Mike Russell