

GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

*please stand as you are able

PRELUDE: Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Schmidt, Van Der Beek, and Nelson

***ENTRANCE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

***ROYAL SALUTE**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN #60: O Come, All Ye Faithful**

- 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

***WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

***PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

Let our hospitality towards each other reflect God's love.
The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

REFLECTIVE MUSIC #6: A Candle is Burning

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.

CALL TO WORSHIP:

With laughing hearts and joyous hope,
we come to you, O God.

With tired souls and withered dreams,
we come to you, O God.

In our joy and in our sorrow,
we turn to you, O God.

Renew us with your love.

Gather us into your strong embrace,
that we may know your presence
and rejoice in your promised coming.

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Advent God,

we journey with you,

to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born King,

ears attuned to the song of angels,

eyes alert for Bethlehem's star.

Keep our hearts aflame with the hope of Christmas,
and the promise of a Saviour. Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Elizabeth Purchase and Erin Critch

Reader: "And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name'" (Luke 1:46-49).

Reader: Today we remember Mary, innocent and powerful, sacred and scared, worried and waiting as the Savior of all grows in her

womb. She sings boldly when she might be meek; she bears her role in history with the confidence of a warrior; she is the beginning of a mighty revolution as the proud are brought down and the lowly lifted up.

People: Today we give thanks for the Marys among us, who step out of the roles society has planned; unintended pioneers determined to do as God asks; fearless and fearfully stepping out in faith, and beckoning us to do the same.

Reader: On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle as a symbol of Mary, mother of God, bearer of the Way.

(Light two purple candles and one rose candle.)

Hymn: Hope is a Star vs. 3

3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

***HYMN # 64: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM**

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.

3 How silently, how silently
 the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
 the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
 but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
 the dear Christ enters in.

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.

DEDICATION OF THE CHANDELIER

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

For the beauty of this holy place

And for the sake of all God's people

We dedicate this chandelier to the glory of God.

May its light remind us to follow in Christ's way.

CHILDREN'S TIME

The Lord's Prayer

Tune: Carol (It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)

Our Father, Lord on heav'n's high throne, Most holy be your name.

Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth, in heav'n the same

Give us this day the food we need, for-giv-en may we be;

Into temptation do not lead; from evil set us free.

Yours is the kingdom; unto you in grateful love we bow;

And yours the pow'r; Lord, let us view your mighty presence now.

The glory yours; your praise be sung throughout the world again

In ev'ry land, by ev'ry tongue forevermore! Amen!

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY: Christmas Hymn by Jon Schmidt

***OFFERTORY HYMN #55 vs. 4**

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him - give my heart

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

***HYMN #47: Still, Still, Still**

- 1 Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.
 The Christchild in his crib lies sleeping,
 angels round him watch are keeping.
 Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.
- 2 Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep,
 while Mary sings and gently holds you,
 safely in her arms enfolds you.
 Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus softly sleep.
- 3 Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!
 For through God's holy incarnation
 Christ is born for our salvation.
 Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!

GOD'S WORD FOR US TODAY

First Lesson read by: Jacob Critch
Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18 God said, "Let there be light"

CAROL: We Sing the Song of Christmas - Music by Lloyd Larson

Second Lesson ready by: Elizabeth Carscaden
Isaiah 9:2-7 The people who have walked in darkness

CAROL: African Noel - Music by Victor C. Johnson
Yu Hang Tan, Conductor Bill Brennan, Percussion

Third Lesson read by: Emily Keeping
Micah 5:2-5a From Bethlehem, shall come forth a ruler

CAROL: Breath of Heaven - arr. by Roger Emerson
Carol Joyce, Soloist Bill Brennan, Piano

Fourth Lesson read by: His Honour The Honorable Frank Fagan
Luke 1:26-35, 38 The birth of Jesus foretold by Gabriel

CAROL: Somebody Build a Manger by Joel Raney
Bill Brennan, Percussion

Fifth Lesson read by: Charlotte Jewczyk
Luke 2:1-7 Angels announce Jesus' birth

CAROL: Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming arr. Joel Raney
Bill Brennan, piano

Sixth Lesson read by: Rev. Miriam Bowlby
John 1:1-14 The mystery of the incarnation

CAROL: Mary Had a Baby, Arr. Lloyd Larson
Grace MacDonald, soloist Bill Brennan, percussion

GOING FORTH TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

***HYMN # 48: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

- 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!'
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,
 late in time behold him come,
 offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 hail, the incarnate deity,
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
 Jesus, our Emmanuel! R
- 3 Hail, the heavenborn 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. R

***PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE**

Holy God, Dreamer of dreams,
We offer Cochrane Street United Church to you. We are your people, this is your church. We come to you seeking your guidance, your purpose, your vision. Align our will with yours, so that we will be willing to do whatever it takes to carry out your plan. We ask you to break through in new ways in our church. Show us the great ministry you have in store for us. Help us dream your dreams. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, giving us the vision, boldness, and confidence to do all that you call us to do. Amen.

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

***SUNG BENEDICTION:** A Christmas Laudamus - by Lee Dengler

POSTLUDE: Go Tell It On the Mountain

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

11:00 AM: Kids, Candles and Chaos

9:00 PM: Candles, Carols and Communion

HISTORY OF THE CHANDELIER

In January 1914 when our first church building was destroyed by fire, work began immediately on the present building. The cornerstone was laid in June 1915, with the first service held in the Sunday School auditorium Easter Sunday 1916 and the sanctuary dedicated June 1916.

The building contains a number of very interesting features which are integral to the design of the building. The seating area of the sanctuary is in the design of a Greek cross which has all arms of equal length. The centrepiece of the sanctuary is the chandelier, also in the shape of a Greek cross, suspended from the 55 foot high dome.

At construction, the church was supplied with electric service. It was reported that people were pleased with the electric light fixtures and quite taken with the large central chandelier. All of the lighting fixtures in the sanctuary are original to the construction. These fixtures were supplied by the Murray-Kay Lighting Company of Ontario, at a cost of \$1896.97. An electrical contractor, Mr. W. C. Winsborrow of St. John's, installed both the electrical service and the fixtures.

The chandelier is suspended on a rod which extends into the dome space where it is secured by roping. It can be lowered to the mid-point or thereabouts of the sanctuary space. The chandelier holds 100 bulbs and has an estimated weight of 800-900 pounds.

The drawings and specifications for the light fixtures, including the chandelier, prepared by the architects of the building, Ross and MacDonald of Montreal, are safely stored in the church archives.

The dome, the pillars, the barrel vaults, the stained glass, the intricate design of the woodwork are all very striking features when one walks from the unassuming exterior of the building into the soaring space of the sanctuary, but the chandelier is the magnificent centrepiece of the church.

On November 15, 2014, the chandelier was taken down to be restored. A temporary light was put in its place. The chandelier was rewired and the 100 light sockets were replaced. Church volunteers helped by removing bands and repainting it. It was reinstalled on December 9, 2017. It is ready to shine again.