



THE NATIVITY

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024



The United Church of Canada
75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3
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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/16465565858>
Office Hours: M-F, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

A warm welcome is extended to all.

The congregation is invited to join in responses printed in **bold**. Stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD CHRISTMAS BELL CAROL

(Handel)

(arr. fr. harmonization of M. Leontovich)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

– CHRIST CANDLE

By Dr. Sherief, Lindsay, Ella and Alex Kamel

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Glory to God in the highest!

For a child has been born to us, a Son has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest!

—*The candle is lit*—

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest!

CAROL 60 VU

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

(ADESTE FIDELES) (Words: Frederick Oakeley / Music: attrib. John Francis Wade)

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.

God of God, light of light,

lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;

very God, begotten not created: *R*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

glory to God in the highest: *R*

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*

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

PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Holy God, as you came at night when all was still, so enter our lives this night. Illumine our paths with the light of Christ's presence, that we may clearly see the way before us, the truth to speak, and the life to live for him, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

OPENING

By Capt. Craig, Audrey, Abigail, Carter, Duncan and Ben Gaddess

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 Saviour, 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.

FIRST LESSON Luke 1:26-33,38

Read by Mary Campbell

CAROL 50 VU

HE IS BORN (Il est né)

Congregation remains seated.

(IS EST NÉ) (Words: trad. 19th-century

French carol, trans. George Evans / Music: 18th century French carol, harm. Carlton R. Young)

*He is born, little Child divine;
play the reeds while the lutes are strumming.
He is born, little Child divine;
Join the song to announce the day.*

Through long ages of the past,
prophets have foretold his coming;
through long ages of the past,
now the time has come at last! *R*

O how lovely, O how pure is this perfect child of heaven;
O how lovely, O how pure, gracious gift to humankind! *R*

Lowly lodged in a stable poor,
laid on straw for his infant cradle.

Lowly lodged in a stable poor,
God came down to our mortal aid. *R*

Jesus, Lord of all the world,
coming as a child among us,
Jesus, Lord of all the world,
grant to us your heavenly peace. *R*

SECOND LESSON Luke 2:1-9

Read by Julie Logan

CAROL 69 VU

AWAY IN A MANGER

(CRADLE SONG) (Words: Author unknown / Music: William James Kirkpatrick, arr. D. Hassell)

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 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.

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Children are asked to remain with their parents for the rest of the service. If you are a parent or caregiver, there is a kitchen and washrooms on the main and upstairs levels, as well as a nursery and diaper changing area upstairs. Please feel free to return to the service at any time.

CAROL 43 VU

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Congregation remains seated.

(GO, TELL IT)

(Words: John Wesley Work II / Music: African-American spiritual, arr. United Reformed Church)

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *R*

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth! *R*

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *R*

THIRD LESSON Luke 2:10-14

Read by Penny Logan

ANTHEM

O HOLY NIGHT

(Words: John S. Dwight / Music: Adolphe C. Adam, arr. Jack Schrader)

CAROL 38 VU ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

(GLORIA) (Words: French trad., trans. James Chadwick /
Music: French carol melody, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes)

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!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song! *R*

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. *R*

See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs or angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. *R*

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:15-20

Read by Molly Chase

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Voices United 74 (Words: William Chatterton Dix / Music: English melody, harmonized by John Stainer)

Performed by: Rev. Aaron Billard and Luiz de Jesus

FIFTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

Read by Cy Edmonds

CAROL

WE THREE KINGS

(KINGS OF ORIENT) (*Hymns from the Family of God 206*, Words / Music: John H. Hopkins, Jr.)

We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

*O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign. *R*

Frankincense to offer have I;
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, all men raising,
worship him God on high. *R*

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *R*

Glorious now behold him arise; King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, alleluia, sounds thru the earth and skies. *R*

OFFERING

Offering boxes are located inside the Sanctuary at the two main entrances.

OFFERTORY (55 VU) *IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER*

(CRANHAM) (Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti / Music: Gustav Theodor Holst)

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.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SIXTH LESSON John 1:1-5

Read by Audrey Gaddess

THE SPREADING OF THE LIGHT

CAROL 64, Verses 1 & 2 VU

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

(ST LOUIS) (Words: Phillips Brooks / Music: Lewis Henry Redner)

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.

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.

CAROL 67 VU

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

(STILLE NACHT) (Words: Joseph Mohr, trans. John Freeman Young / Music: Franz Xavier Grüber)

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.

BENEDICTION

CAROL 59 VU

JOY TO THE WORLD

(ANTIOCH) (Words: Isaac Watts / Music: attrib. George Frideric Handel, arr. Lowell Mason)

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 earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

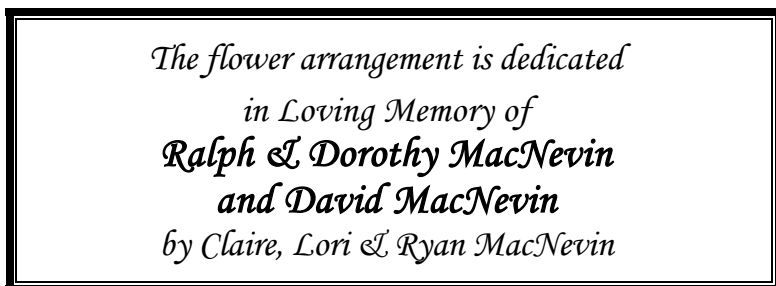
No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found

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

POSTLUDE *I HEARD THE BELLS ON CHRISTMAS DAY*

(Music: Johnny Marks)

*We thank Zoie Brown for accompanying us on the trumpet.
Zoie is a past participant in the Sistema New Brunswick
program and currently plays in both the Moncton Youth
Orchestra as well as the New Brunswick Youth Orchestra.*



Greeters & Offering

South Door – Alma St.

Alison, Terry, Adam
and Ryan Stultz

North Door – Victoria St.

Kathryn, Laura
and Emily Steeves

CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



Rev. Aaron Billard, *Minister*
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Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*



Rev. Dr. Douglas MacEachern
Minister Emeritus
douglasimaceachern@gmail.com

Church Council

Chair: Roland Gallant

Secretary: Karen Teed

Treasurer: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

Board of Trustees: Graham McCrea

Christian Development: Nancy Black; Sunday School: Sonja Webster

Finance & Property Management: Marlene Godfrey

Fundy-St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Region reps.: Rev. Aaron Billard,
Kimberley Buck de Jesus and Karen Geldart

Ministry & Personnel: Kimberley Buck de Jesus

Pastoral Care & Membership: Valerie Roy

UCW: Brenda McFarlane

Worship & Music: Sheri Brooks





Merry Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

