

“Unto Us is Born a Saviour.”

Christmas Eve Family Service St. John’s Anglican Church, Lunenburg, NS

1. Welcome

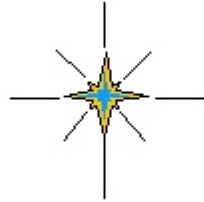
Carol Sing and St. John’s Ringers

‘Angel Carols’ and ‘Away in a Manger

Prelude Music: ‘O Holy Night’ - Alyssa Gerhardt

‘Piano Selection’ - Brittany Gerhardt

Junior Tone Chimes: ‘A Child is Born In Bethlehem’.



Please stand for the processional

1. Processional Hymn: Once in Royal David’s City #123 CP

Once in Royal David’s City stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a Mother lay her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above:
And he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God’s right hand on high,
When, like stars, his children crowned All in white shall gather round.

3. Call to Worship

The Grace and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all. **And also with you.**

Come, children, families and friends, to worship God
on this Christmas Eve. Let us celebrate God’s coming to us,
and to all people everywhere, in the new born baby.

For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given.
The Prince of Peace! Alleluia! Alleluia!

4. Lighting of The Christ Candle *‘Emmanuel - God with us!’*

Reader 1: The waiting is over.

Reader 2: Christ’s birth brings a new reality.

Reader 1: Our hopes and dreams are real.

Reader 2: God’s promise has been fulfilled.

Reader 1: The Advent candles are all lit, a circle of light
to remind us of God’s never-ending love for us.

Reader 2: Now we light the Christ candle, celebrating the presence of Jesus
in our midst, today and always.. (*Light the Christ candle.*)



Thank you, God, for coming to be with us in the person of Jesus. We rejoice that he lived as one of us, knowing our joys and sorrows, our pains, hopes and dreams. As he came to show your love to us, help us to show your love to others all the year through. Amen.

Light the Christmas candles, now; Sing of donkey, sheep and cow.

Birthday candles for the King, let the alleluias ring.

Candle, candle, burning bright,

Shining in the cold winter night; Candle, candle, burning bright,

Fill our hearts with Christmas light.

5. Opening Prayer

Loving and generous God, we praise and thank
you for the joys of this Christmas:
the music and the singing,
the gathering of family and friends,
the gifts we give and receive.

We thank you most of all for your greatest gift to us, your child Jesus.
May Christ’s Spirit of love fill our hearts to overflowing.
May Christ’s Spirit of peace be upon everyone, everywhere. **Amen.**

6. Glory To God

Everyone Rings their Bell while singing:

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsus Deo,
Gloria, Gloria, Alleluia, Alleluia.**



Glory to God in the highest and peace
to his people on earth. **(Gloria... - Ring Bells)**
Lord, God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father.
We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. **(Gloria... - Ring Bells)**
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us:
You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. **(Gloria... - Ring Bells)**
For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord.
You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
With the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

7. A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah -Allison Knickle

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Mid'ian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

8. Junior Choir 'Christmas Bells' arr. By Anna Page

9. Christmas Children's Pageant

'Live From Bethlehem' - by Bob Latchaw

The Traditional Christmas story told in an untraditional manner, through the voices and movements of our young people, teachers and parents of St. John's Sunday School. Please join in singing the various Carols throughout the Pageant.



HYMN #121 'O Little Town of Bethlehem'

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.

They went with haste
and found Mary and
Joseph, and the child
lying in the manger.
Luke 2.16



HYMN #126 'Away in a Manger'

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

HYMN 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'

We three Kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we travel
afar Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following
yonder star.

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



HYMN '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.

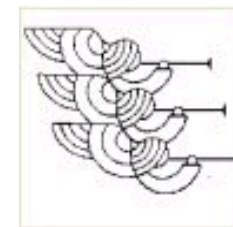
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

HYMN # 154 CP 'Joy To the World'

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her king!
Let every heart prepare him room.
And heaven and nature sing 3x.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy. 3x

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. 3x



He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove.
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love. 3x`

At the end of the Pageant, we all join in singing:

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas; We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;

Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We wish you a Merry Christmas; We wish you a Merry Christmas;

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

10. Christmas Message

Father Michael

11. Prayers of the People - Lord Jesus, be born in our hearts!

12. Passing the Peace

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

13. Preparation of the Gifts and the Offertory

Parishioners and visitors, share in gathering the offering of God's people.

Each one as they are able, makes an offering to the Lord for the needs and responsibilities of the Church to be placed on the altar. Thank you.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing #138

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 a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hail the heavenly 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 each child of earth, Born to give them second birth.

14. Prayer over the Gifts

Sung Together: Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere, and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share. Because we love you and your work, our offering now we make: be pleased to use it as your own, we ask for Jesus' sake.

15. The Eucharistic Prayer - The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God, our loving Father, we are glad to give you thanks and praise because you love us. With Jesus we sing your praise. **Glory to you, forever and ever.**

Because you love us, you gave us this great and beautiful world.
With Jesus we sing your praise. **Glory to you, forever and ever.**

Because you love us, you sent Jesus your Son to bring us to you and to gather us around him as the children of one family.
With Jesus we sing your praise.

Echo Sanctus - Please repeat in singing each phrase.

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth, are full of your glory.**

Sing Hosanna! Sing Alleluia!

Blessed, blessed is he, who comes in the name of the Lord.

Sing Hosanna! Sing Alleluia!

Blessed be Jesus whom you sent to be the friend of children and the poor. He came to show us how we can love you, Father, by loving one another. He came to take away sin, which keeps us all from being friends, and hate, which makes us all unhappy. He promised to send the Holy Spirit to be with us always, so that we can live as your children.

The night before he died, Jesus your Son showed how much you loved us. When he was at supper with his disciples, he took bread, and gave you thanks and praise. Then he broke the bread, gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

When supper was ended, Jesus took the cup that was filled with wine. He thanked you, gave it to his friends, and said: "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

And so, loving Father, we remember that Jesus died and rose again to save the world. He put himself into our hands to be the sacrifice we offer.

Glory to you, forever and ever.

Lord our God, listen to our prayer. Send the Holy Spirit to all of us who share in this holy meal, that it may become for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. May the Spirit bring us closer together in the family of the Church, with Fred our Primate, Sue and Ron our Bishops, with all other Bishops, priests and deacons, and all who serve your people. **Glory to you, forever and ever.**

Remember, Father, our families and friends and all those we do not love as we should. Remember those who have died. Bring them home to you, to be with you forever. **Glory to you, forever and ever.**

Gather us all together into your kingdom of light. There we shall be happy forever with the Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, and the patron saint of our parish, St. John the Evangelist.

There in your kingdom, all the friends of Jesus the Lord will sing a song of joy.

Glory to you, forever and ever.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory is yours almighty Father, forever and ever. **Amen.**

16. Lord's Prayer

(You are invited to join hands with one another as we pray)

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

17. The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution, and says:

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world

**All God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion and says,

The gifts of God for the People of God.

All Thanks be to God.

- 18. Jesus Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Bread of life, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Prince of Peace, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.**

The celebrant and people then receive communion.

The body of Christ (given for you). The blood of Christ (shed for you).

*The communicant responds each time, **Amen.***

*This community of faith, welcomes to the Lord's table
all who are baptized and who wish to be nourished
with the Body and Blood of Christ.*

**Communion Music with Chris Norman, Flutist
Throughout Communion,
please maintain a spirit of quiet and reverence.**

19. Closing Prayer (prayed together)

**Dear Lord Jesus,
you came into the world to bring peace and joy.
Your birth went unnoticed by many,
but the few who were witnesses have
told the tale so that all who hear might
believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God.
Teach us, through your humbleness to become humble.
Teach us, through your beauty as a new-born child,
to become as beautiful and innocent as children.
In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.**



20. Doxology

Glory to God,

All whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.

**Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

21. Blessing & Dismissal

May Christ who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill this Christmas Eve and make you partakers of the divine nature; And the blessing of God almighty, Father + Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in joyful hope to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

22. Recessional Hymn - Shepherds In The Field - #135

1. Shepherds in the field abiding, tell us when the seraph bright greeting you with wondrous tiding, what you saw and heard that night.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. We beheld - it is not fable, God incarnate, king of bliss, swathed and cradled in a stable, and the angel strain was this:
3. Choristers on high were singing Jesus and his virgin birth, heavenly bells the while a-ringing, "Peace, good will to all on earth."
4. Thanks, good shepherds, true your story; let us go to Bethlehem. Angels hymn the king of glory; carol we with you and them.

**A sincere word of thanks to all who have helped
make this Family Service so special this Christmas Eve:**

**Our Sunday School youth, teachers and parents, Jennifer Heisler-Green,
Barbara Butler, Sharon Hill, musicians, readers, servers and lay readers.**

Father Michael+

Postlude: 'Fanfare' - Mouret

A Christmas Note from the Parish Secretary Mary Wagner

On behalf of the congregation of the Parish of St. John's, I would like to thank our rector, Michael and his wife, Holly. We are truly blessed and we express with deep gratitude our thanks for such wonderful leadership and caring people. We wish a blessed Christmas to Father Michael and his family.



It is indeed a privilege to be able to work at the Parish office. I am fortunate to have such dedicated 'friends' working so hard behind the scenes, helping to pull it all together, making this a vibrant parish. Our wardens, parish treasurer, committees, Ruth McConnell next door at St. John's Arts Alliance and many others are valuable assets to the parish.

Especially at this time I would like to thank Sandra Jordan. She faithfully folds every Sunday bulletin week after week. As a point of interest she folded all 1130 bulletins for our Christmas Eve services.

Merry Christmas

The last date to make a contribution for **2009 Income Tax Receipts** is Sunday, December 27.

