

# “Unto Us is Born a Saviour.”

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

## I. Welcome

## Christmas Carols

### St. John’s Ringers:

Away in a Manger - Arr. by Anna Laura Page

*Please stand for the processional*

## 2. 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.

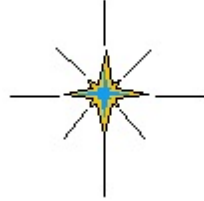
Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God’s right hand on high,  
When, like stars, his children crowned All in white shall gather round.

## 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

*Reader: Aisling Curtin*

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 Midian. 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.

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

## Holy Gospel

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

**THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE.** *People* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

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.



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 Savior, 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 favors!"

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.

Lk. 2:1-14

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

## 8. Christmas Children's Pageant

*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.*

Away in a manger, No crib for His 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 poor Baby wakes But little Lord  
 Jesus No crying He makes. I love Thee, Lord Jesus Look  
 down from the sky And stay by my side, 'Til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay Close by me  
 forever And love me I pray Bless all the dear children In Thy  
 tender care And take us to heaven To live with Thee there.

**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.

**9. Christmas Message 'Tonight in the Palace'      Father Michael**

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

**11. Passing the Peace**  
 The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**12. 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.  
 Your generosity makes a world of difference. Thank you.*

**13. Hark the Herald Angels Sing #138**

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!"**



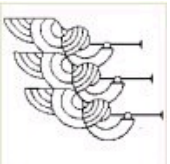
2. Christ, by highest Heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;  
 Late in time, behold Him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity,  
 Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.  
**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**
3. 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.  
**Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**14. Prayer over the Gifts**

Source of light and goodness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast.  
 May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours, for he is Lord now  
 and forever. **Amen.**

**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 praise your name.  
**All: Glory to you, forever and ever.**

Because you love us, you gave us this great and beautiful world.  
 With Jesus we praise your name.  
**All: 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 praise your name.

**Echo Sanctus** - Please repeat in singing each phrase.

Holy, holy, holy,      **Holy, holy, holy,**  
 Lord, God of power and might,      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!

**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:

**All: 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.

**All: 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.

**All: Glory to you, forever and ever.**

Remember O God, 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. **All: 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 Apostle and Evangelist. There in your kingdom, all the friends of Jesus the Lord will sing a song of joy.

**All: 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:*

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.*



**There will be three stations for Holy Communion,  
at the Altar and at the head of each side aisle.  
You are invited to receive both the bread and wine.  
Wine is distributed from the common cup.**

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 Hymns**

**#127** O Come, Little Children

**#122** In the Bleak Midwinter

**#119** Silent Night

### **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**

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.**

### **22. Concluding Hymn - Shepherds In The Field - #135**

1. Shepherds in the field abiding, tell us when the seraph bright  
greeting you with wondrous tidings, 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:  
***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***
3. Choristers on high were singing Jesus and his virgin birth,  
heavenly bells the while a-ringing, "Peace, good will to all on earth."  
***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***
4. Thanks, good shepherds, true your story; let us go to Bethlehem.  
Angels hymn the king of glory; carol we with you and them.  
***Gloria in excelsis Deo!***

### **Dismissal**

Go in joyful hope to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**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 Green-Heisler,  
Barbara Butler, Sharon Hill, musicians, readers, servers and lay readers.**

*Father Michael+*

### **Postlude**

## NOTICES

- The 2012 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick up. Please help by delivering those belonging to your friends and neighbours.
- The last date to make a contribution for a **2011 income tax receipt** is Friday, **December 30<sup>th</sup>**.

### *IN LOVING MEMORY OF*

*Mother, Minnie Blake, Brother, Eric Lilly  
Father, Oliver Francis  
from Raymond, Mary & families.*



*We celebrate their memory and rejoice in the knowledge that they are at peace with the Lord, yet ever close to us.*

### *IN LOVING MEMORY OF*

*John A. Black from daughter, Heather and Oran & family and Fred and Elsie Hyson from son, Oran and Heather & family.*



*We celebrate their memory and rejoice in the knowledge that they are at peace with the Lord, yet ever close to us.*



## A Blessing for You and Your Family at Christmas

Dear parishioners and friends of St. John's,  
let us give thanks at Christmas for all the blessings  
the Christ child brings.

May the peace and joy of Christmas be with you always.

Fr. Michael & Holly Mitchell

"A Christmas candle is a lovely thing;  
It makes no noise at all,  
But softly gives itself away;  
While quite unselfish, it grows small." --Eva K. Logue

Father Michael and Holly Mitchell



THE CHILD OF  
CHRISTMAS  
IS THE KING  
OF KINGS!