

St. Paul's Cathedral

The Anglican Church of Canada

Kamloops, British Columbia

Christmas Eve 4:00 pm
December 24, 2021



Interim Priest: *Rev. Canon Len Fraser*

Music: *Gail Ovington*

Hymn Leader: *Jennilee Fraser*

Support: *Willow Beardwood*

Children, Youth & Family Life Ministry Coordinator: *Melissa Green*

Welcome to the virtual worship service from St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral. Our family Christmas Eve worship service is "repeat-after-me" style: when the hands of the officiant are outstretched you are invited to repeat the spoken words, when hands are folded in front, you are invited to listen. You will find the liturgy in this bulletin alongside the words to the hymns

Our service originates from the traditional territory of the Tk'emlúps te Secwepemc – Kamloops & Area First Nation. We acknowledge their care for and working of the land prior to contact with Europeans. As Canadian Anglicans, we continue to work toward healing and reconciliation and a new experience of sharing the land together.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

HYMN: O Come All Ye Faithful

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.

Refrain:

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: **[Refrain]**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest: **[Refrain]**

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,

leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;

we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: **[Refrain]**

OPENING WORDS

Someone is shouting:

Get ready for God.

Someone is whispering:

Get ready for God.

Someone is singing:

Get ready for God.

God is coming soon.

Tonight we are excited

Bless us with wonder.

Tonight we are expectant

Bless us with gladness.

Tonight we are on tiptoe

Bless us with new birth.

When the world began

God said yes.

When Jesus came

God said yes.

When we were born

God said yes.

God said yes to life and loving.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jesus is born in Bethlehem!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Jesus is born in our hearts!

The blue and pink candles on the Advent wreath are lit. As the white candle is lit the following is read:

We light the Christ candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace to all on whom his favour rests.**

Loving 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.

HYMN: Away in a Manger

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 on high
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

READING OF SCRIPTURE

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
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 Saviour, 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 favours!'

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. LUKE 2:1-20

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ

VIDEO REFLECTION

"The Christmas Story" as told by the children of St. Paul's Church, Auckland, New Zealand:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWq60oyrHVQ&feature=share>

CHILDREN'S STORY

"Goodnight, Manger" by Laura Sassi.

You are invited to have your Nativity Set with you during this service, we invite children and families to set it up together as the story is read.

VIDEO REFLECTION

"Nativity Story – Kids Version"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSW9uxRNvE8>

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God, on this holy night your son our Saviour was born.

On this holy night there was no room for your son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

On this holy night, Jesus came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world this night. Be with us in our fears and sadness that we hold in the midst of the current pandemic. Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

On this holy night, the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in our world. Give

strength to those who work to make decisions and to support the sick this night. Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

On this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to be your light and love in the world. Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

On this holy night, strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all who we love, especially those who we wish to be gathered with this night. Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

On this holy night, heaven has come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death into your coming kingdom and be with us as we remember them this night. Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

On this holy night, Christians around the world celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

On this holy night, we hold before you all that brings our heart to an ache and all that we have to celebrate.
Silence – please name aloud your concerns and joys
Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

On this holy night, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger. Receive our prayers and thanksgivings on this holy night. Holy God,
Hear our prayer. Amen.

HYMN: Good King Wenceslas

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.

“Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou knowest it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?”

“Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes’ fountain.”

“Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,
Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.”
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,
Through the rude wind’s wild lament and the bitter weather.

“Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.”
“Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread thou in them boldly,
Thou shalt find the winter’s rage freeze thy blood less coldly.”

In his master’s steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, wealth and rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.

A PRAYER OF THANKS

We give you thanks, Holy One,
for the world of wonder you have made –
forest and field
sea and sky,
and for the gift of grace that you have given –
a little child, lying in a manger.
Receive our gifts of tenderness and love,
of gratitude and praise,
and use them for your glory;
in the name of Jesus Christ,
the child of Bethlehem, we pray. **Amen.**

THE LORDS PRAYER

As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,
Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

CLOSING PRAYER

God of promise,
from ancient times you have sustained your people.
With Mary and Joseph, teach us to treasure in our hearts the birth of
Jesus.
With shepherds and angels, lead us to praise the holy Child of Bethlehem.
**May we who have knelt at the manger
always have room to hold within ourselves
the Christmas Child. Amen.**

BLESSING

HYMN: Silent Night

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 alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior 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.

POSTLUDE

The text of this service comes from the *Book of Alternative Services, Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (2006), *Feasting on the Word: Advent Companion*, the Church of Wales, and the Church of England.

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