

# ORMOND UNITING CHURCH



22 DECEMBER 2024

CAROLS AND LESSONS



# Hymn: TIS 312 Once in Royal David's City

(Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-95)

Once in Royal David's City  
Stood a lowly cattle shed  
Where a mother laid 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, despised and lowly  
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

## Greeting:

The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

## Acknowledgement of Country

In the Dreaming, the Spirit of God brought forth the blessing of Ancient Life through Mother Earth.

Ground Beings were given breath and rhythm: the offspring of the heart of God!

This place was tended by the First Peoples of this Ground and this Land's rhythms.

We give thanks for their custodianship and honour their Elders – past, present and emerging.

## Call to worship

We are waiting on you God, we are still waiting

The darkness is deeper, but look the star is beginning to shine, the everlasting light is creeping closer. Hope is in the Air. Peace is promised, joy is on the tips of our tongues

Love is coming, love divine all loves excelling

We are waiting on love and love is waiting on us

## ADVENT LITURGY Promise – Love

When the people were looking for deliverance, the prophet Micah declared, “But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah... from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient day.” (Micah 5:2). But what if Micah is also talking to us, proclaiming, “But you, O [*fill in name of church or community*], from you shall come forth for me...” What? What might God be calling forth from us?

God invites us to receive the promise of God's salvation and the sustenance of God's mercy and grace, enabling us to live the promise as God-bearers to the world. As Christ was born in Bethlehem, so too we answer God's invitation to have Christ born among us today and every day.

We light this candle of love as a sign of our commitment to live as people of God's promise, a promise of salvation and flourishing for all people that springs forth from God's love for all creation.

*Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.*

## Hymn -Candle of Hope (Carolyn Winfrey Gillette).

The candle of hope we light in this hour  
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power  
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,  
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.

The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;  
The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.  
Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,  
Will give way to gardens that heal and restore

The candle of joy reminds us to sing,  
For God is at work to do a new thing  
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.  
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

The candle of love tells what we are worth:  
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!  
An angel brought news of a child who would be  
The one who would save us and set us all free.

## Lesson 1: Genesis 3:8 –13: The Fall: Adam and Eve disobey God's Command and Disrupt the Goodness and Order of Creation

<sup>8</sup>They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.<sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"<sup>10</sup> He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."<sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"<sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."<sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

## Lesson 2: Genesis 22: 15 – 18: The Promise to Abraham God promises that through Abraham all the peoples of the world will be blessed

<sup>15</sup> The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven,<sup>16</sup> and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son,<sup>17</sup> I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies,<sup>18</sup> and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

## Hymn TIS 265: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Anon)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear:  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel*

O Come, O come, great Lord of might  
Who to the tribes on Sinai's height

In ancient times did give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel*

O Come, O key of David, come,  
And open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path to misery  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel*

O come, O dayspring, come and cheer  
Our spirits by your advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
And death's dark shadows put to flight  
*Rejoice! Rejoice!*  
*Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson: Isaiah 9: vs 2, 6 – 7:** The Prophecy of the Messiah's birth. The people who walked in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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.<sup>7</sup> 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.

## Hymn: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

(Edmund Hamilton Sears, 1810-76).

It came upon the midnight clear,  
That glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold  
Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
From heaven's glorious King!  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing

Still through the cloven skies they come  
With peaceful wings unfurled;  
And still their heavenly music floats  
O'er the weary world:  
Above its sad and lowly plains  
They bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds  
The blessed angels sing

For, lo! The days are hastening on,  
By prophet bards foretold,  
When with the ever – circling years  
Comes round the Age of Gold

When peace shall over all the earth  
It's ancient splendours fling  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing

## 4<sup>th</sup> Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1 – 9 The peaceful Kingdom: The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the root of creation

<sup>1</sup>A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup>The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

## Hymn TIS 316 O Little Town of Bethlehem

(Phillips Brooks 1835-93).

O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see you lie!  
Above your deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by:  
Yet, in your dark streets shining  
The everlasting light,  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in you 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

How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meet souls will receive him, still  
The dear Christ enters in.

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  
Their great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Lesson: Luke 1:26 – 38 Angel Appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

## Hymn TIS 302: The Angel Gabriel (Basque Carol)

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary'  
Most highly favoured lady, *Gloria!*

'for known a blessed mother thou shalt be,  
All generations laud and honour thee,  
Thy Son shall be Immanuel, by seers foretold;  
Most highly favoured lady.' *Gloria!*

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'my soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':  
Most highly favoured lady,' *Gloria!*

Of her, Immanuel, the Christ was born  
In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,  
And Christian folk throughout the world  
Will ever say  
'most highly favoured lady'. *Gloria!*

## Cloth for the Cradle: (Wild Goose Worship Group)

As we approach Christmas we buy presents in preparation to give to our family, friends and neighbours, But how can we prepare to welcome Jesus who is at the heart of the season? We may begin to think about that now by joining in a very simple action. We have materials for a crib and strips of cloth to make a patchwork quilt on which a baby could be laid.

So let us be silent for a moment and turn our minds from preparing for Christmas to preparing for Jesus. Frank and Daniel are going to assemble the crib. You are invited to come forward with a

strip of cloth and lay it in the crib to symbolise our intention to make a place and keep a welcome for Jesus.

Here is a place for you, Lord Jesus. Just as our hands have made it ready, so make our hearts ready to love and to welcome you. Be born again, not in a manger but in us. Make us your Bethlehem where God is personal and all things and all people are made new.

## **6<sup>th</sup> Lesson: Luke 2: 1-7:** Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem where Mary gives birth to her child

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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.

## **Hymn TIS 317: Love Came Down at Christmas**

(Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-94)

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, Love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus:  
But wherewith the sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and neighbours,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Lesson: Luke 2:8 – 16:** Angels appear to the shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of Jesus

<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

## **Hymn TIS 301: The First Nowell** (Anon., English, 17<sup>th</sup> Cent)

The first nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,

In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the king of Israel*

When they looked up they saw a star  
Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great ligh  
And so it continued both day and night.  
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the king of Israel*

And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.  
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the king of Israel*

This star drew nigh to the north-west;  
Over Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.  
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the king of Israel*

Then entered in those wise men three  
And reverently, upon their knee,  
They offered there in his presence  
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.  
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the king of Israel*

Now let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,  
Who has made heaven and earth from naught,  
And with his blood salvation brought  
*Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the king of Israel*

**8<sup>th</sup> Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11:** Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to baby Jesus

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On

entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

## **A Wise Man Speaks:** (Wild Goose Worship Group)

There will be no camels  
We are going on horseback  
At least some of the way

And we won't arrive there  
A few hours after everyone else  
It will be weeks perhaps or months

We are not in a hurry  
That is not the way we work  
We are not Europeans

We will discuss the phenomenon – the star-  
And if it does not go away,  
And if we still feel curious,  
We will travel.

We will look in the wrong place  
Yes, I admit that  
Because wise men, potentate, intellectuals – call us what you will – are not infallible

We expect a new power  
To emerge from the side of the old one  
We expect the destination we seek  
To resemble what our common sense deduces

We will be upset, angry even  
To find that Herod is ignorant  
And that his living space is not the birthplace

We will find it hard  
And intellectually demeaning  
To bow the knee to the son of refugees

And all this .....  
All the upset will be compounded When it comes to journeying back and we discover  
We have to go home by another way

That is the trouble with God  
He doesn't let you leave as you came  
He sends you back  
Stripped of your presumptions  
Making for home by another way.

**9<sup>th</sup> Lesson: John 1:1-14:** The Incarnation: The Word of God Becomes Flesh and lives among us full of grace and truth:

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing

came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## Hymn TIS 290 : Of the Father's Love Begotten

(Aurelius Clemens Prudentius 348- c.413)

Of the Father's love begotten  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see  
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed  
When the virgin, full of grace,  
By the Spirit's power conceiving,  
Bore the saviour of our race,  
And the babe, the world's redeemer,  
First revealed his sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore.

This is he whom seers and sages  
Said of old with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word;  
Now he shines, the long expected:  
Let creation praise its Lord  
Evermore and evermore.

In the heights of heaven adore him,  
Angel hosts his praises sing,  
All dominions bow before him  
And extol our God and king;  
Let no tongue on earth be silent,  
Every voice together sing  
Evermore and evermore.

## Prayers of the People – Warwick Barry

"As we prepare for our prayers for others, we light this candle to remember all those who are part of our church community but who are not at worship with us today." *Light the candle.*

Into the daily cycle of our lives O God  
When all seems well  
With us and with the world  
When our yoke is easy

And the burden light  
You break in  
And scatter our complacency  
  
Into the daily cycle of our lives  
When we are comfortable  
And at our ease  
When the fire is lit  
But eyes are closed  
You break in  
And challenge our dependency

You break into  
Our daily prayers  
Humble hearts  
Lay souls bare  
You break in

You break in  
When defences are down  
With an Angel's shout  
Or the quietest sound  
You break in

And we change  
**And all things change**  
When you break in

*Silence...*

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,  
gift of joyfulness  
in a world of bleakness.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,  
gift of peace  
in a violent world.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,  
gift of hope  
in a despairing world.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,  
gift of wisdom  
in a foolish world.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,  
gift of justice  
in a world of unfairness.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,  
gift of forgiveness  
in a guilty world.

We welcome You, Jesus, child of God,  
gift of love  
in a bitter world.

As we worship with joy this season  
and celebrate the coming of the promised Saviour,  
we remember those for whom to worship  
is a risk and a danger,  
those for whom to meet with others  
brings unwelcome attention,  
the people of the churches of Syria, Iraq, Egypt, Pakistan,  
and in other places where they are in a distrusted minority.  
We pray also for other minority groups  
of whatever persuasion or religion,  
who treasure traditions or a culture  
that is different from their fellow citizens.

We pray for those at this time  
whom nation and place and culture  
can no longer sustain:  
when war destroys all that's familiar;  
when hatred between clans and races  
cause people to leave home and district;  
when the greed of others  
despoils the fields and the forests  
and removes their livelihood, especially the people of Ukraine, the Holy Land, Lebanon and Syria.

So many refugees, O Lord, roam the world,  
seeking a place to rest.  
We pray that frontiers will be opened,  
and true and generous welcome may be offered  
and that the generosity of nations will continue  
in spite of the scale of the need.

May all of these the lonely, hungry, & vulnerable people of our world know something of the love  
that came down at Christmas,  
bringing hope where hope is gone and inner peace for them and our families.  
In Your good time, O Lord,  
reveal to all the world  
the light no darkness can extinguish.

Perhaps there is still some absurd wisdom  
in the foolishness of faith,  
in the unreasonableness of a God become human,  
in the choice to allow our life to be centred  
on this unfathomable idea.

Perhaps, in telling the story again, we can remember  
that faith is the most humble, most profound, of invitations  
that this foolish world can accept.

Today, we celebrate your coming,  
Lord Jesus, come into our world again,  
Into our experience, our struggle, our very lives,  
Each and every moment of our days.

Come again, we pray,  
into every corridor where power struggles escalate,  
into every office where profit overshadows responsibility,  
into every room where relationships, minds and bodies break down,

into every street where need is the only constant,  
into every terrain where human ignorance or sin  
has left a trail of decay and death.  
And bring your life-giving love and your light-shedding justice.  
For we ask these prayers in the name of Emmanuel, Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
**Amen**

( Source – various adapted)

## **CHRISTMAS EVE LITURGY– Christ with us - Emmanuel - our Joy**

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child, the fulfillment of our joy, as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah, “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” (Isaiah 9:6).

Christ our joy has come near. Emmanuel, God with us, has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby. “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 9:7).

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us, to live in the neighbourhood of vulnerable humanity as a vulnerable child. May the light of Christ warm our hearts and light our way as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

*Light the centre candle of the Advent wreath*

The Christ candle’s light that shines for us here

Tells out the good news that God has come near!

God came a poor baby, in one time and place,

To show all creation the wealth of God’s grace.

## **Hymn TIS 268: Joy to the World** (Isaac Watts 1674-1748)

Joy to the world! The Lord is come;  
Let earth receive its 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 us our songs employ;  
While fields and streams, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy

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.

## Blessing:

May the light of Christ shine on you:

Like Mary, may you find in yourself a place of expectant waiting for the Christ to grow,

Like Joseph, may you find in yourself a place of compassionate welcome,

Like the shepherds, may you respond with unabashed joy to the Good News, and

Like the wise men may you seek until you find God made flesh in yourself.

Go in peace to love and serve our Lord,

In the name of Christ,

Amen

## Postlude

You can find a copy of today's sermon along with other congregational information on the church website.

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Presider: Dianne Richter & Robyn Mulder

Music: Peter Hurley

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## NEWS & NOTICES