

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Call to Worship ~

Leader: The angel's song rings loud and clear:

People: Glory to God in the highest

Leader: For into our shadowed world

People: a holy light is shining

Leader: In a stable in Bethlehem

People: a child is born to us.

Leader: He brings us the light of hope for our future,

People: and He shall be called Emmanuel, God is with us.

Leader: Let us worship God Who comes among us this Christmas time.

***Singing: O Come All Ye Faithful**

VU#60

Opening Prayer Glorious God, wreathed in splendour, surrounded by stars and angels: How can it be You visit us contentious creatures on this tiny planet hearth? Surely this is pure surprise! Who are we that You should be mindful of us? Yet, unworthy as we are, we gratefully praise Your coming through the humble maid of Bethlehem. And this night may we joyfully accept her Child as Lord of the Universe and Redeemer of All. Through His wonderful name we pray. Amen

Candle Lighting Ceremony

THE CANDLE OF CHRIST

Voice: Advent has been a time of waiting, dreaming, healing, and promise. Our time of preparation is over and now we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Voice: Each week during Advent we lit another candle on our wreath, and each week the candles glowed and the light shone more brightly; the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.

(Light the four candles of the Advent Wreath)

Voice: We have read Bible verses that have spoken to us of God's faithfulness and of the hope and dreams of God's people through the ages. The people waited and dreamed for a Messiah who would bring healing and peace. God's promise was kept. The Savior has come.

Voice: God's love has been shown in a most wonderful way: a Child has been born. We know Him as Emmanuel - God with us; we know Him as Jesus -- the One Who saves; we know Him as the fullest expression of God's love for us.

Voice: Tonight we light the Candle of Christ, the candle which reminds us of Jesus. It is the center of this wreath, just as Jesus is the center of our lives. The light of Christ shines for all to see.

(Light the Candle of Christ)

ALL pray: Generous God, You have given us a time of preparation to receive again Your gift of love and joy and hope and healing. In the birth of the child, Jesus, You have given new life to each of us. May we experience the presence of Emman'uel, God with us, this night, and always. Amen!

Singing: Oh How Joyfully

VU#57

**Scripture Readings: Isaiah 9:2-7 p. 555
Luke 2: 1- 14 p. 832**

Anthem: A Great and Mighty Wonder

Reflections ~ "All I want for Christmas is..."

Singing: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

VU#48

Presentation of ourselves & gifts to God

Anthem: Keep Christ in Christmas

Offertory: All glory be to God on high;
And to the earth be peace;
good will to all from highest heaven
begin and never cease."

VU#75

Offertory Prayer: Grant us, O God, such wonder and love, that with humble shepherds and with angels from on high, we may truly adore the Holy Child. With these gifts and our worship, may we also offer our lives and selves -- in Jesus' name. Amen.

Invitation to Holy Communion

Singing: Angels We Have Heard on High

VU#38

Celebration of Holy Communion

Singing: Silent Night

VU#67

Benediction ~



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Announcements:

The St. Andrew's staff extends our best wishes to you all for a very joyous Christmas season and blessed New Year.

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Pat Wilkins on Dec. 17th. Visitation will be on Monday, Dec. 29th from 6-9 pm, and Tuesday from 11-12 noon, with the service at 12 noon at the Alexandre Nichole Funeral Home on St. Jean Baptiste St.

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

180th Anniversary Year ~ 1833-2013

~WORSHIP~

**December 24, 2014 ~ 10:00 pm
Christmas Eve Communion Service**



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**Minister: Rev. K. Alice McAlpine
Organist & Choir Director: Doreen Gilbert Bangs**