

## GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

### Call to Worship ~

Leader: It is Christmas Eve. For some reason the stars seem to shine brighter; the words of the carols seem to be more personal; the smiles on the faces around us seem much more vibrant, and the future seems to be more hopeful. On this night of nights, we are alive to the Spirit of Christ in our midst.

**People: Christ is born in Bethlehem. The love of God has come down to earth so that all may share in it.**

Leader: Emmanuel – God is with us.

**People: Thanks be to God for this Christmas joy in our midst.**

**\* Singing: Joy to the World VU#59**

**Prayer:** Loving and generous God, we 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 great gift to us, the gift born this night – 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

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: Tonight is the night for which we have been waiting.

**People: The Advent wreath is completed with the Christ candle in the center.**

Leader: “For unto us a Child is given, unto us a Saviour is born and the order of the world will be upon His shoulders.”

**People: With the birth of Christ our lives are centered, focused, turned towards God.**

Leader: We light this candle. May Christ be the center our lives.

(Lighting of the Christ candle)

### Prayer: (unison)

Dear God, Who comes to us in Jesus, on this night remembering Jesus' birth, let the power of Christ come into our hearts that we might find peace with You forever. Amen

**Singing:** 1) Oh come, let us adore Him (3x)  
Christ the Lord.  
2) For He alone is worthy (3x)  
Christ the Lord.

### Presentation: The Stars That Refused to Go to Bed

Hymns ~

*O Little Town of Bethlehem* VU#64 vs. 1

*Oh, How Joyfully* VU#57 vs. 1,2

*Away in a Manger* VU#69 vs. 1,2

*Hark, The Herald Angels Sing* VU#48 vs.1

*The First Nowell* VU#91 vs. 1,2, 3

*Silent Night* VU#67

### Presentation of Ourselves and Gifts to God

**Doxology:** As they offered gifts most rare  
At that manger crude and bare,  
So may we with holy joy,  
Pure and free from sin's alloy  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to You, our heavenly King (VU#81)

**Offertory Prayer:** We offer these gifts, kneeling with those who came to the manger, to the Child Who came to bring peace, hope, joy and love to our world. Accept our songs, our prayers, and our gifts of silver and gold, as tokens of our acceptance of the Holy Child, born this night. Amen

### Special Music: Wally Walker

**We bring our prayers to God**

**Singing: Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

**VU#43**

### Benediction ~

**Please Pray For:** Baby David & his family, Antoine, Pat Ashworth, Shelley Baumann, Bernice, Bonnie, Brigida, Muriel Brophy, Carol, Caroly, Laura Cuthbertson, Dianah, Raphael Daros, Heather Downs, Eric Drakeford, Sylvan Duguay Andrew Eccles, Mary-Alice Epps, Ron Epps, Gail, Linda Gallant, Jo Gaston, George, Gladys, Myrna Hall, Jennifer, Justin, Tea Kinsella-Borden, Fern Lafontaine, Lance & family, Roger Laplante, Marilyn Little, Jan, Jemma Mahabir, Marcelle, Laura McLean, Kathy Meney, Mile, Michael, Cheryl Miller, Sharon Miller, Sandra Murphy, Bob Owens, Paige, Patrick, Julie Patterson, Anne & Ernie Presseau, Sarah Puskas, Margaret Reany & family, Bruce Ryan, Lou & Joan Sarka, Eileen & Donald Sim, Reynold Skeete, Dylan Stanamir, Frank Stark, Madeline Stevens, Christina & Cameron Vincent, Margaret Whittal, Fred Wicks, Joanne Wilken, John Wiwcharyk, Shirley Yarnell

**Announcement:** *The St. A's staff extends to you Christmas blessings and a desire that the New Year might also be one of deep blessings for you.*

- A Holy Communion Candlelight Service will be held at 10:00 pm this evening. You are welcome to join us.
- Please note that while there is no service here tomorrow, Christmas morning, there will be a New Year's service, with the baptism of Jason and Zoey Blum (grandchildren of Sharon Smith) as part of the service.

# ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCH

183<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Year ~ 1833-2016

~WORSHIP~

December 24, 2016 ~ 7:00 pm  
Christmas Eve Family Service



**Minister: Rev. K. Alice McAlpine**  
**Director of Music Ministry: Doreen Gilbert Bangs**

*To greet you ~*

**Elder: Richard Fortier**  
**Stewards: Cliff Henderson**



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*Lord and Giver of all good things, the  
magi travelled for miles to bring the  
Christ child the first Christmas presents.  
So may we, too, remember with thankful  
hearts the love that comes with each  
present we open. We also thank you for  
the love you have for each of us, and we  
thank you for the many gifts that you  
give us, especially the gift of live itself.  
Amen*

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