

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service
Thornhill Presbyterian Church
December 24, 2022 - 11:00 p.m.

An Evening of Lessons, Carols & Holy Communion

The Prelude

*The Processional Carol Once in royal David's city #166

Welcome Rev. Dr. H Vais

*The Call to Worship Naomi Atem

L.: On this holiest of nights,

**P.: we come, joining the shepherds
who are stunned by wonder.**

L.: On this most silent night,

**P.: we come, our hopes and dreams
joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

L.: On this night of carols and candlelight,

**P.: we come, our glad songs joining
with the choirs of angels over us.**

All: On this Holy Night, let us worship Christ, the Saviour Son!

The Lighting of the Christ Candle (*insert*) Ivana Atem

Opening Prayer Marissa Whittle

The Lord's Prayer

The Story of Christ's Birth (*please remain seated*)

The Prophets Foretold Isaiah 9:2-7 Akiel Graham

Carol: "The First Nowel" vs 1 & 2 #136

The Angel and Mary Luke 1:26-38 Mia Sams

Carol: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs 1 & 2 #164

No Room at the Inn Luke 2:1-7 Brett Vais

Carol: "Away in a Manger" vs 1 & 2 #149

Shepherds and Angels Luke 2:8-14 Ian Sams

Carol: "Angels we have heard on high" vs 1 & 2 #147

Mary Pondered Luke 2:15-20 Elizabeth Vais

Carol: "Joy to the World" vs 1 & 2 (all stand) #153

The Invitation to the Table

Invitation to the Offering Kiara Graham

Tithes and Gifts placed in the baskets will be brought forward

Offertory

*The Doxology (tune: O Christmas Tree)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in every generation.

Praise God all creatures, here below, who gives to us salvation.

Praise God above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Let all creation praise the Lord with love and adoration.

*Prayer of Dedication Kiara Graham

Solo O Holy Night Meher Ghuman

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Breaking of the Bread

Distribution of the Elements (come forward as you are able)

Prayer after Communion

Silent Meditation

The Lighting of the Candles

The minister will light her candle from the Christ Candle and the light will be shared with the congregation. Please tip your unlit candle into the lit flame presented to you.

Carol: **Silent Night** (please remain seated – see bulletin insert)

The Benediction

The Organ Postlude

**please stand if you are able*

Welcome to all who are with us this evening to celebrate the birth of Christ. It is our sincere hope and prayer that you will find this Lord's house to be a place of worship and fellowship. If you are new or visiting, there is always a warm welcome awaiting you at TPC. Do return!

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.

Silent night, holy night.
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!

Thank you to our musicians for this evening's service.

Kevin Choi – organ

Garth Low – organ and piano

Abel Pandy - guitar

Participating in this evening's service

are members of TPC's Senior Youth Group
and Senior Youth Group Alumni

Naomi Atem

Ivana Atem

Ian Sams

Mia Sams

Brett Vais

Elizabeth Vais

Akiel Graham

Kiara Graham

Marissa Whittle

Meher Ghuman

Thank you for joining us this evening.
Please join us tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. for our Christmas
Day Service of Lessons, Carols and Holy Communion.

For information about our church,
please visit our Website: www.tpchurch.net
or speak to the minister.

THORNHILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
271 Centre St., Thornhill, ON L4J 1G5
(905) 889-5391, FAX (905) 889-5930
E-mail: admin@tpchurch.net
Rev. Dr. Heather Vais, Minister
Nadine Calfa, Administrator

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

The prayer opens with thanksgiving for creation and for God's mighty acts throughout salvation history.

The people join in the ancient song after these or similar words:

... We lift our hearts in joyful praise, singing together:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Prayers of thanksgiving continue for the work of Jesus Christ, his life, death, and resurrection and for the institution of the Lord's Supper. The people are invited to "proclaim the mystery of faith:"

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Thanksgiving continues for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

*The presence of the Holy Spirit is invoked followed by a doxology and the people say: **Amen.***

As our Lord taught us, we now 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory

Forever. Amen

Carol

Once in royal David's city

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.

Christ came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
sheltered by a humble stable,
cradled in a cattle stall:
with the poor, oppressed 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;
there God's children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Carol

The first nowell

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.

Refrain:

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell!
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

(Refrain)

Carol

O little town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all a bove,
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.

Carol

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 the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Carol

Angels we have heard on high

Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Carol

Joy to the world

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 floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.