



December 31, 2023
Service of Lessons and Carols and Holy Communion

We Prepare For Worship

Praise Band

Preparing our hearts:

The sun of righteousness has dawned with healing in his wings.

Malachi 4:2

Organ Prelude: *Carol of the Bells*

Mykola Leontovych,(1914)

*Processional Hymn *Oh come, all ye faithful*

#159

Welcome and Announcements

The Call to Worship

Rev. Dr. H. Vais

Leader: For unto us a child is born

People: to us a son is given.

Leader: His name will be called Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,

People: the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Leader: Let us worship God.

Solo: *Glory to God in the Highest*

sung by Nick Gough

Prayers of Adoration and Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Minister: The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

*Praise Time: ***Christmas Offering***

Over the skies of Bethlehem appeared a star

While angels sang to lowly shepherds

Three wise men seeking truth traveled from afar

Hoping to find the child from Heaven

Falling on their knees

They bowed before the humble Prince of Peace

I bring an offering of worship to my King

No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing

Jesus may You receive the honour that You're due

*Oh Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You*

*The sun cannot compare to the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare to stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of Heaven
It's only by Your blood, it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come*

*I bring an offering of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves the praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive the honour that You're due
Oh Lord I bring an offering to You (REPEAT CHORUS)*

Oh Lord I bring an offering to You

Words and music by Paul Baloche CCLI License #993446

We Listen for God's Word

*First lesson Isaiah 9:2,6-7 Heather-Ann Lowry
Solo Corde Natus Ex Parentis sung by Nick Gough
(Of the Father's love begotten)*

*Second lesson Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9 George Meek
Solo Es ist ein Ros entsprungen sung by Nick Gough
(Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming)*

*Third lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38 Clare Mezes
Hymn The angel Gabriel from heaven #156

*Fourth lesson Luke 2:1, 3-7 Lorraine McBride
Solo Quem Pastores Laudavere sung by Nick Gough*

*Fifth lesson Luke 2:8-16 Jasmine Low
Solo Quelle est cette odeur agréable? sung by Nick Gough*

*Sixth lesson Matthew 2:1-12 Edmond Lee
Solo In the bleak mid-winter sung by Deborah Kerner*

*Seventh Lesson John 1:1-14 Rev. Dr. H. Vais
Solo Jesus Ahatonhia (Huron Carol) sung by Nick Gough*

**Closing Hymn: Angels we have heard on high #147*

We Respond to God's Word

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. AMEN

Prayers of the People

Offering of Tithes and Gifts

*Doxology

#830

*Dedication of Offering and Elements

Invitation to the Table

*Communion Hymn *Let all mortal flesh keep Silent*

#542

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 join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

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

The Breaking of the Bread

Distribution of the Elements

(please come forward as able)

Solo: I cannot tell

sung by June Graham

Prayer for Christmas (in unison) **Almighty God, through this Sacrament you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. As we rise from this Table may Your light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.**

*Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing

#139

*Benediction

*Sung benediction

**Go now in peace, never be afraid,
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen**

Organ Postlude

From Heaven Above

Wilbur Held

.....
**If you are able, please stand*

Welcome

We welcome everyone here today. We hope that you feel comforted in our fellowship and that you leave here refreshed and inspired in your personal life. Whether you are simply visiting or actively seeking a worshipping community, we look forward to responding to you. You are invited to fill out a pew card.

****We welcome all children in worship. If you need to take a child out during the worship service, the service can still be heard in the lobby. For small children, we have a nursery in the Christian Education wing where the service can still be heard. Our ushers are available to assist you. Children must be accompanied by an adult relative.**

*Please feel free to appreciate the Postlude
at the end of the service!*

*If you do leave the sanctuary during the postlude,
please do so quietly. Thank you!*

Thank you to all who participated in today's service.

A special thank you to our soloists:

Nick Gough

June Graham

Deborah Kerner

2023 Donations and Tax Receipts

A reminder as we come close to the end of 2023 that for donations to be counted and eligible for a 2023 tax year receipt, they must be received no later than midnight today. You may do this through the offering plate or delivered to the Church's mailbox to the right of the main entrance.

Donations received after that time will be part of your 2024 donations.

Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your offering envelopes in the lobby when you can.

If you prefer to make donations through **PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance)**, please contact our church administrator, Nadine, who will set you up.

PAR Program – Pre-Authorized Remittance

Streamline your giving to TPC with automatic debits from your bank account monthly. This simplifies your giving and ensures regular donations to TPC throughout the year. Donations can be distributed exactly the same way as with a physical envelope. To take advantage of this simple and easy donation approach or to adjust your existing contributions please contact Nadine Calfa, our Envelope Secretary, in the office. Questions about the PAR program can be directed to Nadine or to Bob Gargano of the Finance Committee.



The 2024 Presbyterian Wall calendars are available and can be purchased for \$10.00 each. Please reserve yours today by calling your Administrator Nadine or Rev. Heather

ESL Classes

ESL classes, with Jeannette Hallworth, Laura Culley and June Graham will resume on Tuesdays starting January 9th from 10 am to 12 pm in the Fellowship Hall and Conference Room.

You are invited to Dan's Last *Sing Session!*
January 7, 2024

Christmas carols. Classic hymn forms and spiritual song versions. Why "carols" are oftentimes a little bit different from standard hymns and Psalms. Examples of various kinds of Christmas carols.

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Director of Music Ministry: Daniel Werning

Church Office Administrator: Nadine Calfa

Office Hours: Tuesday – Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm

Custodian: Delacey Graham

Duty Elder: Jane and Jerry Easton

UPCOMING WEEK'S EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Sunday December 31, 2023

11:00 am Worship Service – Service of Lessons, Carols,
and Holy Communion

Sunday January 7, 2024

11:00 am Worship Service *followed by Dan's Sing
Session*

Notes about the music today

Glory to God in the Highest

This hymn is one of the oldest hymns regularly sung as part of Christian worship. In many churches it is generally sung whenever Communion is celebrated. The hymn begins with the words that the angels sang when announcing the birth of Christ to shepherds in Luke 2:14. Other verses were added very early, forming a doxology (a hymn of praise to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit). The setting sung by Nick is by American church composer David Hurd.

Of eternal love begotten (Book of Praise #163)

"Of eternal love begotten" is an English translation of a Latin hymn written as a poem by Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius, who lived in the 4th century in northern Spain. The hymn is a confession of faith about the Christ, the eternal Son of God, whose birth and saving ministry are the fulfillment of ancient prophecies (st. 1-3). The final stanzas are a doxology and a reflection on John's visions recorded in the book of Revelation 4-7 (st. 4-5).

Nick will chant this hymn. Plainsong by definition is unaccompanied music sung in unison in medieval modes and in free rhythm corresponding to the accentuation of the words.

Lo, how a Rose e'ver blooming (Book of Praise #151)

The origins of the melody *Lo, how a Rose e'ver blooming* is unknown but the harmonization we will hear was composed by Michael Praetorius, a late 16th century - early 17th century German composer.

The rose is often associated with the Virgin Mary, but in the context of this hymn, the reference is to the infant Christ, an ever blooming flower whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air. The hymn makes reference to the prophecies of Isaiah, which we interpret as foretelling the incarnation, and to the Tree of Jesse, a traditional symbol of the lineage of Jesus.

Quem Pastores Laudavere

This carol dates to the 15th century and was originally sung in Latin. By the Reformation, German translations were common. The carol became an English-language favourite in recent decades, after it was included in *Carols for Choirs*, a series of choral collections published by Oxford University Press, and edited by Sir David Willcocks and Reginald Jacques.

Lord, you were rich (Book of Praise #134) If you turn to Book of Praise #134, you will find a hymn entitled "Lord, you were rich." The words were composed in the 20th century by an Anglican missionary bishop, Frank Houghton. The words are set to an old French carol from the 18th century, but Houghton's hymn, beautiful as the words are, are wholly unrelated to the words of the French carol.

Quelle est cette odeur agreeable? Older English translations of the French carol called were entitled: **"Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing?"**

The first stanza can be translated as:

What is that fragrance, Shepherds?
How does it ravish with joy our senses five?
This is the scent of heaven's glory
Brought to this earth by God's own Son.
What is that fragrance, Shepherds? How does it
Ravish with joy our senses five?

The French carol, sung in French, has become part of the repertoire of King's College, Cambridge for their Lessons and Carols at Christmas.

In the Bleak Mid-Winter (Book of Praise #145)

For hundreds of millions of Christians, Canadians included, Christmas comes smack in the middle of winter. In the bleak midwinter, to be precise. *In the Bleak midwinter*, in our Book of Praise, at 145, was written as a poem by the English Victorian poet Christina Rossetti. Once set to a melody composed by Gustav Holst, it quickly became popular and has become one of the most well-loved of English carols. It's interesting that this quintessentially English Christmas hymn was written by an Englishwoman of Italian descent set to music by an Englishman of mixed German, Swedish and Latvian background. Today we are blessed to have Deborah Kerner sing this favourite carol.

Huron Carol (Book of Praise #144)

Considered by some as Canada's first carol, the "Huron Carol" (or "Twas in the Moon of Wintertime") was written in the mid 17th century by Jesuit missionary Jean de Brébeuf at Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, near Midland, Ontario. Brébeuf's lyrics were written in Wendat, a Huron language, which he was fluent in. The tune itself is a traditional French song. The English-language lyrics in our hymn book are not a translation of the original carol and uses imagery and names unfamiliar to the

Wendat-speaking Huron people. "Gitchi Manitou", for example, is Algonquian, and not Wendat. The English translation of the original Wendat lyrics are:

Have courage, you who are humans; Jesus, he is born
Behold, the spirit who had us as prisoners has fled
Do not listen to it, as it corrupts the spirits of our minds
Jesus, he is born

They are spirits, sky people, coming with a message for us
They are coming to say, "Rejoice (Be on top of life)"
Marie, she has just given birth. Rejoice"
Jesus, he is born

Three have left for such, those who are elders
Tichion, a star that has just appeared on the horizon leads them
there He will seize the path, he who leads them there
Jesus, he is born

As they arrived there, where he was born, Jesus
the star was at the point of stopping, not far past it
Having found someone for them, he says, "Come here!"
Jesus, he is born

Behold, they have arrived there and have seen Jesus,
They praised (made a name) many times, saying "Hurray, he is
good in nature"
They greeted him with reverence
(greased his scalp many times), saying 'Hurray'
Jesus, he is born

"We will give to him praise for his name,
Let us show reverence for him as he comes to be
compassionate to us.
It is providential that you love us and wish,
'I should adopt them.'"
Jesus, he is born.

Hymn

Oh come, all ye faithful

Oh come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant;
oh come ye, oh come ye
to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him,
born the King of angels:

(Refrain)

Oh come, let us adore him;
oh come, let us adore him;
oh come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of light,
born unto Mary, the virgin blest,
very God, begotten, not created:

(Refrain)

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks draw nigh
with holy fear;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps:

(Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above:
'Glory to God
in the highest!'

(Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be
glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing:

(Refrain)

Hymn

The angel Gabriel from heaven

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

'For know a blessed mother you shall be,
all generations praise continually,
your son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,'
most highly favoured lady: Gloria!

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

Of her, Emmanuel, 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!

Hymn

Let all mortal flesh keep Silent

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly mind ed,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of all, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
Christ will give to all the faithful,
his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its van guard on the way,
as the Light of Light, descending
from the realms of endless day,
comes the powers of hell to vanquish
as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged Seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
'Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, Lord most high.'

Hymn

Hark! The herald angels sing

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail the incarnate deity!
Pleased on earth with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteous ness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild, he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise the lost of earth,
born to give us second birth.