



Christmas Eve Family Service
"Telling the Old, Old Story"
December 24th, 2006 7:00PM

(*Those who are able are invited to stand)

Prelude - *Merry Carols for Organ*

***Call to Worship**

One: In each heart lies a Bethlehem, an inn where we must ultimately answer whether there is room or not.

All: When we are Bethlehem-bound we experience our own advent in Christ's.

One: Tonight, let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.

All: In the midst of shopping sprees let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.

One: In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.

All: Tonight, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

***Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful"** Verses 1 & 3 only

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, Born the King of angels!
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exaltation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God, all Glory in the highest!
O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

(See Insert)

"Once upon a time..."

***Carol "O little Town of Bethlehem"** First verse only

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

"Is there any room in the inn?"

***Carol "Away in a Manger"** Verses 1 & 2

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

"Peace on earth?"



***Carol**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Verses 1 & 3

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 angelic host proclaim,
“Christ in born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the sun of righteousness!
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 us from the earth,
Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King.”

“Come quickly to the manger!”

***Carol**

“The First Nowell”

Verses 1 & 2

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

They look-ed up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

***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;
Gloria-----in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire you heavenly song?
Gloria-----in excelsis Deo;
Gloria-----in excelsis Deo.



Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria-----in excelsis Deo;
Gloria-----in excelsis Deo.

“Bearing Gifts”

Offering

***Offering Carol “We Three Kings of Orient Are”** Verses 1 & 2
(During the carol, the offering will be brought forward.)

We three kings of Orient are,
Bearing gifts we traverse a-far,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light!



Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and sacrifice:
Hallelujah, hallelujah,
Sounds through the earth and skies.
O star of wonder, star of light,
Star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

“A Story Worth Telling!”

***Carol “Go Tell It On The Mountain”**

(Refrain) Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Saviour’s birth!

Refrain

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain



Benediction

One: Gabriel foretold it.

All: The angels heralded it.

One: The shepherds came to see for themselves.

**All: And it is true. God is with us through Jesus Christ,
the babe of Bethlehem and our resurrected Lord.**

One: The world will never be the same;

All: We ourselves will never be the same.

One: Go then and tell the world –

All: Jesus Christ is born today.

One: And all the people said,

All: AMEN. AMEN.

Postlude – Prelude to a ‘Te Deum’

Welcome...

to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Are you a visitor this evening, or a newcomer to the Guelph area? If so, we welcome you to St. Andrew's and pray that you will find within this community gathered for worship, the spiritual guidance you seek. Christmas Eve is often a time when people come to church for the first time, or the first time in a long time. We recognize that people here tonight come for many reasons. It may be nostalgia, a desire for God, curiosity, hope for a new beginning, wonder, or something else that brings them. We affirm that the ancient Bible story speaks to each life, saying "with God, all things are possible."

If the Christmas Eve service has touched you, feel free to speak with the minister or an usher. God's people here give thanks for your presence this evening and pray that the blessing of the Christ child will be with you. We hope to see you again.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to all who participated in tonight's worship service.

**ST. ANDREW'S
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**Sundays at 10:30 AM
All Year Round**