

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion Service
December 24th, 2007 11:00PM

**Please stand, if able.*

TIME FOR QUIET MEDITATION

(As you are seated, please allow yourself to become quiet within as you prepare for the worship service to begin)

PRELUDE – Choral Prelude on ‘Es ist ein ros’ entsprungen’ J. Brahms

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Let us go, in heart and mind, to see what has come to pass.

Let us go with the shepherds:

All: Let us go to find the Saviour!

One: Let us go with the wise ones:

All: Let us go to find God’s promise, born for us!

One: Let us go with the poor and humble:

All: Let us go to find our King, born in a lowly manger.

One: Let us go with all the world, with all the peoples of the nations. Come, let us worship; come, let us adore Him:

All: Christ the Lord!

**Carol # 159 “Oh come, all ye faithful”*

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE



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 tonight 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 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

161 NORFOLK STREET

GUELPH, ON N1H 4J8

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mailbox@standrewsguelph.com

SUNDAYS AT 10:30 AM

ALL YEAR ROUND

COMMUNION

After the leaders have taken communion, they will offer the bread and wine to you using words printed below. If you wish to have communion, you are invited to come to the front, take a piece of bread and eat and then a glass of wine (juice) and drink. Please alert the servers to anyone who is not able to come to the front and they will be served after those who come forward to take the bread and the wine.

The bread of life, for you.

The cup of joy, for you.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Il est né

arr. F.E.W. Gingrich

Still Still Still

arr. F.E.W. Gingrich

POST-COMMUNION SOLO – Silent Night

Gruber/Fisher/Gingrich

(soloist: Fitz Bharath)

PRAYER

Loving God, we praise you for your goodness to us at our Lord's Table. You have fed us with the bread of life, made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth, and assured us of your everlasting love. Continue with us, filling our lives with the peace and joy announced at the birth of your Son, tonight and always. AMEN.

THE PEACE

**Carol # 162 "On Christmas night all Christians sing"
(unannounced)*

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE – In Dulci Jubilo (Bicinium)

J.S. Bach

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:8 – 20

Solo:

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

(soloist: Fitz Bharath)

Gospel Reading: John 1:1 – 14

"The Shattered Ornament"

**Carol # 138 "While shepherds watched"*

OFFERING

OFFERTORY –

Offertory on 'St. Louis'

arr. Dennis Janzer

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Carol # 148 "It came upon the midnight clear"*

Invitation

This is the Lord's Table. Our Saviour born in Bethlehem invites us to share in the feast He has prepared. Come, all are welcome!

Grace

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.



TAKING THE BREAD AND WINE

As the Lord Jesus took bread,
I take this bread and wine
to be set apart for this holy use.
And as he gave thanks, let us give thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Great God of wonders, we are filled with joy this night.
We thank you that we can go to Bethlehem
and find your Son Jesus Christ:
born to know the joys and sorrows of human life
to show your love and tell your good news
to heal the sick
to befriend sinners
to die in love for us and all the world
to be our risen Lord.

As the angels sang your praises that first Christmas night, we join
with people of faith of all times and places to offer you joyful praise,
saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Gracious God, send your Holy Spirit to bless our meal so that these
gifts of bread and wine may become our communion with Christ our
Lord. In our eating and drinking, may we know Jesus Christ and the
life he brings. With glad hearts and strengthened spirits, we would
be Christ's faithful people until we feast with him in glory.

Our praise to you this night, Gracious God, would be the offering of
ourselves as living sacrifices dedicated and fit for your acceptance.
May this be so, as we share in the body and blood of Jesus Christ
and know the ground of our faith:

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

Hear us, Gracious God, as our prayers conclude with those words of
prayer taught by Christ to disciples who asked to be taught how to
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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory, forever. AMEN.**

BREAKING OF BREAD

We do this in obedience
to Christ's example and command.

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread
and after giving thanks to God he broke it
and said, "This is my body which is for you;
do this in memory of me."

In the same way he took the cup
and said: "This cup is the new covenant
sealed by my blood. Whenever, you drink it,
do this in memory of me.