



Candles, Carols and Communion

Christmas Eve 7:30 PM

Preparing for Worship: Despite, or perhaps because our world is weary, and war-worn, we gather on this Holy Night, in community, online and onsite, to hear again Luke's telling of the Saviour's birth, and John's holy mystery of the "Word made flesh." With candles, communion and favourite carols, we celebrate the birth of Jesus long ago, and again this night, so that weary world can still rejoice, and so that hope can be reborn in us.

We Approach God

Music for Gathering

Overture to "The Messiah"

G.F. Handel

Words of Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Centering

In the name of God, grace and peace be with you.
And also with you.

Call to Worship and Lighting the Advent Candles

Sung response

Kindle a Flame to Lighten the Dark

Voices United 19

Come, God's people, come, all creation, let us gather in company with God.
We gather in hope for the world, as God's Day draws near.

Advent Candle of Hope is lit

Come, all who long for God's reign of peace
to replace the misrule of hatred, warfare, and fear.
We look for signs of peace, and by our presence, we become signs of God's peace.

Advent Candle of Peace is lit

Come, all who are weary, worn down and fearful for the world, for ourselves.
Bring with you those who search for loving justice.
The Spirit of God will appoint us all to be messengers of God's justice and joy!

Advent Candle of Joy is lit

Come all who are longing for the sure sign of God's redeeming love.
Listen for a baby's cry, a mother's song.
Watch for the dawning light of newborn love.
**For here, this night and in the world's night,
God's Son is born, the Prince of Peace, to lead us in the way of truth and light.
Let us worship on this holy night.**

Advent Candle of Love is lit

***Carol**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

v.1 Eng, v.1 Fr., v. 3,4,5 Eng

Voices United 60

Prayer for Christmas Eve

We Listen for God's Word

Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures Isaiah 9:2-7

This is the witness of the prophets.

Thanks be to God.

Reading from the Gospel Luke 2:1-7

*Carol What Child is This?

Voices United 74

Reading from the Gospel Luke 2:8-18

*Carol While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

Voices United 75

Reading from the Gospel Luke 2:8-18

*Carol Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Voices United 48

Reflection Luke 2:19 Mary Ponders

Rev. Dr. Elisabeth Jones

We Gather at the Table

Offering *We offer monetary gifts to support the mission and ministries of Cedar Park United, close to home and in the world. We gather the elements to celebrate communion.*

Offering Carol In the Bleak Midwinter

v. 1, 2, 4 Voices United 55

Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Table

In the United Church of Canada, all are welcome at the Table of Jesus Christ. Tout le monde est invité!

Communion Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Come forward to receive communion, row by row; return via the side aisle. The cups contain grape juice and there are gluten-free crackers, as well as bread.

Music during Communion

Anthem What Can I Give Him?

Music: Mark Hayes, Words: Christina Rossetti

Communion Carols Voices United (VU) 58, VU 50 v.1 Fr, v.1 Eng, VU 76 v.1,2,5

Prayer after Communion

The Christmas Proclamation

Lighting the Christ Candle John 1:1-5

Response

And the Word became flesh, and lived among us,
and we have seen this glory, full of grace and truth.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Let us now walk in the light of the Newborn Christ!

Sharing the Light of Christ

Candles are lit from the Christ light

Carol Silent Night, Holy Night

v. 1 German, v.1 Fr, v.1-3 Eng

Voices United 67

Christmas Blessing

Carol Joy to the World

Voices United 59

Postlude Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring (*from "Church Cantata No. 147"*)

J.S. Bach



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