



# Sunset United Church

## December 24, 2022



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*Sunset United, located on Treaty 4 Territory,  
is an Affirming community of faith.  
All are welcome here.*

**Hymn** VU#59 Joy to the World

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her 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 all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

### **Call to Worship and Opening Prayer**

**One:** May the love of God, made flesh in Jesus Christ, be with you all.

**All:** **And also with you.**

**One:** The time has come, the long-awaited night is here;

**All:** **Our prayers are answered and God's grace is known.**

**One:** It began with hope,

**All:** Hope that the light of the world will spark in every heart, bringing heat to the coldest heart, relief to those who know pain.

One: We hope for peace;

**All:** Peace between nations and families, peace within our hearts, peace that brings understanding and redemption to all God's creation.

One: We hope for joy;

**All:** Joy in knowing that as we follow this light, we are led to God. We are led to a time when every heart will sing songs of thanksgiving.

One: We hope for love;

**All:** Love is God's gift of God's self and when we share this love, we participate in God's prayer to the earth.

One: Let us pray:

**All:** God of ancient stories and new births, we gather this evening to celebrate the birth of your love in the Christ child. May we hear these familiar stories as if it were the first time, as if this were the first Christmas, as if Jesus could be born this very evening. In thanksgiving, we offer our prayers, our songs and our lives to you who is our mother and 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, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

## Act 1

Hymn VU#38 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 your heavenly song?**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see**

**Christ whose birth the angels sing;**

**come, adore on bended knee**

**Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**See him in a manger laid,**

**whom the choirs of angels praise;**

**Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,**

**while our hearts in love we raise.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

## **Act 2**

**Hymn VU#64 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 above,**

**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.**

**How silently, how silently  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming;  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in;  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel.**

### **Act 3**

**Hymn** VU#69 Away in a Manger<sup>1</sup>

**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.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

### **Act 4**

**Sacrament of Baptism**

## Act 5

Hymn VU#67 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 Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour 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.**

## Blessing



**Minister:** Rev. Jim Tenford (he/him)

**Children & Youth Minister:** Michelle McConkey (she/her)

**Choir Director:** Corinne Groff (she/her)

**Pianist:** Shirley Hill (she/her)



<sup>1</sup> Words: Author unknown. Music: William James Kirkpatrick 1895. Arrangement: © 1992 Desmond Hassell, Parkdale United Church, 429 Parkdale Ave., Ottawa, ON K1Y 1H3. Reprinted under One License 605683.

