



Sunset United Church

December 30, 2018



Minister: Rev. Tricia Gerhard
Children & Youth Minister: Michelle McConkey
Choir Director: Nancy Edwards
Pianists: Shirley Hill/Kevin Petrychyn
Guest Worship Leader: Bryan Tudor

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

WE GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering Hymn: VU #59 Joy to the World (vs 1&2) *

Lighting the Peace and Christ Candles



Opening Words: **

Before the world was created, the word already existed. The word became a human being, and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

**This life brought light to all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.
Thanks be to God.**

Opening Prayer: (together) **

O God, we gather as your people in thanksgiving that you came among us in Jesus of Nazareth. We celebrate that we can feel your presence among us today, because of that birth so long ago. Forgive us when we focus on the wrappings and miss the gift. Help us not to limit your presence to that baby in a manger, forgetting the life he chose and laid down, that we might know your eternal love and forgiveness. May our Christmas carols of joy be but a small beginning to a new year lived in joyful thanksgiving to you. Amen.

Hymn: VU #58 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly ***

Prayer of Confession **

O God, we confess that though we have sung carols, worshiped at the manger and been awed by the wonder of the Christmas story – our eyes have been much attracted to the glitter of the world.

We have celebrated Christmas with coloured lights strung around our homes and trees. We have lit candles on our tables, in our Advent wreath – but in the busyness of Christmas we have spent too little time pondering the true significance of Christ, the light, come into our world.

Forgive us if we have spent too little energy in offering ourselves as lightbearers. Forgive us when we have sought enlightenment in the wrong places.

In this season of darkness and light, open our hearts to you once again. Amen

- *Time of silent reflection* -

Words of Grace

Passing the peace



WE LISTEN

Meet Dr. Luke

Scripture Sharing 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26

Hymn: VU#74 What Child Is This *****

Drama (based on Luke 2:41-52)

We Meet the Holy Family: Joseph, Jesus and Mary.

Reflection

Hymn: VU 583 Jesus Came, a Child Like Me <<

WE RESPOND

Offering Dedication

Hymn: VU#55 In the Bleak Midwinter (vs 4) <<*

Prayer of Dedication (Together) **

As we recall again the child who was born for us, who is peace for the world, help us to remember that your love is our love when it reaches out to other people – to strangers or friends, especially the weak, the vulnerable, the homeless and hungry ones. May these financial offerings, and our gifts of time and talent, be used to spread love in the world. Amen.

Hymn: VU#71 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime <<**

Prayers of the People & the Lord's Prayer (sung)

Hymn: VU#43 Go, Tell It on the Mountain <<***

Benediction

Go now in peace, growing in the wisdom and strength of Jesus Christ our Lord.

We go in peace.

Go now in love, becoming all that God wants you to be.

We go in love.

Go now in expectation, listening for God's call to service each day we live.

We go in expectation.

And may the joy of God's blessing be upon us all.

Amen

Postlude



** from Seasons of the Spirit - Published by Wood Lake Publishing Inc.

*Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt. Music: attrib. George Frideric Handel 1742; arr. Lowell Mason 1836.

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****Words: William Chatterton Dix ca. 1865 Music: English melody, 16th century, harm, attrib. John Stainer 1871

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<<* Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti ca. 1872. Music: Gustav Theodor Holst 1906.

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