



506 4 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 1S7 kxcalgary.com

December 24, 2022 – CHRISTMAS EVE, 11:00 PM

Worship Leader: The Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis
Music Director: Chellan Hoffman **Knox United Church Choir**
Reader: Heidi Exner

***We extend a warm welcome to our Knox community – to those who are tuning in to the livestream service from home or away, and to those who are gathered in our sanctuary.
You are all an integral part of this community. Thank you for being here.***

We acknowledge that we live, work, play and worship on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani), the TsuuT'ina, the Stoney Nakoda Nations (Bears paw, Chiniki, and Wesley), the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

All are welcome in our faith community, regardless of age, colour, ethnic, religious or linguistic background, gender, gender identity, social or economic circumstances, sexual orientation and physical or mental capabilities. Knox has been a proud member of Affirm United since 2007.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

10:30 PM PRELUDE

BRASS/ORGAN: The First Nowell	arr. Howard Cable
BRASS: Il Est Né	arr. Snell
CHOIR: Good King Wenceslas	arr. Bob Chilcott
BRASS: Carol Fantasy	arr. Iveson
CHOIR: What Child is This?	arr. Antony Baldwin
CHOIR: Christmas Lullaby	John Rutter
ORGAN: Der Tag, Der Ist So Freudenreich	J.S. Bach
BELLS: Ukrainian Bell Carol	arr. John Purifoy
BRASS: March of the Kings	13 th c. French carol

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis

* **PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O Come, All Ye Faithful** Music: John Francis Wade, arr. Willcocks
Words: Frederick Oakeley

1. **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;**

**REFRAIN: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

2. **God of God, light of light,
Lo he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created: REFRAIN**
3. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, in the highest: REFRAIN**
4. **See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; REFRAIN**
5. **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: REFRAIN**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE Kathryn MacGregor and Keith Bacon

We give thanks for the light of hope – unrelenting and inexplicable.
We give thanks for the light of peace – strong and unafraid.
We give thanks for the light of joy – persistent and unpredictable.
We give thanks for the light of love – extravagant and inclusive.
On this holy night, we light the Christ candle.

All: The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

(adapted from *Spacious Faith* by Joanna Harader)

CENTERING PRAYER

Surprising God, you bring joy to an unexpected world. Into our busy days, you place Bethlehem moments – a stillness that strengthens our hearts, a cry that kindles memories and wrinkles smiles across our faces, visitors who bless us with kind words and warm gifts, angelic music that lifts our weariness. Usher us into the wonder of this night and the peace of the Christ child and let our hearts abound with joy. Amen.

***CAROL Joy to the World** Music: Handel/Mason, arr. Wilberg; Words: Isaac Watts

- 1. 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.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. 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.**
- 4. 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.**

FIRST READING Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

***CAROL Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

Music: Mendelssohn, arr. David Willcocks

Words: Charles Wesley

- 1. 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 hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

- 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail, the incarnate deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

- 3. 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 of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

SECOND READING John 1: 1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CHOIR ANTHEM O Little Town English carol, arr. Alan Bullard
Sung by Knox Choir

- 1. 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.*
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth!*
- 3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.*

THIRD READING: Luke 2:6-16

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying: "*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!*"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

REFLECTION

Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis

OFFERING

Please consider placing a gift in the donation plates at this time or make an online donation through the QR codes located in the pews. Your gifts will help Knox United continue to be a place of welcome, worship, music, and community for the next 100 years.

Music: O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Brass and organ: Chris Morrison, cornet; Dave Reid, euphonium; Chellan Hoffman, organ

COMMUNION

God is with us!

We are not alone!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all times and places, we gather at your table of grace to recall your vision of hope for all people and for your world . . .

We remember Jesus, the adult, the One who blazed a new and risky path of extravagant generosity and of passionate concern: temple-shaker, world-maker, rule-breaker, risk-taker; the author and finisher of our faith.

(Sung together)

Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and God of love.

Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and God of love.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory and light,

Ho-san-na in the highest!

Blest is the one who comes in the name of our God,

Ho-san-na in the highest!

We remember Jesus' self-giving love and the offer of himself for others, even those who gave him over to death . . .

Let us pray . . .

We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness.

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

Come to us, life-giving Spirit of God. Bless us, these gifts, and what we do here, so that we might sing your song of love for your people and for your world.

The body of Christ, **the bread of life.**

The cup of blessing, **the cup of forgiveness.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Holy Communion

All are invited to come forward to receive the bread and juice. Bread will be offered and then you are invited to dip the bread into the cup, and receive the elements together. Individual packets of juice and wafer are also available as a gluten-free option.

Music: O Come, O Come Emmanuel arr. David Marlatt
I Wander as a I Wonder John Jacob Niles

Foothills Brass Quintet and organ

Prayer after Communion

God of shepherds and kings, of doubters and truth-seekers, you gather us by the light of the star of promise. You lead us to hope for the future and to trust in your presence. Guide us this night. Lead us to your renewing and transforming love and give us courage to be that love in the world. **Amen.**

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BLESSING

CAROL: Silent Night

At this time, lights are dimmed, the congregation lights candles, and the Christmas star appears

- 1. 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.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. 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.**

POSTLUDE

Sussex Mummer's Carol

Percy Grainger

Foothills Brass Quinte

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We thank you for sharing Christmas Eve with us.

We wish you hope, peace, joy, and love this holiday season

— A THANK YOU TO OUR MUSICIANS, STAFF, AND VOLUNTEERS —

FOOTHILLS BRASS QUINTET

Chris Morrison, trumpet; Dave Foley, trumpet;
Rosalee Morrison, horn; Dave Reid, trombone; Jean-François Cotnoir, tuba

KNOX CHOIR

Ann Farebrother, Karen Harrison, Pat Place, Kim Reinhardt, Lauren Dennis, Katherine Dennis,
Chuck Curry, Pete Dennis, William Gaskarth, John Hall, Steve Miller, Jim Smith, David Westwick

KNOX REBELL RINGERS

Chris Morrison, Rosalee Morrison, Pat Place, Steve Miller, David Westwick, Janet Zatka

STAFF

Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis (minister), Sue Forsyth (office administrator),
Chellan Hoffman (music director), Jampa Tseten and Stephen Wallace (caretakers),
Roman Sizer (communications, social media, IT support)

VOLUNTEERS

Steve Miller/Tenzin Dawa (sound operators), Carey Barrett/Frank Lam (video operators),
Gerald Love (greeter/usher), Bob Benner (sanctuary preparation)

KNOX EVENTS

In the Bleak Mid Winter – a series of thoughtful gatherings

Beginning January 18th, 12:30-1:30 pm, Labyrinth Room

What happens after the Christmas left-overs are finished, the kids have returned to school and the family has gone home? How do we carry hope, peace, joy and love with us through the long, cold winter days?

Join us for a time of reflection and conversation. Held in the beautiful Labyrinth Room, framed with music, a reading, and a time for silence and quiet reflection, we will come together to listen, to talk and to be in community together.

All are welcome.