

TOPSAIL UNITED CHURCH
December 24th, 2015
Christmas Eve - 8:00 p.m.

SERVICE NOTE

Glory to God! Glory on high! Sing you "Noel!" Day is nigh! All who dwell on earth below, peace be to you, and goodwill. Come, let us to Bethlehem; follow the star, seeking him. Let us adore and worship still, in love and joy to grow.

WELCOME & BLESSINGS
ON THIS NIGHT OF LIGHT AND JOY!

ORGAN PRELUDE:

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #60 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

One: Like the little town of Bethlehem, we also wait beneath the silent stars of winter,

All: Waiting for the child born of Mary.

One: How silently comes the gift which is given,

All: So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.

One: We hear the Christmas angels, the glad tidings tell:

All: O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

One: Let us worship God!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CONGREGATION SINGS:

**We honour Messiah with Christ candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
As God comes among us, the Christian's true light.**

CAROL: #48 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

PRAYER OF APPROACH: (in unison – Seasons of the Spirit)

In this moment of moments, when the stars above Bethlehem and the smiles on our faces are held safe by the deep Christmas night, hear our prayers, loving God. Open the hearts of the world, open the hands, open the minds and the lives, so that the Christ child's birth might be lived again in actions of hope and love. Amen.

(Written by Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights U.C., Vancouver, B.C. **Gathering**, Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2015-2016, p.29. Used with permission.)

CAROL: #44 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear"

SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 2: 1 - 20 (The Christmas Story)

ANTHEM: "Gloria Gloria Gloria Deo" (David Ouchterlony)

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER:

OFFERING & DEDICATION:

From all that dwells below the skies
Let songs of hope and faith arise;
Let peace, goodwill on earth be sung
Through every land, by every tongue.

OFFERTORY PRAYER: (in unison - Seasons of the Spirit)

God who gives us the greatest gift of all, your very self, may we give our very selves to you and to each other. We thank you for all we have, and for the opportunity to share with each other, and those less fortunate. We remember the poor, the forgotten and unseen people, may these gifts help us all to see Christ in each other, a light of love and compassion. Amen.

ANTHEM: "To Bethlehem the Heavenly Star" (Robert & Margaret Fleming)

SERMON: "Good News of Great Joy"

ANTHEM: "Who Would Send a Baby" (May Kay Beall)

CAROL: #67 "Silent night" (lights are dimmed)

BLESSING & SENDING FORTH:

CHRISTMAS VESPERS:

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

ORGAN POSTLUDE: