

Minister: Rev. Greg Powell
Music Minister: Jennifer Turner
Guest musicians: Christine Chepyha, Hanne Fair, Gordon Miller

Christmas Eve 2025

Welcome and Territorial Acknowledgement

Carol ~ O Come All Ye Faithful VU 60

♪ **O come, all ye faithful, joyful and expectant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come and behold him, Love in flesh appearing.
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!**

Opening Prayer

**O God of new life, we ask your blessing upon this time
together, upon this night of celebration. We thank you for
Jesus, one who would show a way of truth and justice, but
one born in humble conditions without status or wealth.
Receive our gratitude, remind us of your presence here and
now. Amen.**

Passing the Peace

Choir Anthem: *Peace Carol* arr. Emily Crocker

Candle Lighting

Duet: Night of Silence

Carol ~ Silent Night VU 67

♪ ♪ **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 Christ, at thy birth, Jesus, Christ, at thy birth**

Blessing

Carol ~ Joy to the World VU 59

♪ ♪ **Joy to the World! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing x 3**

**Joy to the Earth, the Savior reigns;
Our mortal songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
Repeat the sounding joy x 3**

Carol ~ Go Tell it on the Mountain VU 43

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.**

**Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And brought us all salvation
That blessed Christmas morn.**

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born.**

VU60 Words: English Trans. Frederick Oakeley 1841, Claude Rozier 1950, Music: attributed to John Francis Wade pub. domain; **VU62** Words, music: pub. domain, Harmony: Shawnee Press Inc.. Descant: Oxford University Press; **VU38** Words: Fr. trans. James Chadwick, Music: Fr. carol melody, Arr. Edward Shippen Barnes; **VU74** Words: William Chatterton Dix 1865, Music: Eng. melody, pub. domain, Harmony John Stainer 1871; **VU44** Words: Edmund Hamilton Sears Music: Richard Storrs Willis, pub. domain; **VU67** Words: Joseph Mohr 1818 Eng. trans.: John Freeman Young 1863, et al, Music: Franz Xavier Grüber 1818, ..Re pub. Domain; **VU59** Words: Isaac Watts 1719, alt. Music: attributed to George Frideric Handel 1742, Arr.: Lowell Mason 1836 pub. domain; **VU43** Words: John Wesley Work II, Music: African-American spiritual pub. domain, Arr.: ©United Reformed Church, Used by permission Oxford University Press; Reprinted / podcast /streamed w/ permission under ONE LICENSE #A-741594. All rights reserved.

James Bay United Church

Christmas Eve Service

8:00 pm December 24, 2025



Reading 3 – Luke 2: 15-20

Carol ~ What Child Is This VU 74

♪ ♪ What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of
Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are
feeding? Good people, here; our hope is clear—the silent
Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of
Mary!

Reflection

Carol ~ It Came upon the Midnight Clear VU 44

♪ ♪ It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold,
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven good news we bring!”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise, and cease your strife,
to hear the angels sing.

**For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.**

Offering

Solo: O Holy Night

Communion Celebration

Let us open our hearts to God.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of life, Source of
love. We bless you for all your good gifts.

**On this night of nights we give thanks for the gift
of yourself born into our world.**

We thank you for Mary, for her courageous yes to your
call,

her strength in giving birth to your love in the world.

**We thank you for Jesus. Born on life's margin,
he was one of us, full of our joy and subject to our
frailty**

From his fullness we all receive grace upon grace.

**Through him we are given to see our worth
and trust the truth of your enduring love.**

He welcomed everyone who was unwelcome elsewhere.

**To one and all he shows another way of being human
together.**

He kept faith with you, even when it cost him his life.

**And yet his death was not the end. In his rising
we come to trust that nothing can limit your love.**

In his rising we come to trust he is with us still.

In his rising we come to trust that every life is NOW!

And so it is on this Christmas Eve we join our voices
with your people of every time and place,
even the whole company of heaven, celebrating his birth and
singing...

♪ ♪ **Gloria! In excelsis deo!**

In the middle of another night when the end was near
and betrayal was in the air, he shone all the brighter with love
for his friends.

He ate with them. And as he lifted the bread to bless it,
it was as though his whole life was gathered up in that bread.
He thanked you.

"My body," he said, breaking the bread to share with his friends.
"Eat this, and let it become part of you.
Do this in the awareness that I am with you."

**Then he lifted the cup ... as though it was brimming with
his whole life.** He thanked you for it, and passed it to them,
saying, "this is the cup of a new covenant poured out for you
and for all, that the power of forgiveness may be released
among you.

Whenever you do this, remember me."

God of Mercy, we remember also and hold in the light of your
love the whole creation in need of your saving grace.

Hear the prayers of our hearts ...

Pour out your Spirit upon us, and upon these gifts.

**Make us one with Christ in his self-giving,
that our lives too may be broken open and poured out
for the healing of the world.**

Make us one in love for you and the whole creation
**that your justice may roll down like a mighty river,
and your righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
In this hope and as your people we praise you,
O Infinite Love, now and forever. Amen.**

Sharing the bread and cup.

Advent Candle Lighting

Reading 1 – Luke 2: 1-7

Carol ~ Once in Royal David's City VU 62

♪ **Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little
child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven who, with God, is
over
all, And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a
stall.
There among the poor and lowly lived on earth our
Saviour holy.**

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own
redeeming love; for that child who seemed so
helpless
is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his
children on to the place where he is gone.**

Reading 2 – Luke 2: 8-14

Carol ~ Angels We Have Heard on High VU 38

♪ ♪ **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!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come to him who sets you free!
Let your grateful praises ring.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**