

St. James' -Rosemount United Church

171 Sherwood Ave., Kitchener, Ont. N2B 1K2

God's Compassionate Community Sharing Christian Faith



December 24, 2009

7:00 pm

Christmas Eve

**Though wise men who found him
laid rich gifts around him,
Yet oxen they gave him their hay,
and Jesus in beauty
Accepted their duty; contented in manger he lay.
Then haste we to show him the praises we owe him;
Our service he ne'er can despise; whose love still is able
To show us that stable, where softly in manger he lies.**

One: The third Sunday of Advent, the angel was the important symbol of the Christmas story, for it was the angel who came to Mary and to Joseph to tell them that a special Jesus child would be born to them and laid in a manger.

SONG

**Angels from the realms of glory;
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the newborn king**

One: Last Sunday, the fourth of Advent, Mary and Joseph finally appeared. They could find no place in the inn for Mary to have her baby, but there was room in the stable, and the animals kept it warm, and there was straw to lie on.

One: And so, tonight, let us go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass...

JESUS IS BORN

SONG

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

** THE MANGER ARRIVES**

SONG

**God of God, light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

****MARY AND JOSEPH AND THE BABE ARRIVE****

SONG

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

****ANGELS OF THE LORD GATHERED ROUND ABOUT THEM****

SONG

**See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

****SHEPHERDS OF THE FIELDS ARRIVE TO SEE THIS THING THAT
HAS COME TO PASS****

SONG (please stand, as able)

**Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

(Please remain standing while the Christ Candle is lit)

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

One: As we light this candle we remember the gift that God gave us that is the very centre of our Christmas celebrations – the gift of a baby lying in a manger – Jesus, the gift of Love and Joy and Peace and Hope.

*HYMN

6 A Candle is Burning (vs 5)
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.

PRAYER (unison) **Thank You God, for Your gift of the baby Jesus... – the very Light of the world. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

BIBLE STORY

INVITATION TO OFFERING

(Angels and Shepherds will be led to seats in the front two pews)

OFFERING MUSIC – **58 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly;**
69 Away in a Manger;
47 Still, Still, Still
46 Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

SENDING FORTH

CLOSING READING

CLOSING PRAYER

*CLOSING HYMN **43 Go, Tell It on the Mountain**

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE **Go, My Children, with My Blessing**

Also known as All Through the Night

Text by: Jaraslov J. Vaida and Music arr: Ralph Vaughan Williams

The version being played is a Lutheran Sending Song

All Through the Night

Sleep my child and peace attend thee, all through the night
Guardian angels God will send thee, all through the night
Soft the drowsy hours are creeping hill and vale in slumber steeping,
I my loving vigil keeping all through the night.

While the moon her watch is keeping all through the night
While the weary world is sleeping all through the night
O'er thy spirit gently stealing visions of delight revealing
Breathes a pure and holy feeling all through the night.

In an alternate version, the second verse is substituted with:

Angels watching ever round thee all through the night
In thy slumbers close surround thee all through the night
They will of all fears disarm thee, no forebodings should alarm thee,
They will let no peril harm thee all through the night.

Large Print Bulletins and **Hearing Devices** are available.
Please ask an usher.

Thank you to all who took part in tonight's service.

The playing of Prelude, *O Holy Night*, was inspired by The Schwartz Family who have 4 children. This is their favourite Christmas song. It is so wonderful to know that they are teaching their children church traditions. Here is some historic background about the song: It is difficult to realize now that when "O Holy Night" was written by Adolphe Charles Adam, the 19th century French composer who is best known for his ballet "Giselle", it was frowned on by church authorities. One French bishop even went so far as to denounce it for its "lack of musical taste and total absence of the spirit of religion". Despite this, it has become the most popular of all Christmas solos. Adam's friend and collaborator, the poet Cappeau do Roquemaure, was the first to supply a text for the melody, titling it "Cantique de Noel." The English words we use today, which made the tune "O Holy Night," were written by an American clergyman and musical authority named John Sullivan Dwight.

The playing of the Postlude, *All Through the Night*, was inspired by The McNulty Family who have 2 children and 2 grandchildren (so far..). This is their favourite Christmas song. Please find below the words to the original song translated into English from Welsh. "**Ar Hyd y Nos**" ("All Through the Night") is a Welsh folksong sung to a tune which was first recorded in Edward Jones' *Musical and Poetical Relics of the Welsh Bards* (1784). The Welsh lyrics were written by John Ceiriog Hughes. It has been translated into several languages, including English. The melody is also used in the hymn "Go My Children With My Blessing." The song is highly popular with traditional Welsh male voice choirs, and is sung by them at festivals in Wales and around the world.



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