

St. Andrew's United Church



December 24, 2020

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Christmas Eve

Proclamation - In the beginning God said "Let there be light!"
Tonight God's light comes to dwell amongst us that we may behold the glory of our God. With untiring voices may we proclaim your glory as we, with the animals, shepherds and angels, sing your praises throughout the entire universe.
"Let your light shine once more!"
(Christ candle is lit)

Processional - O Holy Night

Scripture Reading - Luke 2: 1-7

The Nativity

The Animals

The donkey, shaggy and brown, carried Jesus' mother up hill and down; he carried her safely to Bethlehem town,
The cow, all white and red, gave the babe her manger for His bed, she gave Him hay to pillow His head,
The sheep with curly horn, gave Him wool for his blanket warm, He wore a wool coat on Christmas morn.
The dove from the rafters high, cooed Him to sleep, that He should not cry, they cooed Him to sleep from the rafters high."
"Thus every beast by some good spell, in the stable dark was glad to tell, of the gift they gave Emmanuel."

Hymn - Away in a Manger

Scripture Reading - Luke 2: 8-15

The Shepherds –

It was amazing. No! Awesome. No! Tremendously outstanding. Astonishing, marvellous, inspiring, remarkable, incredible, surprising! The angels. Hundreds of them. No, thousands of them. The sky was full of them. I was there and still I don't believe it. And then one spoke and told of us of God's peace. And then told us about a baby from God, in Bethlehem. And that we should go and find the baby. And that's what we're doing. Going to Bethlehem. I just can't believe it. It's so amazing.

Hymn - While Shepherds Watched their Flocks

The Angels

Angels came down from heaven to proclaim his birth, but they didn't come to Scribes and Pharisees, they didn't come to a Temple or Church court, they came to simple Shepherds abiding in a field. Why? Because we are all called to be shepherds of the Church. Humble Servants of the Lord. The Angels came to announce the birth of the Good Shepherd to shepherds to set an example of humility for those who would proclaim the name of Jesus Christ.

Hymn - Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Prayer

The birth of Jesus Christ, a fresh beginning for our world:

The problems of this past year can be tackled,

Rich countries will be able to share with the poor; Children will be given the highest priority; the elderly will be respected.

We believe change is possible and we will work to make it happen.

The birth of Jesus Christ, a fresh beginning for the suffering.

The unemployed will find a way forward; Those fearful will find hope;

Those who are sick will find strength

Those who have suffered loss will know comfort.

We believe change is possible and we will work to make it happen.

The birth of Jesus Christ, a fresh beginning for each one of us:

Old grudges will be left behind. Dreams will become reality;

Self-confidence will be restored; Friendships will be deepened.

We believe change is possible; we will work to make it happen.

We will work at these changes at Christmastime and throughout the year. Amen.

Hymn - Silent Night

Blessing

Though we cannot be together like other years we are still called to share the hope, peace, joy and love that comes with the birth of the Christ child.

So enjoy the sweet treats and sweet dreams and awake to hope renewed. Accept God's gift of love and pledge to be the of gift of love for others. Amen.