

WATERFORD UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Presented by the Transition Team:

Greg Strachan (greeter), Wendy Strachan (candle lighter),
Debra Leedham (service provider), Elaine Woloshyn (reader 1),
Alma Scovil (reader 2)

WE APPROACH GOD

Reader 1 Elaine Woloshyn

LIGHTING CHRIST CANDLE (together):

Let this light be the sign for us that the Christ has been born in our lives.

GATHERING CAROL: Joy to the world VU #59

CALL TO WORSHIP

CAROL: Go Tell it on the Mountain VU #43

PRAYER OF APPROACH:

Praise the Living God! Praise God from the heavens:
Sun and moon and shining stars, praise the Living God!

Praise God's Holy Name,
whose word speaks all things into being,
who is present in the expanse of the universe,
and in the voices of children.
Praise the Living God, our rescuer and deliverer,
whose wonder is found in the heavens and in all creation,
who comes in innocence, and with mercy.

O God, our light, our beauty, our rest:
With the appearance of your Son you have brought us
into your new creation.
Form us into your people, and root our lives in you;
through Christ, the Living Light.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

READING

Isaiah 35: 1 – 10

CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem VU #64

STORY

Silent Reflection

READING

Isaiah 11: 1 – 9

CAROL: Good King Wenceslas printed

Reader 2 Alma Scovil

STORY

Silent Reflection

READING

Isaiah 9: 2 – 7

CAROL: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear VU #44

STORY

READING

Isaiah 63: 7 – 9

CAROL: Silent Night, Holy Night VU #67

STORY

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

COMMUNITY AT PRAYER

As you have drawn us..... We pray these things in the name of Jesus, who became the Christ, and who taught us when we pray to say,
Our Father...

INVITATION TO OFFERING

In the gifts of word and song,
we hear the story of your gift of life, O God.

Here, we offer what we can of ourselves,
we who are part of that same story.

Offering Refrain: In the Bleak Midwinter (vs. 4) VU #55

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.*

Offering Prayer (together):

**Receive these gifts, God of All, for the work of your kingdom.
May our words become witness, and our witness become work,
for your people, in your world. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime VU #71

BENEDICTION:

Let us go from this place rejoicing that God has been born
for us and with us.

We now live in peace with hope.

For God is the author of our lives.

We are people of joy because of the Christ.

Love is the gift we have been given.

Love is the lesson we will live because of God's help.

CHORAL CLOSE: He is born (vs. 1) VU #50

He is born, little Child divine:

Play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.

He is born, little Child divine;

Join the song to announce the day.

Through long ages of the past, prophets have for told his coming;

Through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!

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Worship Leader: Transition Team

Music: Azrael Hackshaw



**The Waterford United Church is a place where everyone is welcome
regardless of their ability, age, class, ethnicity, gender, race, or sexual
orientation.**

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