



## **Westminster United Church**

**Christmas Eve 7:00 pm**

**Organ Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Opening Words from Scripture (*From Isaiah 11: 1-4*)**

**Hymn      VU 60      O Come All Ye Faithful**

**Opening Prayer**

Like the shepherds, we come to the stable,  
uncertain of what we have heard and seen,  
**longing to hear a word of peace and joy.**

Like the wisemen, we have journeys to make,  
gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts,  
**that this world can change for the better.**

Here, in the stillness of a winter's night,  
we gather to share the light of the Christ child,  
a light that shines in the nightfall.

**We gather in the wonder of this night  
to share our joy and thanks for new life.**

In this moment of moments, this most holy night  
when the stars above Bethlehem  
and the smiles of our faces  
are held safe by the deep Christmas night,

**We gather to celebrate God's peace, hope, joy and love - come to us as a child –  
God's love with us, God's love for the world. Thanks be to God, amen.**

**Lighting the Advent Wreath** – Brandon Johnston and Nathan Poole

Advent, the season of preparing, is nearly over. Our waiting is nearly finished. Now  
is a time of fulfillment and celebration.

**In the darkness of night, we give thanks for light.**

We light a candle of hope: hope for ourselves, hope for our community and hope  
for God's beloved world. (candle is lit)

We light a candle of peace: peace in our hearts, peace in our homes and peace on  
earth. (candle is lit)

We light a candle for joy: joy deep within ourselves, and joy to the world. (pink  
candle is lit)

We light a candle of love: the promise of God's love for us, the promise of God's  
love for the world. (candle is lit)

And now, on this cold prairie night, we find ourselves wrapped in wonder and light  
and mystery. Advent season is done, and the moment has come.  
(Christ Candle is lit)

**The light of the Christ-child breaks through the darkness, and God's love illuminates the world. Amen.**

**Hymn** VU 6 A Candle is Burning

**Reading** Luke 2: 1 – 7 John Mort

**Solo** Away in a Manger arranged by David Downe  
given by Nick Urqhart

**Reading** Luke 2: 8 – 20 John Mort

**Hymn** VU 48 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

**Reflection** “Pippin the Christmas Pig”  
*By Jean Little & Werner Zimmermann (used with permission)*

**Hymn** VU 91 The First Nowell

**Offering**

**Offertory** (VU 55 vs 4)

“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”

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Christmas Prayers**

**Hymn** VU 67 “Silent Night! Holy Night!”

## **Sending Forth and Benediction**

On this night of unexpected miracles found in unexpected places, go and be God's peace, hope, joy and love in the world. Be God's unexpected blessings to all you meet.

And as you go, may the love of God, the peace of Christ and the Holy Spirit be with you, on this night, and always

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to all. Amen.**

## **Organ Postlude**



**125**

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