

# **KING CITY UNITED CHURCH**

**December 24, 2021  
Christmas Eve**

**(\*\*\* Please rise as you are able)**  
(Words in **Bold** said by all)

**... WE GATHER AS GOD' PEOPLE ...**

**Prelude: "Prelude for a Candlelight Service" J.  
Cradlebaugh**

**Welcome, Life & Work with King City UC**

## **Call to Worship**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light!  
Those who lived in a land of darkness – on them light has  
shined.

**For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given.  
The Prince of Peace. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**\*\*\*Hymn: #60 VU**

**"O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

**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.**

## **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Alma and Bruce Roffey

We have waited with hope for God to bring justice and  
righteousness.

*We have waited with peace for God's shalom to be felt.*

We have waited with joy, celebrating the things God has already done.

*We have waited with love, awed by how God has shown love to us.*

Tonight we light this candle to celebrate the light God has sent into the world in the birth of Jesus.

(The Christ Candle is lit.)

*We behold the light of Christ. Let us pray.*

**O God of hope, and peace, and joy, and love, from that stable so long ago your light shines out into every corner of the world. Help us to sing with the angels about the joy of your coming. Help us to live by your light not only today, but throughout the whole year, so that tidings of peace and goodwill to all will truly transform everyone and everything. Amen.**

### **Christmas Song #6 VU (verse 5)**

#### **"A Candle Is Burning"**

**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.**

### **Opening Prayer**

**Generous God, you give us the greatest gift of all – yourself. But often we find it hard to take notice; we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received. Forgive us generous God, for the casual way we treat your gift of love. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us tonight. Amen.**

### **Words of Grace (based on Luke 2: 10, 11)**

Fear not, an angel said, I bring you good news of great joy for all people! Christ our Saviour is born! As Jesus enters fully into our lives, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**... WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD ...**

**Hymn: # 1 VU**

**"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"  
O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**The Promises of God** From the Prophets  
Bruce Roffey

Jeremiah 23: 5

<sup>5</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

Isaiah 7: 14

<sup>14</sup>Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Isaiah 9: 2-6

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

<sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Micah 5: 2

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.

John 1: 9 and 14

<sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**\*\*\*Hymn: # 36 VU**

**"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"  
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.**

**Appearances to Mary and Joseph**

Maria Ongaro

### Luke 1: 26 – 38

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### Earle Laycock

### Matthew 1: 18 – 25

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. <sup>20</sup>But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All

this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." <sup>24</sup>When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, <sup>25</sup>but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**\*\*\*Hymn: # 8 VU**

**"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"**

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath  
sprung,**

**of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.**

**It came a blossom bright,**

**amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the  
night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.**

**To show God's love aright**

**she bore for us a Saviour when half spent was the  
night.**

## **Journey to Bethlehem**

Sheryl Sinka

Luke 2: 1 – 7

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to

her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**\*\*\*Hymn: # 58 VU**

**“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

**Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of  
all.**

**Swift are winging angels singing,  
noels ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the babe is born for all.  
Christ the babe is born for all!**

## **The Shepherds and Jesus**

Jessica Sinka

Luke 2: 8 – 20

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”  
<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;  
<sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in

her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**\*\*\*Hymn: # 48 VU  
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"**

**Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!'  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'**

**The Magi and Jesus**

Sandra Kirby

Matthew 2: 1 – 12

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the



child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**\*\*\*Hymn: #46 VU**

**"Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"**

**Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;  
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.  
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Saviour?  
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his  
favour.**

**Story "Christmas 1863" (based on *Little Women* by  
Louisa May Alcott)**

**\*\*\*Hymn: #68 VU**

**"All Poor Ones and Humble"**

**All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble,  
come hastening, and feel not afraid;  
for Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,  
in lowly poor manger was laid.  
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.

**Ministry of Music: "Were You There on That Christmas Night?" N. Sleeth**

**... WITH FAITH OPEN TO THE WEEK AHEAD ...**

**Gathering and Presentation of Our Christmas Offerings**

**\*\*\*Offertory Hymn: #55 VU, verse 4**

**"In the Bleak Midwinter"**

**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**

**O God, on this festival of Christ's birth, help us to give in expectation of his return. May our gifts be used to prepare the world for Christ's coming, when all creation shall sing your praise. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People**

O God, during this season, we celebrate your birth amongst us as a human child. Renew your church as the Body of Christ.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

**be born in us tonight.**

In this holy season Christians the world over are celebrating Christ's birth. Open our hearts to faith.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

**be born in us tonight.**

On the first Christmas, there was no room in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home, and all who live in poverty.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

**be born in us tonight.**

Your Christ came as a light shining in the night. Bring comfort to all those who dwell in darkness, especially to all those who suffer any kind of pain or sadness in our world.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

**be born in us tonight.**

Shepherds in the fields heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to share the joyful gospel of love.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

**be born in us tonight.**

Angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen those who work for your peace and justice in our community, in the Greater Toronto Area, in Ontario, in Canada and all the world.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,

**be born in us tonight.**

Here us now as we unite our voices together praying the prayer he taught us to pray by saying,

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is  
in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread. Forgive  
us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass  
against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and  
the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **... WE LIGHT OUR CHRISTMAS CANDLES ...**

I will light candles this Christmas,

**Candles of joy, despite all sadness,  
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,  
Candles of courage for fears ever present,  
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,  
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,  
Candles of love to inspire all my living,  
Candles that will burn all the year long.**

Receive the light of Christ and take it into the world.

**Amen.**

(After our candles are lit, we will sing Silent Night. Please remain in your seats.)

**HYMN: "Silent Night, Holy Night"**

**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, Lord, at thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Benediction**

May the eagerness of the shepherds,  
The joy of the angels,  
The perseverance of the Magi,  
The faithfulness of Mary and Joseph,  
Be yours this evening.  
And may the blessings of God almighty,  
The peace of the Prince of Peace and  
Courage of the Holy Spirit be with you all today and always.  
May God bless each one of you.  
May God bless us all.

Amen.

**Postlude: "Fantasy on Old Christmas Carols" H. Blair**