First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge December 24th, 2023 Christmas Eve – 7 pm

Praise Medley: Sing We the Song of Emmanuel, Hallelujah, While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks, Angels Sing Hosanna, When A Child Is Born

Welcome and Announcements

Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful VU 60

Call to Worship:

Tonight old dreams die and new dreams come to life. The Promise is fulfilled!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace. Hope gives way to joy and prayer to proclamation.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace. Let the Candle of Christ illuminate our story. Dawn invades midnight. The Light of the World has come.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace.

(Lighting the Christ Candle)

And this light is a light for all; igniting a flame within the soul, warming us from within, radiating love, lighting our lives with the presence of God-come-alive in human flesh within us and among us now and always.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill to all.

"The World Still Knows"

Hymn: Hark the Herald Angels Sing VU 48

Prayer of Approach:

Holy One, born anew each Christmas Eve, be born anew in us this night. This is the sacred moment we have waited for. These are the open hearts we have prepared. Come, Holy Child, and transform our living. Come, Holy Light, and kindle our spirit. Come, Holy Love, and fill us. This is what we have been waiting for. Amen.

Hymn: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear VU 44

Offering: Spirit, Open My Heart (Chorus)

Offertory Prayer:

Great and glorious God: you have shown your infinite wisdom in coming to us as a tiny child. In his helplessness, we learn how to depend on you. In his fragility, we learn to give you thanks for the miracle of our lives. In his humanness, we learn to treasure all humanity. Amen.

"The Unexpected"

Ministry of Music: 'O Holy Night' sung by Lilly Pope

The Christmas Story from Scripture

Ministry of Music: 'Glory Hallelujah to The Newborn King'

"O Lord, You Were Born"

Christmas Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Silent Night, Holy Night VU 67

A Time for All Ages

Ministry of Music: 'Children Go Where I Send Thee'

Hymn: Go Tell It On the Mountain VU 43

Benediction