

First United Church, Mount Pearl Pastoral Charge
Christmas Eve 4 pm Service - 2024

Praise Medley: Hallelujah, Christmas in the Harbour, Mary's Little Boy Child

Greeting and Announcements

Introit: A Candle Is Burning **VU 6 vs 5**

Call to Worship:

(loud) LISTEN!

(loud) **LISTEN!**

(whisper) Listen!

(whisper) **Listen!** (Silent pause)

God comes to us in the voice of others.

God speaks in the ordinary and in the mundane:

In an insignificant town, in minor acts and in words of love, in silly spontaneous songs, in a chat between kin.

God, open our ears and spirits to each other, where we can listen and hear your voice.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

READERS: (The March-MacCuish Family)

What do you do when an angel interrupts your day?

You stop.

What do you do when an angel speaks?

You listen.

A multitude of angels interrupted the quiet Bethlehem night.

People stopped. People listened.

The angels had a message for the world.

"A baby is born who will change the world."

But the people said, "How can a baby change the world?"

The angel said, "Pay attention to this child. He will show you God's way."

Remembering Zechariah and Elizabeth, we light this candle of Possibility.

ALL: In the circle of God's light, all things are possible.

(Light one blue candle)

READERS:

Remembering Mary, we light this candle of Risk.

ALL: In the circle of God's light, we dare to risk.

(Light a second blue candle)

READERS:

Remembering the shepherds, we light this candle of Joy.

ALL: In the circle of God's light, we live with joy.

(Light a pink candle)

READERS:

Remembering Joseph, we light this candle of Courage.

ALL: In the circle of God's light, we live with courage.

(Light a third blue candle)

READERS:

Remembering Jesus, we light this candle of the Way of Jesus.

ALL: In the circle of God's light, we live the Way of Jesus.

(Light the white candle)

SUNG RESPONSE: Angel, from the realms of glory,

(unison)

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 new-born King.

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

Be with us in this service, God. Let the message of the Christmas Story in music, drama and the spoken word be made more real to us, so that we may leave this sacred place a committed and joyous people. May the light of your life be a beacon that calls us to service in your name. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Hymn: Away in a Manger **VU 69**

Prayer of Confession: (unison)

God of stable, stars and surprises, of light and of hope and new life: open our eyes and hearts to your presence in our world; forgive our obsession with property and possessions; forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision. Open us to your grace, that we might hear again the song of the angels and respond with a song in our hearts and in our lives. (Silent reflection)

Assurance of Pardon:

God's light is present in this world: present in the Christ child, born to lead us out of darkness; present in the star, in all that guides us to love. God's light is in the world, and the darkness did not overcome it. God's grace is in the world, and our mis-steps will not overcome it.

We are loved, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High **VU 38**

Offertory Hymn: All Poor Ones and Humble **VU 68** (refrain)

Offertory Prayer: (unison)

Lead us, O God, by star or angel, by hymn or prayer to the manger of our Saviour. Lead us with our gifts which have come from you and which we have sometimes wasted, that we may lay them at Jesus' feet and go away in wonder, love and praise. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Hebrew Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-4a

Psalm 100 **on page 824 of VU R2**

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Nativity Pantomime: *'Once Upon a Manger'*

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Prayer Response: Alleluia

Hymn: Go, Tell It On the Mountain **VU 43**

Commission and Benediction