

BENEDICTION AND AMEN

POSTLUDE

For any who would like to stay for a short while following the service there will be tea and cookies in the church hall downstairs.

If you would prefer to leave in silence, feel free to stay in the sanctuary as long as you wish, and leave when you are ready.

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You are also welcome to join us for our other Christmas services.



**December 24th 4:30 p.m.**

A half hour service of Christmas carols and a story specifically designed for families with young children who need to move and need to go to bed early.

**December 24th 7:30 p.m.**

A service of carols and Bible readings and a brief meditation; also featuring the Senior Choir, Sunday School Choir, Hand Bell Choir and a special duet from our church pageant, and of course carols by candlelight.

***MAY GOD BLESS YOU WITH HOPE, PEACE, JOY, AND LOVE THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON.***

# Longest Night Service

December 21, 2010



## St. Andrew's

### Presbyterian Church

Stittsville, Ontario

## SERVICE OF WORSHIP

REMEMBERING THOSE WE MISS AT CHRISTMAS

*Winter is a lesson about the fine art of loss and growth.*

*It's lesson is clear:*

*There is only one way out of the struggle*

*And that is by going into its darkness,*

*Waiting for the light, and being open to new growth.*

*(Joan Chittister)*

## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

A PRAYER FOR INDIVIDUAL USE

*God of Hope and Peace, of Joy and Love, we know that you are always near to us; help us to draw near to you in this service of worship as we open ourselves to your grace and your compassionate love. Fill us with a sense of your presence as we enter the long night of our troubles, and as we remember those we miss, and those who now live with you eternally. In Jesus name we ask this. Amen.*

PRELUDE

## APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs.1,2,&7) #122

Oh come, Oh come, Emmanuel,

And ransom captive Israel,

That mourns in lonely exile here

Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh come, Oh come thou Lord of might,

Who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,

## RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD

### LIGHT OF CHRIST

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 1:1-18

LIGHTING OUR CANDLES FROM THE CHRIST CANDLE

CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

CAROL: "It came upon a midnight clear" (vs. 1,4,5) # 148

It came upon the midnight clear,

That glorious song of old,

From angels bending near the earth,

To touch their harps of gold:

"To all the earth, goodwill and peace

From heaven's all-gracious King";

The world in solemn stillness lay

To hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,

whose forms are bending low,

who toil along the climbing way

with painful steps and slow,

look now! for glad and golden hours

come swiftly on the wing.

Oh rest beside the weary road,

and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,

by prophet seen of old,

when with the ever-circling years

shall come the time foretold,

when peace shall over all the earth

God's promised splendours fling,

and all the world take up the song,

which now the angels sing.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping  
 vigil till the morning new,  
 Saw the glory, heard the story,  
 tidings of a Gospel true.  
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,  
 praises voicing greet the morrow:  
 Christ the babe was born for you.  
 Christ the babe was born for you.

In ancient times didst give the law  
 In cloud and majesty and awe.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!  
 Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Oh come, desire of nations, bind  
 All people in one heart, one mind;  
 Bid envy, strife and discord cease,  
 And be thyself our source of Peace.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.



LOVE INCARNATE

Luke 2:1-7

THE CANDLE OF LOVE

MEDITATION

“God is love.”

CAROL:

“Unto us a child is born” (vs. 1-3) # 160

**Unto us a child is born!**  
 Sovereign of creation,  
 Came one to a world forlorn,  
 The Lord of every nation,  
 The Lord of every nation.

Cradled in a cattle stall,  
 Held by love maternal,  
 See the Sovereign of us all,  
 Our Lord of lord’s eternal,  
 Our Lord of lord’s eternal.

Now may Mary’s son, who came  
 so long ago to love us,  
 Lead us all with hearts aflame  
 Unto the joys above us,  
 Unto the joys above us.

CALL TO WORSHIP

PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

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; and forgive us  
 our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;  
 for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for  
 ever and ever. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## THE WORD OF GOD

THE PROPHETS SPEAK COMFORT

Isaiah 40:1-5



THE CANDLE OF HOPE

MEDITATION

“Hope—always”

CAROL "There's a voice in the wilderness crying" #128

There's a voice in the wilderness crying,  
 A call from the ways untrod:  
 Prepare in the desert a highway,  
 A highway for our God!  
 The valleys shall be exalted,  
 The lofty hills brought low;  
 Make straight all the crooked places,  
 Where the Lord our God may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings,  
 Go up to the heights and sing!  
 Proclaim to a desolate people  
 The coming of their King.  
 Like the flowers of the field they perish,  
 Like grass our decay,  
 The power and pomp of nations  
 Shall pass like a dream away.

But the word of our God is steadfast,  
 The arm of the Lord is strong;  
 God stands in the midst of nations,  
 And soon will right the wrong.  
 God shall feed the flock like a shepherd,  
 the lambs will gently hold;  
 to pastures of peace will lead them,  
 And bring them safe to the fold.

THE PROPHETS FORETELL

Isaiah 9:2b-6



THE CANDLE OF PEACE

MEDITATION "Finding peace in troubled times"

CAROL

"Silent Night"

# 154

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."



MARY SINGS

Luke 2:46-55

THE CANDLE OF JOY

MEDITATION "Joy - deeper than happiness."

CAROL

"Infant Holy"

# 143

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,  
 nowells ringing, tidings bringing:  
 Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 Christ the babe is Lord of all.