



**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, 2011



## St. Andrew's

Presbyterian Church

Stittsville, Ontario

# SERVICE OF WORSHIP

REMEMBERING THOSE WE MISS AT CHRISTMAS

*The Spirit is breathing.*

*All those with eyes to see, women and men with ears for hearing  
detect a coming dawn; a reason to go on.*

*They seem small, these signs of dawn perhaps ridiculous.*

*All those with eyes to see, Women and men with ears for hearing  
uncover in the night a certain gleam of light;  
they see the reason to go on.*

*(Dom Helder Camera, Its Midnight, Lord)*

## 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 "I wonder as I wander" (vs.1-3) #142

**I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die  
For poor or'n'ry people like you and like I;  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.**

**When Mary birth'd Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall,  
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all,**

**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.**

BENEDICTION AND AMEN

POSTLUDE

**For any who would like to stay for a short while fol-  
lowing 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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O children of the forest free,  
 the kin of Manitou,  
 the holy child of earth and heaven  
 is born today for you.  
 Come kneel before the radiant boy,  
 who brings you beauty, peace and joy.  
 Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,  
 in excelsis gloria.

But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall;  
 The promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,  
 A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,  
 Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,  
 He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.



LOVE INCARNATE                      Luke 2:1-7  
 THE CANDLE OF LOVE  
 MEDITATION                      "God is love."

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.

RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD  
LIGHT OF CHRIST

LIGHT OF THE WORLD                      John 1:1-18  
 LIGHTING OUR CANDLES FROM THE CHRIST CANDLE  
 LIGHTING CANDLES IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES  
 CARRYING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

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.

THE WORD OF GOD



A WORD OF COMFORT                      Isaiah 40:1-5  
 THE CANDLE OF HOPE  
 MEDITATION                      "Hope—always"

CAROL                      "In the bleak mid-winter" (vs. 1,2,4) #145

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan;  
 Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid winter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall welcome him  
when he comes to reign:  
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

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 him my heart.



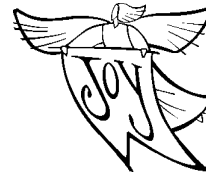
A WORD OF PEACE                      Isaiah 9:2b-6  
THE CANDLE OF PEACE  
MEDITATION    "Finding peace in troubled  
times"

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                      "Twas in the moon of winter time" (vs.1,3,4) # 144

'Twas in the moon of wintertime,  
when all the birds had fled,  
that mighty Gitchi Manitou  
sent angel choirs instead;  
before their light the stars grew dim,  
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.

The earliest moon of wintertime  
is not so round and fair  
as was the ring of glory on  
the helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt  
with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.  
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,  
in excelsis gloria.