

# St. Andrew's River Heights United Church

Saturday, December 24, 2011

Christmas Eve – 7:00pm

## THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

\*Congregation please stand, as you are able, and join congregational responses in **bold print**. (Listening aids are available in the narthex; large print bulletins with hymns are available from the usher's table.)

PRELUDE

GREETINGS

\*HYMN: **59** Joy to the World (verses 1, 2 & 3)

ANTIOCH

\*CALL TO WORSHIP:

*Welcome to the sounds of Christmas!*

**The excited voices of children,  
the rustle of new Christmas outfits,  
the chatter of families united.**

*Welcome to the sounds of Christmas!*

**Songs and words raised in praise  
for a tiny family with the gift of a child  
wrapped in swaddling clothes  
and lying in a manger.**

OPENING PRAYER (unison):

**What a joy and a privilege it is, O God, to be here tonight as we  
anticipate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour, into our world. Just as**

**Mary and Joseph have finished their long journey to Bethlehem, so have we finished our Advent journey. Just as Mary and Joseph now prepare for the birth about to happen, so now do we prepare ourselves for the birth of joy and peace in our world. Loving God, open wide the crowded inns of our hearts. Lift up the valleys of our discouragement and doubt. Make low the mountains of our fear and hate. Reveal your light and let us see it together, in ourselves, and in each other. Amen.**

**\*HYMN: 7** Hope is a Star

MOON BEAMS

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**\*HYMN: 82** A Light is Gleaming (chorus only)

LIVING IN THE LIGHT

THE STORY OF THE JESSE TREE:

Presentation of Symbols

**\*HYMN: 1** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verses 1, 3, 4 & 5)

VENI EMMANUEL

## **THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM**

(based on Luke 2:1-20)

NARRATOR I: THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Presentation of Angels and Mary and Joseph's Journey

**\*HYMN: 64** O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST LOUIS

NARRATOR II: JESUS IS BORN

Presentation of Animals

**\*HYMN: 56** Jesus, Our Brother (verses 1-4)

ORIENTIS PARTIBUS

Presentation of Stable and the Baby Jesus

\*HYMN: **69** Away in a Manger (verses 1 & 3)

CRADLE SONG

NARRATOR III: THE SHEPHERDS FIND THEIR WAY

Presentation of the Shepherds and Sheep

\*HYMN: **73** The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

THE VIRGIN MARY

NARRATOR IV: THE WISE ONES FIND JESUS

Presentation of Wise Ones and the Star

\*HYMN: **74** What Child Is This (verses 1 & 3)

GREENSLEEVES

COMMUNITY PRAYER

THE PRAYER OF JESUS:

**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, the power, and the glory  
forever and ever. Amen.**

\*HYMN: **43** Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO, TELL IT

OFFERING

THE OFFERTORY

\*OFFERTORY HYMN: **74** (verse 3)

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

\*HYMN: **67** Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

\*BLESSING:

*Follow the light of hope's guiding star.*

**Seek the child.**

*Listen to the words of a heavenly host.*

**Find the child.**

*Offer as gifts the best that you have.*

**Serve the child.**

*Peace be among us.*

**God be with us. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

*The flowers in the sanctuary are to the glory of God  
in loving memory of Geoffrey C. Morrow from the family.*

*Thank you to all who participated in the service this evening,  
Martha Graham for playing the piano and all the Sunday School children  
who created the symbols for the Jesse Trees.*

*Everyone is welcome to our Christmas Day Celebration and  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion at 10:30am  
as well as our New Year's Day Epiphany Service at 10:30am.*

*May the hope, love, peace and joy of the Christmas season be yours.  
May the Christ child bring these gifts to you and your family.  
Merry Christmas to you all.*

**The United Church of Canada**

**ST. ANDREW'S RIVER HEIGHTS UNITED CHURCH**

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<b>Ministers:</b>	<b>All the people of the congregation</b>
<b>Clergy:</b>	Karen Lumley Lesley Fox
<b>Ministry of Music:</b>	Wes Elias Derek Morphy
<b>Interim Sunday School Superintendent:</b>	Tara McCallum
<b>Office:</b>	Maggie Zoske Bill Craddock
<b>Caretaker:</b>	Lou Jubinville