


NEWCASTLE UNITED CHURCH

December 24th, 2024

7:00 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



*“As followers of Christ, we are called to
be a worshipping and learning,
receiving and giving community of
faith, hope and love.”*

Newcastle United Church Mission
Statement

As we gather as a faith community, we acknowledge that we are on sacred land rich in the legacy, culture, and spirituality of the Indigenous people. It is home to many First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people. We acknowledge that we live and work on land that is under the Williams Treaty, which has been the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Huron-Wendat and Haudenosaunee Nations, as well as many other Indigenous nations. These lands today are under the care of the Mississauga's of the New Credit First Nations people.

We acknowledge this land, out of respect for the many Indigenous nations who have cared for the lands and waterways from the beginning of time and continue to do so. Today we are grateful for the opportunity to live, work, and to worship on their traditional lands.

We are committed to learn and understand the truth of our shared history, confronting our past and present so that we can strive to build a future together upon true reconciliation, living out what the original ancestors of Turtle Island envisioned: sharing the resources of the land and waterways, and to live in harmony with one another as one people.

Prelude: (A Moment of Reflection) “What Child Is This”

Arranged by Catherine Rollin

****Invitation to Gather in Christ’s Name***

Lighting The Advent Wreath Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

L: Our Advent journey has come to an end tonight, yet we still wait with expectation and anticipation. We wait for the announcement of the birth of a child. This child named Jesus born into humble beginnings and living in the margins of his community.

A: We come to remember the story and to live into the transformation Jesus promises to all.

L: We proclaim, like the heavenly chorus did, the good news of vulnerability. We come like the shepherds and wise men, filled with wonder at what could be.

A: We come tonight to proclaim the gracious gift of becoming full of God’s potential ...

L: We light the first candle, reminding us of the way of Hope. (The Candle of Hope is lit)

We light the second candle, reminding us of Christ’s path of peace. (The Candle of Peace is lit)

We light the third candle, reminding us of Spirit-filled joy. (The Candle of Joy is lit)

We light the fourth candle, reminding us of God’s self giving love. (The Candle of Love is lit)

***Hymn VU 7**
“Hope Is A Star”

vv. 1-4

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

L: We have brought together the light of all the candles to light the Christ candle in celebration of the birth of the Christ Child. Let us breathe in deeply filling our whole being with the Living Spirit of Christ.

A: On this Christmas Eve, the birth of Jesus fills us with awe and wonder. It is the greatest gift that we can receive, a Saviour who brings us Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The Christ candle is lit.

(by Irma Nadeau modified by Rev. B Ransom)

Solo – Karen Nichol “*Breath of Heaven (Mary’s Song)*”

***Opening Prayer and Lord’s Prayer (Unison)**

L: Let us join as one community in prayer,

A: We come to worship You, honour You and to welcome You, Holy One in the baby called Jesus. In Your humility, may we find humility. In Your loving, may we give our own love to others. In Your humanity, may we affirm our own humanity. In Your coming, may we share Your good news with all our aching world, we pray in Jesus’s name, Creator who art in heaven ...

(by Gord Dunbar-Kincardine PC modified by Rev. B Ransom, Gathering Advent 20/21))

***Hymn: VU 60**
“O Come All Ye Faithful”

vv. 1-5

Listening For God's Presence In The World

Christmas Eve Reflection – A Dramatic Reading: “Come Into The Light”

Three monologues written by Mark H. Pickett modified by Rev. B. Ransom for this service– (From Getting it all together A/C 1981)

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26-38 & 2:1-7 The Birth of Jesus

***Hymn: Vu 69** **vv. 1, 2**
“Away In A Manger”

Reflection One “Thoughts Of A Servant Woman”

***Hymn: VU 38** **vv. 1-4**
“Angels We Have Heard On High”

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-20 The Shepherds visit

Reflection Two “The Astonishment Of A Sheep Tender”

***Hymn: VU 36
“Angels From The Realms of Glory”**

vv. 1-4

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1-12
“The Adoration Of The Wise Men**

**Ministry of Music “O Holy Night”
Music: Adolphe Adam; Lyrics: Placide Cappeau**

Reflection Three “Reflection Of A King”

***Hymn: Vu 54
“Unto Us A Boy Is Born”**

vv. 1-5

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7
The Prophecy is Fulfilled**

Reflection Four “ A King Is Born”

Invitation To Share Our Blessings

***The Offertory Hymn: VU 55
“In The Bleak Midwinter”**

v. 4

**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 my heart.**

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of The People

The Extinguishing of The Advent Candles

Passing of the Light of Christ to one Another


While passing the light, keep the lit candle upright, and lean the unlit candle towards to the flame.

***Closing Hymn: VU 67**
“Silent Night, Holy Night”

vv. 1-3

Blessing





*We wish you all the happiness
the Christmas season will
bring. Blessings to you and
your family. Have a safe and
Happy New Year.*

