

“A Lunenburg - Nova Scotia Christmas”

St. John’s Anglican Church, Lunenburg, NS

Welcome to our Nova Scotia Christmas.

This service is inspired by our beautiful Lunenburg Nova Scotia home, with our strong connection to the bounty of the sea and land. The children, adults and animals tell the Christmas story with images associated with Nova Scotia. Merry Christmas One and All.

Everyone is invited to gather in front of the Manger in the Square. Clergy and leaders take their place near the Manger. The children, animals and sheep will enter at the head of the laneway on Townsend St.

Joseph, Mary and Jesus - Lorne, Anne and baby Ellen Spence

Readers from our Sunday School

Rogan and Corbin Fraser, Sebastian Haumering, Serenity Holdbrook, Alex Payne, Nikki Saunders, Jasmine Saunders

I. Welcome

The Grace and peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. **And also with you.**

Youth

Come, children, families and friends, to worship God on this Nova Scotia Christmas Eve. Let us celebrate God's coming to us, and to all people everywhere, in the new born baby. **For unto us a Child is born; unto us a Son is given. The Prince of Peace! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

2. O Come All Ye Faithful

(Enter Mary & Joseph and the child Jesus - together with the animals)

O Come All Ye Faithful Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, Born the King of Angels;

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.**

(Enter Angels)

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest; O come . . .

(Enter Shepherds)

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks draw near with lowly fear:
we too will thither, bend our joyful footsteps; O come . . .

3. Reading from the Gospel of Luke 2:1-7

4. Away In A Manger

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

5. Reading from the Gospel of Luke 2:8-14

*Everyone rings their bells at the singing of ‘The Gloria . . .’
(The Angels and Shepherds gather near the manger)*

Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heavenly song?

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ Whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid, Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While our hearts in love we raise.

6. A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12

(Wise Men follow the star and gather before the Manger with their gifts)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

7. We three kings of Orient are Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.



**O Star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy Perfect Light**

Glorious now behold Him arise King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia Earth to heav'n replies.

8. The Prayer Is Said Together

**On this glorious night when the Angels sing,
the Shepherds kneel and the Wise men adore,
let us all rejoice and give thanks to God,
for unto us a Child is born, a Son is given,
Emmanuel the Son of God, the Prince of Peace. Amen.**

9. Please join in singing: We Wish You A Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas; We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring to you and your kin;
Good tidings for Christmas and a Happy New Year.
We wish you a Merry Christmas; We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

10. The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you. *We share the peace with one another.*

**Please share the Christmas Peace with one another
and then join us in the Church
as we continue our Christmas Eve Service.**

**After everyone has entered the church, the clergy and lay leaders
with Joseph, Mary, Jesus, angels, shepherds and wise men and the
choir will proceed into the church for the blessing of the Manger
and lighting of the Christmas Tree.**

Blessing of the Manger

Kelsie Mosher

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate his holy birth. May all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring and may all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, come to share his life in glory. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Kelsie Mosher

Dear friends, the birth of the child Jesus brings joy to our hearts and opens our eyes to the wonder of God's grace. With this tree, decorated and adorned, may we welcome Christ among us. Let your blessing come upon us as we illumine this tree. May the light and cheer it gives be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts this night, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(The Tree is lit)

The Offertory

**The Three Wise Men bring forth gifts
of bread and wine for Holy Communion.**

**Parishioners and visitors share in the offering from God's people.
Each one as they are able, makes an offering to the Lord for the
needs and responsibilities of the Church to be placed on the altar.
Your generosity makes a world of difference. Thank you.**

11. Once in Royal David's City #123 CP

1. Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall; With the poor,
and mean, and lowly, Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
3. And through all His wondrous childhood, He would honour and
obey, Love and watch the lowly maiden, In whose gentle arms He
lay: Christian children all must be: Mild, obedient, good as He.
4. For he is our childhood's pattern; Day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness, And He shareth in our gladness.
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above:
And he leads his children on, To the place where he is gone.
6. Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high,
When, like stars, his children crowned All in white shall gather round.

12. Prayer over the Gifts

Source of light and goodness, accept all we offer on this joyful
feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours, for he is
Lord now and forever. **Amen.**

13. The Eucharistic Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God, our loving Father, we are glad to give you thanks and praise
because you love us. Because you love us, you gave us this great and
beautiful world. Because you love us, you sent Jesus your Son, born of the
Virgin Mary, to bring us to you and to gather us around him as the
children of one family. With Jesus we praise your name in joyful song.

Echo Sanctus - Please repeat in singing each phrase.

<i>Holy, holy, holy,</i>	Holy, holy, holy,
<i>Lord, God of power and might,</i>	Lord, God of power and might,
<i>Heaven and earth,</i>	Heaven and earth
<i>Are full of your glory.</i>	Are full of your glory.
<i>Sing Hosanna!</i>	Sing Hosanna!
<i>Sing Alleluia!</i>	Sing Alleluia!
<i>Blessed, blessed is he,</i>	Blessed, blessed is he,
<i>Who comes in the name of the Lord.</i>	Who comes in the name of the Lord.
<i>Sing Hosanna!</i>	Sing Hosanna!
<i>Sing Alleluia!</i>	Sing Alleluia!

Blessed be Jesus whom you sent to be the friend of children and the
poor. He came to show us how we can love you, Father, by loving one
another. He came to take away sin, which keeps us all from being friends,
and hate, which makes us all unhappy. He promised to send the Holy
Spirit to be with us always, so that we can live as your children.

The night before he died, Jesus your Son showed how much you loved
us. When he was at supper with his disciples, he took bread, and gave
you thanks and praise. Then he broke the bread, gave it to his friends,
and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this for the
remembrance of me."

When supper was ended, Jesus took the cup that was filled with wine.
He thanked you, gave it to his friends, and said: "Drink this, all of you: this
is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all so that sins
may be forgiven. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

And so, loving Father, we remember that Jesus died and rose again to save the world. He put himself into our hands to be the sacrifice we offer. Lord our God, listen to our prayer. Send the Holy Spirit to all of us who share in this holy meal, that it may become for us the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. May the Spirit bring us closer together in the family of the Church, with Fred our Primate, Sue and Ron our Bishops, with all other Bishops, priests and deacons, and all who serve your people.

Remember O God, our families and friends and all those we do not love as we should. Remember those who have died. Bring them home to you, to be with you forever.

Gather us all together into your kingdom of light. There we shall be happy forever with the Virgin Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, and the patron saint of our parish, St. John the Apostle and Evangelist. There in your kingdom, all the friends of Jesus the Lord will sing a song of joy.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory is yours almighty Father, forever and ever.

Amen.

14. Lord's Prayer

With Christmas joy, let us pray together:

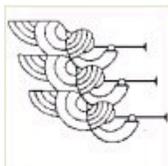
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

15. The Breaking of the Bread

The celebrant breaks the consecrated bread for distribution:

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

**All God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.**



*The celebrant invites the people to share in communion and says,
The gifts of God for the People of God.*

All Thanks be to God.

- 16. Jesus Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Bread of life, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Prince of Peace, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.
Jesus Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us your peace.**

***There will be three stations for receiving Holy Communion,
at the Altar and at the head of each side aisle.***

We welcome to the Lord's table all who wish to be nourished with the
Body and Blood of Christ this Christmas Eve.

Solo 'O Holy Night' Alyssa Gerhardt

17. Communion Hymns #127 O Come, Little Children

1. O come, little children, O come one and all,
Look into the manger in Bethlehem's stall;
For their little children on this holies night,
Our God sends from heaven his Son, your delight.
2. He lies there before you asleep in the hay,
With Mary and Joseph to guard him and pray.
The wondering shepherds look in at the door,
and seeing the infant, they kneel and adore.
3. Adore like the shepherds! Your glad voices raise
with those of the angels who sing in his praise.
Your chorus will echo from earth to the sky,
with "Glory to God in this heaven most high."

#121 O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering
love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth!
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

18. Silent Night # 119 -

*The children are invited to come to the front for the telling of the story of
Silent Night by Aisling Curtin, followed by singing the Carol.*

1. *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.*
2. *Silent night, Holy night,
Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glory streams from heaven afar
Heavenly, hosts sing Hallelujah.
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.*

3. *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.*

19. Closing Prayer *(prayed together)*

**Dear Lord Jesus,
you came into the world to bring peace and joy.
Your birth went unnoticed by many,
but the few who were witnesses have
told the tale, so that all who hear might
believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God.
Teach us, through your humbleness to become humble.
Teach us, through your beauty as a new-born child,
to become as beautiful and innocent as children.
In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.**

20. Blessing and Sending Forth

May Christ who by his birth united heaven and earth,
fill you with peace and goodwill this Christmas Eve
so that you may show forth his love to all the world.
And the blessing of God almighty, Father + Son,
and Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in joyful hope to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

21. Concluding Hymn - Shepherds In The Field - #135

1. Shepherds in the field abiding,
Tell us, when the seraph bright
Greeted you with wondrous tiding
What you saw and heard that night.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. We beheld it (it is no fable),
God incarnate, King of bliss,
Swathed and cradled in a stable,
And the angel strain was this:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Choristers on high were singing,
Jesus and his Virgin birth
Heavenly bells the while a-ring,
"Peace, good will to all on earth."
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
4. Thanks, good shepherds, true your story,
Have with you to Bethlehem;
Angels hymn the King of glory,
Carol we with you and them.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Postlude 'In Dulci Jubilo' - J. S. Bach

A sincere word of appreciation to everyone who has helped to make this Family Service special again this Christmas Eve: Our Sunday School youth, teachers and parents, our Director of Music, the Musicians, Choir, Readers, Servers, Lay Readers and the Congregational Development Committee and Hillary and William Flower and Royal and Susan Stevens who have generously shared their animals with us.

- The 2015 Offering Envelopes are ready for pick up. Please help by delivering those belonging to your friends and neighbours.
- The last date to make a contribution for a **2014 income tax receipt** is Sunday, **December 28th**.



Christmas Greetings

The gift of love,
the gift of peace
The gift of happiness...

May all these be yours as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

A Blessed and Merry Christmas from
Fr. Michael & Holly Mitchell

