

**Immanuel United Church  
Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2023**

**PRELUDE**

Choir: "We Wait for God"

Reading Isaiah 9

Introduction and Prayer

Welcome. This is a special moment, filled with memory and nostalgia, filled with anticipation and gift giving, filled with feasting for our minds and dreams;

It is a moment of Mystery as we gather to remember a story of miracle and wonder. The Holy becomes human, and the human becomes Holy, and the world watches and waits to see what will happen next.

In a dark and weary world we see again the possibility of light, and Hope, and Joy.

Let us pray:

**O God of stars, enlighten our souls this night with the majesty of your presence. God of birth, open our hearts to the new things you are doing with and through us. God of blessing, may we receive the gift you offer, and share the gift that we are.**

**AMEN**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

How does a weary world celebrate birth?

**By singing carols, and seeking stars, and listening for the witness of angels,  
And retelling the story of God becoming one of us in a tiny town in an ancient land.**

And we light a candle as a sign that the light of the world is in our midst, touching hearts,  
Bringing Hope, sharing Love.

**May the gift of Emmanuel, living in us, transform the world in which we live.  
Let us Rejoice!  
AMEN**

Hymn : VU# 35 Good Christian Friends Rejoice

### **The Birth Story Unfolds**

Luke 2:1-7

A Comment

**CHOIR: Christmas Bells With Joy Are Ringing**

### **The Story Continues**

Luke 2: 8-14

A Comment

HYMN: VU# 59 Joy to the World

### **The End of Chapter 1**

Luke 2: 15-20

A Comment

HYMN: VU# 60 O Come All Ye Faithful

## **The Next Chapter**

Matthew 2:1-12

A Comment

**CHOIR: Candlelight Carol**

### **OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER**

Hymn: VU# 56, Jesus, Our Brother

**Let us Pray:**

**Jesus, we offer our gifts to make real your coming reign upon the earth. We offer also ourselves. May the spirit of compassion, born in us today, reach out to our neighbours and to the world.**

**AMEN**

### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

HYMN: VU# 67 Silent Night

#### **BLESSING:**

May the melody of Angel songs,  
And the Awe and excitement of Shepherds and kings,  
Fill us with gratitude and blessing, today and always!

**AMEN**

#### **POSTLUDE**