

**ST. DAVID'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020**

*Growing and Deepening our Spiritual Lives in an Affirming and  
Inclusive Community*

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
***"We Believe, Even When"***

*"Raise your voice... do not be afraid." — The Messenger*

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome**

**Crossing the Threshold**

I believe in the sun, I believe in the sun  
even when, even when it's not shining.

**Poem**

When the World Was Dark)  
(adapted - Iona Community)

**Video Anthem**

"I Believe, Even When" by Mark A Miller

**Prayer of Opening**

Holy One,  
we thank you that you became Love-Made-Flesh, in Jesus.  
We see glimpses of heaven on earth  
in the faces and light of those around us,  
when we share your love with others.  
Emmanuel, God who is with us and within us,  
even in the midst of fear and sadness,  
of challenge, of struggle—  
even when the view is obscured  
by clouds of doubt,

we believe,...

**Whatever our prayers, hopes, and dreams are this Christmas,  
whatever our pain, sorrow, or joys this day,  
may the light of Christ creep inside us and warm our hearts.**

### **Opening Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful VU #60

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.

God of God, light of light,

lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;

very God, begotten, not created:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

Glory to God in the highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,

leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;

we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

## **WE PROCLAIM**

### **Our Time to Shine**

Personal stories

Song: "This Little Light of Mine"

This little light of mine,

I'm gonna let it shine. X3

let it shine, let it shine, oh let it shine.

In this world pandemic,

I'm gonna let it shine x3

let it shine, let it shine, all the time.

When I'm sad or happy,  
I'm gonna let it shine x3  
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.

### **The Witness of Music**

"O Holy Night

## **The Christmas Story Readings and Reflections**

### **HOPE**

Leader: Hush, can you hear it?

**People: Hear what?**

Leader: The quiet voice of a divine presence,  
the startled exclamation of a young woman,  
the heartbeat of fear and hope.

### **Scripture Reading**

Adaptation of Luke 1: 26-37

Reflection & Personal Story of Hope

### **Lighting the Candle of Hope**

#### **Carol**

A Candle is Burning (adapted) VU #6

(Away in the Manger tune)

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
A candle of hope in December's dark night.  
Young Mary's soft smile at her baby's first cry  
our hearts fill with hope now for Jesus is nigh.

### **LOVE**

Leader: Hush, can you hear it?

**People: Hear what?**

Leader: The motion of a dream;  
the perplexed sighs of a carpenter's heart;  
the growing tension of indecision

### **Scripture Reading**

Matthew 1:18-21  
Reflection & Personal Stories of Love

**Lighting the Candle of Love  
Carol**

A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
A love that brought light to a dark fearful night.  
A carpenter sighs at this wonderful birth  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to the earth.

**Moving deeping into the story**  
Scripture Reading  
Luke 2:4-7

**Carol**

O Little Town of Bethlehem  
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 street shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wandering love.  
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

**Joy**

Leader: Hush, can you hear it?

**People: Hear what?**

Leader: The sounds of joy in the pandemic's shadowed places;  
joy of children laughing,  
joy when people reach out in safe ways,  
joy where voices burst in the night  
as people sing carols on their porches;  
joy in the news of a child of hope born into the world.

**Scripture Reading**  
Luke 8-12  
Reflection & Personal Story of Joy

**Lighting the Candle of Joy  
Carol**

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

## **PEACE**

Leader: Hush, can you hear it?

**People: Hear what?**

Lleader: The sounds of love and joy in a mother's sigh,  
in a baby's cry  
and in the heart of a father.

### **Scripture Readings**

Isaiah 9:6-7 & Luke 2:15-16

Personal story of Peace

### **Lighting the Candle of Peace Carol**

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,  
a candle to signal that conflict will cease:  
for Jesus has come and will show us the way;  
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

We honor our faith, with Christ candle's flame,  
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
for God comes among us and brings love's true light.

## **WE RESPOND**

Christmas Prayers

## **WE GO FORTH**

**Witness to the Light**

### **Carol**

Silent Night VU #67

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 'Alleluia  
Christ the Savior is born  
Christ the Savior 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

### **Benediction**

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news  
that Christ, the Holy One of Light, is born among us,  
filling the night left by sadness with messages of hope, love, joy and  
peace,  
go into your lives humming the tunes that keep the light alive in you  
and that spur you on in your work of justice, peace and goodwill.  
Raise your voices and repeat after me...

“do not be afraid!”

“**do not be afraid!**”

“We will not be afraid!”

“**We will not be afraid.**”

“The Holy One of Light and Love is within  
and around us now and always.”

“**The Holy One of Light and Love is within  
and around us now and always.**”

Amen!

**Amen!**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

Joy to the World VU #59

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Saviour reigns:  
Let us, our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.

### **Final Blessing**

### **Postlude**

### **Worship Notes**

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## **THANK YOU**

*Warm thanks to all who made a written contribution to our worship  
this evening:*

### ***Our Time to Shine:***

### ***Children and Youth of St. David's United***

*Tyson Carroll, Nicholas Harden, Iris Goasdoue, Tiana Carroll, Hugo  
Goasdoue, Taylor Carroll, Samatha Ramraj,*

### ***Personal Stories***

### ***Members of St. David's***

*Personal Stories of Hope: Margie Oakander*

*Personal Stories of Love: Wendy Dey, Tom Frank*  
*Personal Story of Joy: Meryl Arnott*  
*Personal Story of Peace: Eldon Godfrey*

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**Tech Team**

*Deb Charnuski, Brenda Wallace, David Layton, Tapas Sikdor*

**Participants**

*Brent Tucker, Organist and Musical Director*

*Lay Leaders: Mike and Dianne Trew*

*Singers: Ruth Cross, Heather McKeague, Garnett Krause, Mike and Dianne Trew*

**Worship Creator and Leader**

*Rev. Peggy McDonagh*