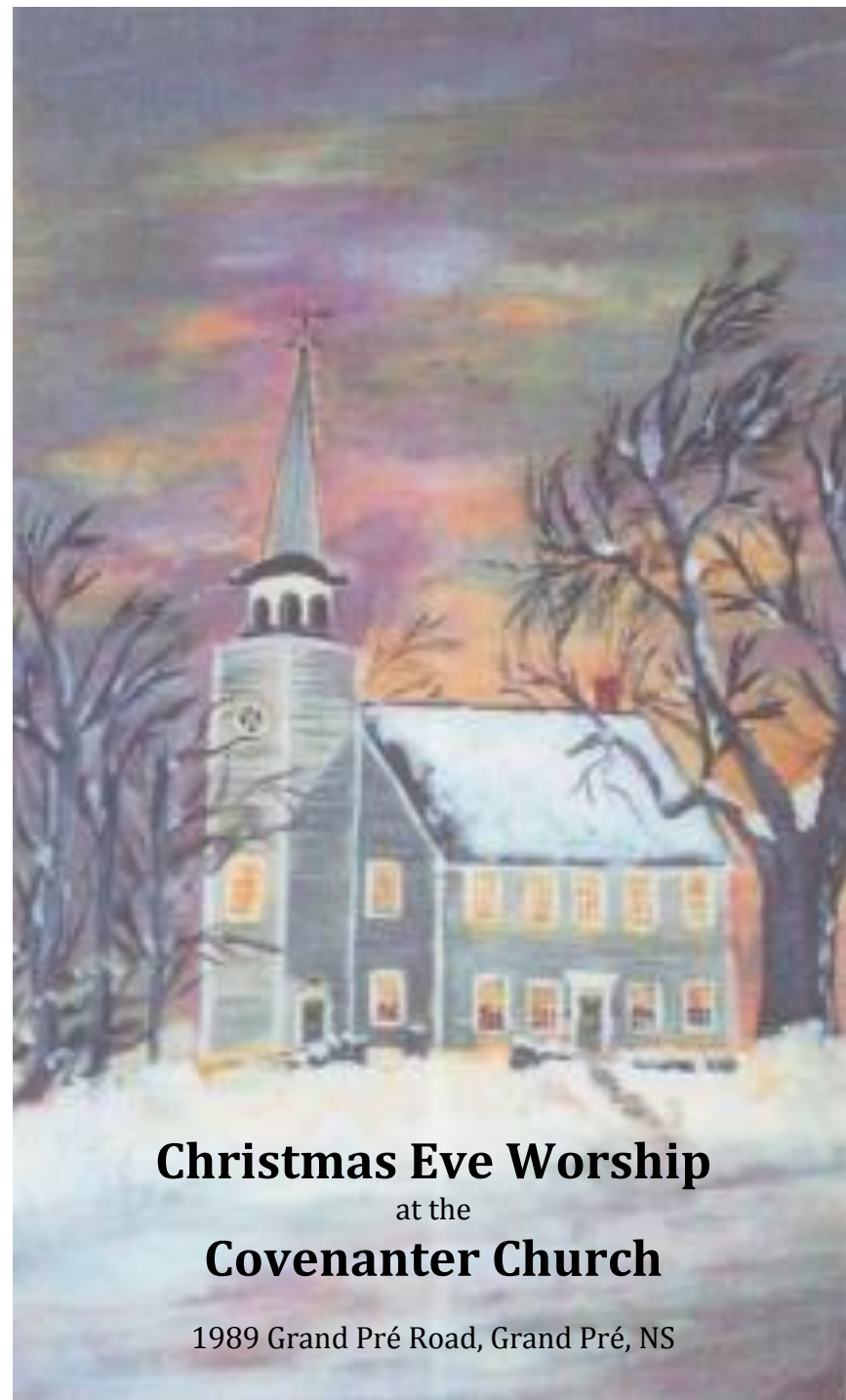




**Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge
of the United Church of Canada**

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Christmas Eve Worship
at the
Covenanter Church

1989 Grand Pré Road, Grand Pré, NS

COVENANTER CHURCH, GRAND PRÉ
Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge
The United Church of Canada

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Sunday, December 24, 2017 – 11:00 pm

Christmas Eve

Prelude Music

Welcome and Appreciation

Centering in Silence

Introit (solo): “O Holy Night” vss 1, 2
(Stephen McClare)

Poem: *The Song of the Bird*
by Anthony de Mello

Call to Worship: (fr. Luke 1:78-79)

One: By the tender mercy of our God.

**All: The Dawn from on high will break
upon us.**

One: To give light to those who sit in darkness
and in the shadow of death.

All: To guide our feet in the way of peace.

One: Come, for the time has drawn near.

**All: Come, let us welcome the Christ-child
into our hearts anew.**

Carol: “O Come, All Ye Faithful” #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;

Refrain:

*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: **R**

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: **R**

See how the shepherds
summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks,

draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither
Bend our joyful footsteps; **R**

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: **R**

Refrain:

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

HOPE

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Reading: **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

Poem: *Winged Diamonds*
 by Hafiz of Shiraz

Carol: “In the Bleak Midwinter” #55

In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,

water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim
worship night and day,
a breast full of milk,
and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel
which adore.

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.

PEACE

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Reading: **Luke 2:1-7**

Poem: *All my News*
 by Leonard Cohen

Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #64

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.

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 on earth.

How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

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.

Prayer of Intercession

Anthem: “Sleep, Holy Babe”
 (The Covenanter Choir)

JOY

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Poem: *Kingdom Come*
by Coldplay

LOVE

Solo: "The Little Road to Bethlehem"
(Stephen McClare)

Lighting the Candle of Love

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Poem: *The One Person in the World*
by Mother Teresa

Carol: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" #58

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the babe is born for all.
Christ the babe is born for all!

Flocks were sleeping;
shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you!

CHRIST

Lighting the Christ Candle

Reading: John 1:1-5, 10-14

Poem: *The Christmas Night*
by Lucy Maude Montgomery

Carol: "Joy to the World" #59

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the earth 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.

Prayer for Christmas Eve: (All)

**Eternal God, in Jesus Christ your light
shines in our darkness, giving joy in our
sorrow and presence in our loneliness.
Fill us with the mystery of your Word
made flesh, until our hearts overflow
with praise and joy, for he is the**

**beginning and the end of all that exists,
living forevermore. Amen.**

Solo: "O Holy Night" vs. 3

Words of Blessing:

Go out into Christmas Day in the peace of
Jesus Christ. May his peace, which lightens
the soul with faith, lifts the spirit with hope
and leavens the world with love, be yours
tonight and always. And the blessing of
God – Creator, Son and Spirit – go with you,
and stay with you, now and always. Amen.

Carol: "Silent Night"

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!
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.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

(reprise, a cappella)
Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Postlude



Merry Christmas!



Welcome!

A warm welcome to all who gather for worship. If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book in the stairwell.

In the spirit of this late evening Christmas Eve Service, we ask that we all endeavour to keep noise to a minimum. Please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices.



Special thanks to:

Presider Rev'd Timothy J. McFarland

**Choir Director/
Organist** Ken Hassell

Choir Covenanter Choir

Soloist Stephen McClare

Please Note:

A Retiring Offering is at the door
for the continued maintenance of
The Covenanter Church.

Thanks to Brian Twohey for making
washroom facilities available
at his house, next door to the church.

Readers Candle Lighters

Hope Debbie Baker Johanna TeBogt

Peace Sylvia Crowell Kacie Saunier

Joy Edie Lloyd Betty Curry

Love Mark Crosby Beth Crosby

Christ Rev'd Timothy J. McFarland

Monitor Jim Keech

Greeter Betty Curry