



**Christmas Eve Worship**  
at the  
**Covenanter Church**

1989 Grand Pré Road, Grand Pré, NS



## **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:**

<b>Presider</b>	Rev. Don Sellsted
<b>Organist</b>	Carmen Peng
<b>Choir Director</b>	Thea Burton
<b>Choir</b>	Covenanter Choir Orchard Valley United Church Chimes
<b>Soloist</b>	Caroline Burton
<b>Readers:</b>	
<b>Participants:</b>	Betty Curry Jim Keech Donna Murphy Dave Murphy Cheryl Sellsted Barbara Sobaszkilwicz Bill Woodman

## **Please Note:**

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

**COVENANTER CHURCH, GRAND PRÉ**

Orchard Valley Pastoral Charge

The United Church of Canada

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

Saturday, December 24, 2022 – 11:00 pm

**Christmas Eve**

**Prelude Music**

**Centering in Silence**

**Introit (solo):** “O Holy Night” vs. 1, 2

*Sung by Caroline Burton*

**Lighting of the Candles**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear!**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**The Candle of Hope**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**The Candle of Peace**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**The Candle of Joy**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!**

**Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

### **The Candle of Love**

**Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

### **The Christ Candle**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind,  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
And be for us the Prince of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

## **Welcome and Appreciation**

### **Call to Worship**

Let us journey with Mary and Joseph to that little town of  
Bethlehem, to once again experience the birth of the Christ child.

**Let us, like the angels, proclaim this miraculous birth.**

Let us, like the shepherds, offer our praise and adoration.

**Let us bow down and worship him!**

**Carol: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" vs.1,2,4**

## **A Service of Lessons and Carols**

**The Gift of the Messiah is Promised:**

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

**Carol: "A Candle is Burning" VU #6**

**A Light to the Nations:**

***Isaiah 60:1-3***

**Carol: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" VU #8**

**The Coming Birth of Jesus:**

***Luke 1:26-38***

**Choir anthem: "Heavenly Peace" by Caroline Burton**

*By Dengler and Dengler*

**A Light Over Bethlehem:**

***Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11***

**Carol: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” VU #35**

**The Angels and the Shepherds:**

***Luke 2:8-14***

**Christmas Message**

**Prayer for Christmas Eve**

**Choir Anthem: “We Bring Glad Tidings”**

*By Carlson and Wright*

**Reading: “What I Want for Christmas” by Ann Weems**

*from “Advent’s Alleluia to Easter’s Morning Light”*

**Candlelight 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!  
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.

### **Blessing and sending forth**

Hope of God;

**Lead us!**

Peace of God;

**Surround us!**

Joy of God;

**Fill us!**

Love of God;

**Bless us!**

**Closing Solo: "O Holy Night"**

**vs. 3 & 4**

*by Caroline Burton*

### **Postlude**



*Merry Christmas!*



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

130 Cornwallis Avenue, New Minas NS B4N 3M7

Tel (902) 681-0366 / Fax (902) 681-1460

officeovu@OrchardValleyUnited.ca

www.OrchardValleyUnited.ca

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**A SERVICE OF LESSONS  
AND CAROLS  
~ CAROL LYRICS~**

**It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth  
to touch their harps of gold,  
'Peace on the earth, good will to all,  
from heaven's all-gracious King!'  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled;  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
they bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendours fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.



### **A Candle is Burning**

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,  
a candle of hope in December's dark night.  
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,  
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

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

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.

A candle is burning, a candle of love,  
a candle to point us to heaven above.  
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,  
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.

We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,  
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.  
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,  
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

### **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.  
It came a blossom bright,  
amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
she bore for us a Saviour when half spent was the night.

### **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Give ye heed to what we say: News! News!  
Jesus Christ is born today.  
Ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy!  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest forevermore.  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice!  
Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace!  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!