

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE See, On Mary's Arm He's Sleeping
(Winnagene Hatch) Mehraeen Safari, violin

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Sylvia & Emily Gilpin

INTROIT Christmas Lullaby (John Rutter)

CALL TO WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER

Loving God, we are so busy this time of year that sometimes we find it hard to slow down and make time for worship.

Open our hearts to wonder and joy.

Loving God, sometimes we get caught up in wondering how many presents are going to be under the tree and we forget what really matters.

Open our hearts to wonder and joy.

Loving God, we worry about so many things that may or may not really matter and we forget to spend time with those we love.

Open our hearts to wonder and joy.

Loving God, we want Christmas to be perfect but we don't always know what a perfect Christmas really looks like.

Open our hearts to wonder and joy.

Loving God, in this time of worship may we touch again the wonder and joy of the Christmas mystery so that we can learn again what is really important.

Open our hearts to wonder and joy. Amen.

* **HYMN** Once In Royal David's City *pg 7*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING (Peace)

Debby Schieck and family

On this second Sunday of Advent,
we come in peace as a community of faith.

We watch, we wait, we wonder.

Let peace begin with us. In every breath we take,
may we live in the peace of God's promise
to be with us always.

**We wait for Jesus, the Prince of Peace,
to come into the world.**

As we light the second candle in our wreath,
we take a moment to breathe in the Spirit of peace.
(*The second candle is lit.*)

Let us pray...

**God of peace, on this second Sunday of Advent,
may you fill us with the peace that only you can
bring. Help us to live each moment in peace with
one another. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE Hope Is a Star (VU 7)

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth.**

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

**The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (on insert)

We welcome, through the Sacrament of Baptism, Timothy Joseph Yearwood Hwang, son of Carolyn and Wayne.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

The story begins ... Mary & the Angel (Gilpin family)

HYMN To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary vss 1-2 *pg 7*

The story continues ... Mary & Elizabeth

SOLO The Magnificat (*M.T.Winter*) Mehraeen Safari

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem...

(Kathryn Yearwood family)

HYMN Born in the Night, Mary's Child *pg 7*

The Shepherds arrive... (Yearwood/Hwang family)

The Angels appear... (Villalta family)

The Shepherds return... (Yearwood/Hwang family)

Turning the world upside down...

***HYMN** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing *pg 8*

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY The Colours of Christmas *(John Rutter)*
Mehraeen Safari, violin

* **DEDICATION** In the Bleak Midwinter *(Tune: VU 55)*
**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.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

What we have learned...

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

Holy God, help us to say yes to when you call to us.
Show us what you would like us to do and give us the
courage to answer your call.

Help us to say Yes.

Holy God, help us to build community.

Help us to love one another even when that is hard to do.

Help us to build community.

Holy God, help us to reach out to those who are on the
margins in our society: the homeless, the hungry, those
without winter clothes, those who are sick, those who are
lonely or sad.

Help us to reach out.

Holy God, help us to turn your world upside-down
so that the people whom the world thinks are least
Important feel most loved and cared for.

Help us to turn the world upside-down.

Let us pray together the words Jesus taught us to say...

Our Father... VU p.910

***HYMN** Joy to the World *pg 8*

* **COMMISSIONING**

Are you less stressed now?

A little. It helps to remember what's most important.

Yes, it does.

**Then let us go forth this day remembering what
we've learned.**

We go forth this day.

**To say Yes to God. To build community. To reach out to
others. To turn the world upside-down. Thanks be to God.**

* **SUNG BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary
**Peace shines as the solitary star.
Faith is the inner light.**

**You and I together mirror the light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.**

POSTLUDE Chorale Prelude on "In dulci jubilo"
(Johann Michael Bach)



In-Person Pageant Sunday Participants...

Worship Leaders: Josh Szakal, Matthew Szakal,
Nathaniel Szakel, Myles Heney

Ushers: Emily Gilpin, Sylvia Gilpin, Sophie Zsebik

*Special thanks to our Funday Sunday program teachers, leaders,
youth, children and families for their participation and leadership
in this hybrid pageant service today.*



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries,
from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous
Peoples.



**AURORA UNITED
CHURCH**



An Affirming Congregation

Church Office 905-727-1935
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



**ADVENT 2 —PEACE
PAGEANT/BAPTISM**

**December 8, 2024
11:00 am**

*On the hillsides, hope was heard singing
unexpected Hallelujahs. In a Bethlehem backwater,
hope hovered and love was born.
(Sally Foster Fulton)*

Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattleshed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed. Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who, with God, is over all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall. There among the poor and lowly lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew, he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary (vss 1-2)

To a maid whose name was Mary, the angel Gabriel came. "Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news, good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.

"For you are highly favoured by God the Lord of all, who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest, you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!"

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home; coming in need, Mary's Child born in a borrowed room.

Clear shining light, Mary's Child, your face light up our way; light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day.

Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell us God is good; yes, it is true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood.

Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign; saviour of all, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King, peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!' Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, 'Christ is born in Bethlehem!' Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, 'Glory to the newborn King!'

Joy to the World

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.

