

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**



**PRELUDE** The Holy Boy (*John Ireland*)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**  
*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/  
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Paula Hanna

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The ancient story, a holy story,  
God's presence comes where we would  
never think to look for it:

**among us, as one of us,  
born vulnerable to all that life holds.**

Open your heart to make space for the holy  
to be born again in you.

**We hear the heavenly Glorias and feel the brush  
of angels' wings-the hope that shines in the  
darkest places.**

'For a child has been born for us.' (Is. 9:6)  
Let us worship!

\***CAROL** The First Nowell **VU 91** vv 1-4

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

Loving God, thank you for the joy of Christmas  
and the birth of your Son, Jesus. We thank you for  
the peace and hope he brings to the world, to  
community, to our church and to our own lives. We  
acknowledge that too often we leave Jesus in the  
cradle, forgetting that he and Mary and Joseph will

become refugees, fleeing for their lives to Egypt.  
We realize that we live our own comfortable lives,  
forgetting at times the refugees of this day and those  
who are suffering in this world. Keep us mindful,  
Christmas God, of what we continue to celebrate; your  
presence among us; your gift of love to us, and your  
call to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.  
God in Community-Holy in One, we pray in Jesus'  
name. Amen.

**WORDS OF GRACE**

The light of God illuminates the darkness.  
Thanks be to God!

**SUNG RESPONSE** Hope Is a Star **VU 7**

**Christ is the gift that God still imparts;  
our thanks to God is the gift of our hearts.  
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.**

**THEME CONVERSATION**

**SONG** The Twelve Days of Christmas (*F.Austin*)

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Colossians 3:12-17 (*p.201 Pew Bible NT*)  
(Clothe yourselves with compassion and kindness,)

**GIFT OF MUSIC** Gesù Bambino (*Pietro A. Yon*)  
Bob McRoberts, Bass

**GOSPEL** Luke 2:41-52 (*p .59 Pew Bible NT*)  
(The boy Jesus learns at the temple.)

*Come to the quiet...a time for reflection*

**SERMON** Joy to the World

\***CAROL** Still, Still, Still **VU 47**

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** White Christmas (*Irving Berlin*)  
Bob McRoberts

**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 & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

**PRAYER PRELUDE** We Call to You O God (*Mayberry/Kai*)  
**We call to You, O God, in faith and with open heart,  
hear our prayer. We call to You, O God, in faith  
and with open heart, hear, hear our prayer.  
Hear, hear our prayer.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**  
*VU p. 910*

\* **CAROL** Joy to the World VU 59

\* **COMMISSIONING**

And now let us go back into the world,  
with **Christmas in our hearts,**  
remembering the love God has for us all—  
and sharing it with all we meet.

\* **SUNG BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary Star  
**Love shines as the solitary star. MV 220**  
**Faith is the inner light.**  
**You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,**  
**and illumine the pathway home.**

**POSTLUDE** Noël Suisse (Louis-Claude Daquin)



MISSION AND SERVICE

A Time of Reflection



As we look forward to the New Year and all the hope and possibility 2025 will bring, it's also a time to reflect on the growth we experienced in 2024. Through moments of peace and challenge, joy and sorrow, it has been a true blessing to witness God at work through people like you.

Amid earthquakes, conflict, economic struggles, hunger, and more, you have consistently asked, "How can we help?" Thank you for holding our neighbors in warm, compassionate care throughout a challenging year. Together, you have helped put food on tables, rebuild communities after disasters, provide life-saving medication, educate children, and so much more.

Your gifts continue to support our partners as they respond to urgent needs in Canada and around the world, bringing hope and breaking down barriers so that they can keep doing their vital work. As we reflect on this past year and welcome the new one, we are deeply grateful for your support of [Mission and Service](#).



**Thank you for bringing hope to so many.**



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



**CHRISTMAS 1**  
**December 29, 2024**  
**11:00 am**

*'On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me, a partridge in a pear tree.'*

### **The First Nowell**

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.**

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. **R**

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. **R**

This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. **R**

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense. **R**

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought. **R**

### **Still, still, still**

Still, still, still: the night is calm and still. The Christ child in his crib lies sleeping, angels round him watch are keeping. Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep, while Mary sings and gently holds you, safely in her arms enfolds you. Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus softly sleep.

Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy! For through God's holy incarnation Christ is born for our salvation. Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!

### **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.

