

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE O Come, O Come Emmanuel *(Traditional arr. The Piano Guys)* In the Bleak Midwinter *(Gustav Holst arr. Simon Lole)* Mehraeen Safari, violin

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/ Rainbow Candle of Inclusion Noah Comar

INTROIT There's a Star in the East *(Spiritual)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Like the shepherds, we come to the stable, uncertain of what we have heard and seen, **longing to hear a word of peace and joy.** Like the wise ones, we have journeys to make, gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts, **that this world can change for the better.** Here, in the stillness of a winter's night, we gather to share the light of Christ, a light that shines in the darkness. **We gather in the wonder of this night to share the news, that Jesus Christ is born.** Let us worship in wonder!

***HYMN** O Come, All Ye Faithful **VU 60** *(on insert)*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Lisa, Elizabeth & Victoria Kyriakides

(Three blue and one pink candle are lit.)

It's Christmas Eve. The time of waiting is over.

The candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love are lit.

Only one remains, and it is the Christ Candle.

We light it now, in awe and wonder.

(The Christ Candle is lit.)

May Jesus, born so long ago in a stable, be born in our hearts this night. May his birth bring to our world the gifts of his life—justice, peace and hope for all.

Let us pray... **Long-Expected One, branch of Jesse's Tree. Star-Child, come. Come to our hearts. Come to our homes. Come to our lives and change us for you, so that the whole world will hear glad tidings of great joy because we cannot hold it in. Amen.**

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.** *(Joyce Hoden)*

ANTHEM Star Carol *(John Rutter)*
with Embellished Handbell Ensemble

SHARING THE STORY

The Story of the Littlest Star Begins in Scripture....

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Bob McRoberts
(The people walked in darkness.)

GIFT OF MUSIC O Holy Night *(arr.B. Galliford)*
Susan Guido, trumpet

A Special Assignment...

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:1-7 *(The birth of Jesus.)*
Rev. Linda Wheler

CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem **VU 64** *(on insert)*

The Littlest Star Leads The Way...

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:8-14 *(Angels and Shepherds)*
Keegan Comar

CAROL Away in a Manger **VU 69** *(on insert)*

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:15-20 Emily & Sarah Crawley
(The shepherds go to the stable.)

The Stars Shine On...

***CAROL** Angels We Have Heard on High **VU 38**
(on insert)

...the Holy Family arrives to take their place among us.
(with star-bearers, Peter & Emily Gilpin)

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY He Is Born *(arr. Sandra Eithum)*
Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble

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

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYERS

We light our candles...

***BLESSING**

As we carry your light into the world this night, O God—
touch us with the beauty of Jesus’ birth once again.

LET THE BELLS RING OUT!!

***CAROL** Silent Night **VU 67** (on insert)

POSTLUDE Carol Medley (Hark! The Herald Angels
Sing/O Come, All Ye Faithful/The First Noel)
Susan Guido, trumpet



The congregation of Aurora United Church
wishes you and yours God’s deepest blessings
in this holy time of the year!

May your Christmas days be merry and bright
as you celebrate.



**Thank you to our Holy Family —
Wayne Hwang, Carolyn Yearwood,
Max, Sam & Timothy Hwang**



Please join us for worship next Sunday,
December 29th—11 am

A Christmas Blessing

May the news of the angels
fill your life and your heart with great joy.

May the star that guided the wise
lead you to the truth of understanding.

May the witness of the shepherds
affirm in you the message of the Gospel.

May the sound of the incarnate Word
bring you peace and hope.

May the presence of the sacred baby
remind you of your own holiness.

And
may this Christmas
gift you
bless you
comfort you
inspire you,
as you journey into another year.



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 EVE
‘Starry Nights—Light & Wonder’
Tuesday, December 24, 2024
5:00 p.m.

*Christmas Eve, angels and stars, shepherds and
travelers, a new born child. An old story full of love
and danger, laying bare the beauty of an amazing
God. (R.Burgess)*