

Saint Andrew's Presbyterian & St. Paul's United Church
Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - 3 PM Christmas Eve
The Story in Shapes

Gathering Music

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome to Worship

Hymn – O Come All Ye Faithful **VU 60**

Call To Worship (Responsive)¹

On this holy night we come, because in a simple dwelling God showed up, coming close to each of the participants in Christ's birth. God gave Mary the faith, obedience and courage to embrace her calling as God-bearer.

May it be so with us.

God showed Joseph how to be supportive and accepting.

May it be so with us.

The innkeeper gave what was available, and something wonderful happened.

May it be so with us.

Angels appeared and sang of your glory.

May it be so with us.

Humble shepherds heard the news and rushed to see it for themselves.

May it be so with us.

The baby in the manger brought peace and light to the world.

May it be so with us.

So now we drew closer to experience for ourselves the wonder of God's presence this night.

Lighting Advent Wreath and the Christ Candle (Responsive):²

Today we gather around the Advent wreath one last time. Each candle has helped us get ready for this moment when light breaks into the world.

We have waited, we have wondered, and tonight we rejoice!

We light the candle of Hope, because God keeps promises.

God's light gives us hope. *(Light the first candle.)*

We light the candle of Peace, because God's love calms our hearts.

God's light brings us peace. *(Light the second candle.)*

We light the candle of Joy, because Jesus fills the world with gladness.

God's light brings us joy. *(Light the third candle.)*

We light the candle of Love, because God's love is always bigger, wider, and stronger than we imagine.

God's light shows us love. *(Light the fourth candle.)*

And now, at last, we light the Christ Candle. Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the One who brings hope, peace, joy, and love all together in one shining light.

Jesus is the Light of the World! The light no darkness can overcome! *(Light the Christ Candle.)*

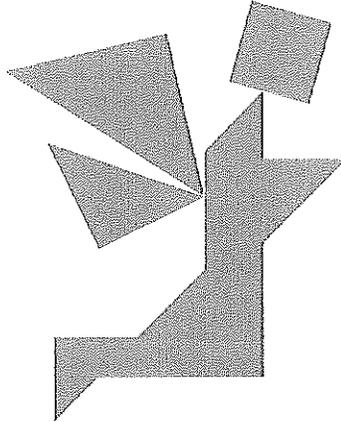
Opening Prayer:

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Hymn: *The First Noel* *TBop 136*

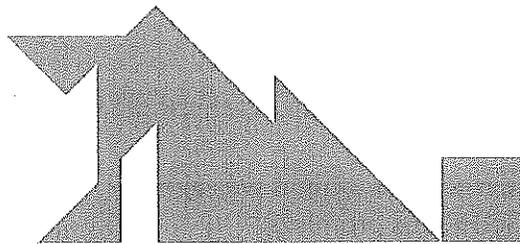
Telling the story with Shapes³ and Songs:

You are invited during the service to try and build the image from our story today with the tiles that you were given when you arrived tonight. If you are finding it too hard or have younger children, there are colour copies of the images at the back of the sanctuary. Please take your shapes home with you today.



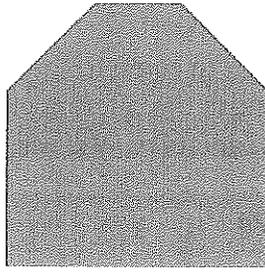
ANGEL

Hymn: *Angels we have heard on High* *VU38*



JOSEPH ASLEEP

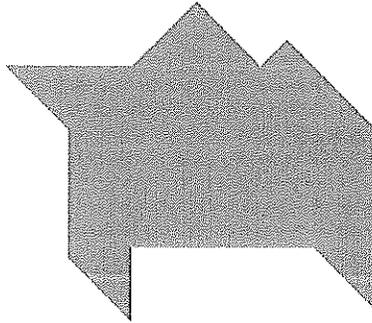
Hymn: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* *VU64*



HOMETOWN

Hymn: *Away in a Manger*

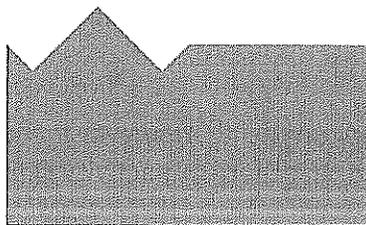
TBoP 149



SHEEP

Hymn: *While Shepherds Watched*

TBoP 138



BABY IN A MANGER

Hymn: *Go Tell it On the Mountain*

VU 43

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

Offering:

During the offering hymn everyone is encouraged to come to the manger, to tell baby Jesus one thing that you can offer the world and deposit any financial offering in the offering plate. Before returning to your seat please make sure you pick up a candle from the front of the sanctuary. We will be lighting them during Silent Night.

Offering Hymn: *What Child is This?* **VU74**

Prayer of Dedication:

Loving God, when you were young, kings brought you rich gifts. Today we bring you the gifts of our hearts and our lives. Take what we have to offer and bless it in your name, so that your love and light will be experienced in our world today. Amen

A Christmas Prayer:

Spreading of the Light and Singing of *Silent Night* **TBOP154**

Blessing

Closing Hymn – *Joy to the World* **TBoP 153**

Postlude

We at the Ecumenical Shared Ministry of Saint Andrew's and St. Paul's wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for making us part of your Christmas Eve. This service was designed with elements of our regular service yet tailored to a younger audience to encourage kids to participate and engage. We do not expect young ones to stay in their seats but we do ask that you be aware that the radiators can get hot, so please watch your little ones.

Our congregation is made up officially of members from the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Church of Canada, however, we have people from a variety of traditions that worship with us. Our congregation offers worship rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ that respects the diversity of our members, honours the traditions of the past while forging a new way into the future. If you are looking for a faith community, we hope that you will spend some time getting to know us. It is an exciting time to be part of this congregation as we build our engagement.

Our Sunday School will be resuming in January on the 4th, however if you plan to attend before then know that kids are welcome to stay in the sanctuary and that there are activity clip boards in the back narthex on the bathroom side of the church.

Our next event is January 4th when we have our Epiphany Potluck after service. We would love for you to join us!