

**Saint Andrew's and St. Paul's
Ecumenical Shared Ministry**

**December 28, 2025
Christmas 1**



Presiders

**Carole Peacock, Allen Thorn,
Kimberly Keech, Kathie Berry,
Debbie West**

Organist & Choir Director

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***Bulletin submissions:
Noon Wednesday***

We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) Peoples. This territory is covered by the “Treaties of Peace and Friendship” which Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik), Mi’kmaq, and Passamaquoddy Peoples first signed with the British Crown in 1726.

The treaties did not deal with surrender of lands and resources but in fact recognized Mi’kmaq and Wəlastəkwiyyik (Wolastoqiyik) title and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations.

We Sing This Story: Service of Lesson and Carols¹

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Candles

Introit:

A Light Is Gleaming

VU 82

***A light is gleaming, spreading it's arms
through the night, living in the light.***

***Come share it's gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.***

Call to Worship: (based on Isaiah 2:2-5)

In days to come, the mountains of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills;

All the nations shall stream to it.

Many people shall come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks;

**Nations shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.**

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
(Refrain): Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light. R.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: R.**

**Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: R.**

**Though an infant now we view him, He shall fill his Father's throne,
Gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down. R.**

First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

**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.**

***Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the angel strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the love song which they bring.
O hush the noise and cease your strife, and hear the 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.***

Second Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10 (Responsive)

The desert and the parched land will be glad; The wilderness will rejoice and blossom.

Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; It will rejoice greatly and shout for joy.

The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, The splendor of Carmel and Sharon;

They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God.

Strengthen the feeble hands, Steady the knees that give way; Say to those with fearful hearts,

“Be strong, do not fear; Your God will come,

he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution

he will come to save you.”

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened And the ears of the deaf unstopped.

Then will the lame leap like a deer, And the mute tongue shout for joy.

Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

In the haunts where jackals once lay grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.

And a highway will be there; It will be called the Way of Holiness;

It will be for those who walk on that Way.

The unclean will not journey on it; Wicked fools will not go about on it.

No lion will be there, Nor any ravenous beast;

The will not be found there, And those the Lord has rescued will return.

They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads.

Gladness and Joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Carol:

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

VU 35

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 for evermore.

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!***

Third Lesson: Matthew 1:1-17

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was father to Isaac; Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nashon, Nashon the father of Salmon, Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, And Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose father had been Uriah's wife, Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, And Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of exile to Babylon. After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Elihud, Elihud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, And Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, And Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah. Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, Fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, And Fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Carol:

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

VU 8

***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.

Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will

never end.” “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?” The angel answered “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail.” “I am the Lord’s servant” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

Carol:

Angels We have Heard on High

TBoP 147

***Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.***

Refrain:

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

***Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? R***

***Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R***

***See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. R***

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name of Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means God with Us). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Carol:

See Amid the Winter's Snow

VU 76

***1 See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
see the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.***

Refrain:

***Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."***

**2 Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies;
He who, throned in height sublime, sits amid the cherubim! [Refrain]**

**3 Say, ye holy shepherds, say, what's your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? [Refrain]**

**4 "As we watched at dead of night, Lo! we saw a wondrous light;
angels singing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Savior's birth." [Refrain]**

**5 Sacred Infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this! [Refrain]**

Sixth Lesson: Luke 1:39-58

At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice she exclaimed:

"Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child will bear! But why am I so favoured, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reaches my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfil his promises to her!"

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord And my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, For he has been mindful of his humble servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, For the Mighty One has done great things for me-Holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, From generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arms; He has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Isreal, Remembering to be merciful To Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors" Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home. When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbours and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy and they shared her joy.

Carol:

Canticle of the Turning

MV 120

***My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?***

Refrain

***My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!***

***Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. R***

***From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. R***

***Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
'Til the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. R***

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

In those days Ceasar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem to the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Carol:

Once in Royal David's City

TBoP 166

***Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle-shed,
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.***

Eighth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-20

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the Glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in clothing and lying in a manger" Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was laying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Carol:

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

VU 43

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

***While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. [Refrain]***

***The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Saviour's birth. [Refrain]***

Ninth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Mag from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the Prophet has written: But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are by no means least among the rulers of Judeah; For out of you will come a ruler Who will shepherd my people Israel.” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and Myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Presentation of the Offering:

Carol:

We Three Kings

TBoP 173

***We three kings of Orient are; Bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star.***

Refrain:

***O, start of wonder, star of light, Star of royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to the perfect light.***

***Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to reign. R***

***Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh,
Prayer and praising, voices raising, Worshipping God on high. R***

***Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom,
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone cold tomb. R***

***Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, Sounds through the earth and skies. R***

Blessing of the Offering:

The gifts that the Magi brought helped Jesus and his family survive and for shadowed what this small baby would offer to the world. Today we make our offerings and pray that you will use them for the flourishing of your church in the world. May they be a sign of our involvement in your ongoing life and work. In the name of the Child of Bethlehem we pray. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith: (based on John 1:1-14)

In the beginning was the Word,
**and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.**

He was in the beginning with God.

**All things came into being through him,
And without him not one thing came into being.**

What came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

**He was in the world, and the world came into being through him,
yet the world did not know him.**

He came to what was his own, and his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

**And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory,
the glory as of the father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

Benediction and Commissioning:

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that From Generation to generation, We have been claimed and loved. From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, We are not alone. And God of yesterday, and the God of tomorrow, Knows your name, loves you, and calls you forth saying, "Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice and come back soon." May it be so. **Amen.**

Closing Carol:

Joy to the World

TBoP 153 vs 1-2

***Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive its 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 Savior 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.***

Postlude

1 - Adapted from Rev. Anna Strickland, We Sing the Story Sanctified Art.

*A special Christmas offering was received from Bonita Delaney,
in loving memory of her parents, Daniel and Audrey Cameron.*

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 15TH

While Rev Michelle is on leave, if you have need for emergency pastoral care you can reach out from Dec 25 - Jan 4th to Rev. Ellen Beairsto (506-206-1943) & from Jan 5th - Jan 15th to Rev. Richard Bowley (506-262-2150).

Next week January 4th - Epiphany Potluck after service. We hope that you will join us for fellowship time and then stay to help 'undecorate' the church. Many hands makes light work!

Reminder: The 2025 donations deadline is December 31st. You can donate through mail, drop off in church mail slot, through 'Canada Helps' or e-transfer (St Paul's only) to the office email address: stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com Also your box of 2026 donation envelopes are located at the back of the sanctuary. If you wish to switch to PAR please contact either office.

***A big THANK YOU to all our Lay Leaders and Volunteers
who have made today's service possible!***