

*The Presbyterian
Church of
Saint David*

1544 Grafton Street at Blowers, Halifax, N.S.



**WELCOME!
CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDELIGHT SERVICE 2014**

Prelude: Holy Night, Silent Night by the Trio (Kate, Mary Dan, and Ian)

Isaiah 52: 7-10

*How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'*
*Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.*
*Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.*
*The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.*

Lighting the Advent wreath – The Christ candle (Blaikie family)

*Carol: *Oh come all ye faithful*

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***Call to Worship:** *Come away, come away, come today to Bethlehem.*

Come adore on bended knee, one whose birth the angels sing.
*Come away, come away from your noisy celebration, to a place of quietness and
peace. Come with wonder, come with awe. Take your place
among sheep and cattle. Sing with joy, praise God, for the time of
promise has come. Sing the good news of Emmanuel: God-with-us!*

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

*Carol: *Go tell it on the Mountain*

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Gathering Prayer: *Loving God, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we
may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship
of the magi. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all
over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good
desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the
blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with
clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be your
children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*~ attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson

Reader: *Imagine you are there in Bethlehem.*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, be with you all. And also with you.

Reader: *Let it be our joy*

Prayer: *Most loving God, whose gracious gift was given to lowly folk on Bethlehem's hills that night, grant to us, like them, to see the dark clouds rent asunder, and earth resplendent with a heavenly light – to know the wonder of that Holy Birth, the coming of the love of God to earth. Loving God, we confess our sins against you and one another, and pray that you will fill us with your light, that we may live our lives as true disciples in your name, without counting the cost. In the name of Christ, the one who showed us the way, we pray. Amen.*

Psalm 98 *O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvellous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gained him victory.*

The Lord has made known his victory;
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.*

**Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.**

*With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.*

**Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.**

*Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy
at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth.*

He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Anthem: The Peace Carol by Bob Beers

Luke 2: 1-20

The Birth of Jesus



In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be

registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

While Shepherds watched 138

The Shepherds and the Angels

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign



for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

**Away in a Manger 149*



Prayer: *God of the cradle, we count it in mere hours now. Soon the first pains of labour will be felt. **Soon the Light will shine in the darkness, soon the baby will be born.** Soon God will once again break into our lives, coming in a way that is expected yet unusual, challenging our expectations and calling us to see life differently.*

The Manger Scene



When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known

to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Sermon: Silhouettes

Trio: Born in the night 137

Reader: **Mary's thoughts:**

What child is this? 161

Infant holy, infant lowly 143



Reader: **Joseph's thoughts:**

Trio: Guard him Joseph

Prayer: *Lord Jesus born in Bethlehem, in a world that has forgotten how to rejoice, give us joy; In a world that is looking for explanations, give us a sign. In a world of fear and failure, give us peace. For we and all the world need a Saviour.*

Lord Jesus, born in Bethlehem, open the eyes of our minds to the mysteries of our lives; And with open eyes may we behold you. And beholding you may we believe in you. And in believing in you may we become like you, and becoming like you may we join you in glory. And so may we rejoice in you, not just this Christmas but always.

* Hymn: *King of Kings 266*

Hebrews 1: Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.



Sharing the Light



Christians, awake! 135
Hark the herald 139
Angels we have heard on high 147



Blessing The story tells us that it's those who wait in the world's shadows who are the first to know of the Christ-child, born into darkness bringing great light. So leave here today to be carriers of the rumour of peace and the truth of love into a world longing for light. Pray for the justice another is waiting for, and speak of the hope another needs to breathe... And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

*Joy to the World 153
Postlude: A Christmas Medley

Participants: We thank everyone who participated in the service this evening. Christmas Eve Trio are Kate Kempster-Harper, Mary Dan Johnston, and Ian Gilmore.



Sources for resources:

1) *Church of Scotland (various parts of the service)* 2) *Call to worship written by Ruth Duck*