



**PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH**  
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**Sunday, December 24, 2017**  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**10:00pm Communion**

**Rev. Heather Power & Rev. Joe Gaspar**

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**LARGE PRINT** Bulletins, Voices United Hymn Books and Bibles are available from the ushers.

**BULLETIN NOTATIONS:**

★ Signal to stand, for those who are able.

**VU**~Voices United Hymn book **MV**~More Voices Hymn book

*Welcome Visitors! We're glad to have you worshipping with us at Parkminster and would like to make sure you feel connected. Please take a few minutes to fill out one of the white information envelopes found in the pews and place it on the offering plate, or put it in the mail slot outside the office. Whether you'd like more information about Parkminster's programs, want to request offering envelopes, or have a question about becoming a member – or whatever else is important to you, we'd love to hear from you! Welcome!*

**GATHERING**

Prelude: “It Came Upon A Midnight Clear” *arr. Heather Sorenson*

**Welcome**

**Statement of Welcome**

One: Today, we remember our relationship with First People which has not always been healing and empowering. With gratitude and respect, we recognize the tribes on whose traditional land we make our spiritual home, the Anishnawbe (A-nish-NA-bay) the Haudenosaunee (Ho-di-no-SHOW-nay), and the Neutral. We acknowledge with regret, that this history has not always been respectful. We commit to just relationship in the present.

**All: Seeking true community, we welcome all who have no church home, need strength, and are seeking deep meaning. Welcome to those who have doubts or who do not believe. Welcome to those whose faith is sure, and to those who believe, but who are asking large questions.**

One: Welcome to visitors and to familiar friends. Welcome to grandparents, to mothers, fathers, youth and children, couples, and single people.

**All: Welcome to people of all colours, gender identities, abilities, and sexual orientations.**

One: Welcome to each who is searching for meaning, who is seeking an understanding of community and what it means to accompany one another.

**All: As we come together as church, we turn to one another with gratitude and pray that we will be strong together, faithful together, and loving together. We seek blessing as we welcome the great gift of spirit in us, through us, and among us.**

## **Opening Reflection**

Rev. Heather & Rev. Joe

★ Processional Hymn: “Joy to the World”      🎵 VU #59

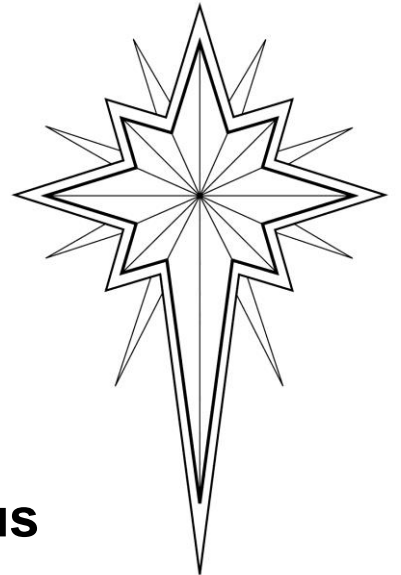
## **Christ Candle Lighting – The Promises are Fulfilled**

One: After counting the weeks of Advent we have come to Christmas Eve. The waiting is over, it's time to burst out in celebration;  
The promises of hope, peace, joy and love are fulfilled for us in the birth of Jesus;  
“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shone...”

**All:** With the coming of this light let there be peace.  
With the coming of this light let there be joy.  
With the coming of this light let there be love.  
With the coming of this light let there be hope.

**One:** Now we light up the dark December night with the light of Christ, proclaiming Emmanuel—God is with us! As we light this candle, please join with us in singing:

♪ I am walking a path of grace,  
I am walking a path of grace,  
I am walking a path of grace,  
lead me home, lead me home,  
I am home.



**One:** Let us pray.

**All:** God who lives in us and around us  
we thank you for the gift of Jesus,  
for the light he sheds in our world,  
for showing us what our lives can be.  
Give us the curious, open hearts of children  
that we may journey with him all the days of our  
lives. Amen.

★ Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”      ♪ VU #60

### **Passing of the Peace**

**One:** Unto us a child is born,

**All:** and his name shall be called the Prince of  
Peace.

**One:** For peace is the promise of Emmanuel-God with us.

**All:** Let us share that promise with each other.

**One:** The peace of Jesus the Christ be always with you.

**All:** And also with you.

★ Hymn: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”      ♪ VU #48

## EXPLORING



### Opening Our Hearts

**What a story!  
God, born in the most unlikely place,  
to the most unlikely people.  
The story isn't done,  
God is still looking for places to be born,  
not a perfect place, but a willing place.  
May the story open our imperfect lives  
to be that willing place.  
May it be so.**

**Scripture: Luke 2:1 – 20 (KJV)**

Ministry of Music: “Gesu Bambino” *by Martins/Yon*  
(soloist: Darlene Basse)

Reflection

★ Hymn: “Angels We Have Heard on High” 🎵 VU #38

## RESPONDING

### Offering – invitation

Offertory: “Coventry Carol/First Nowell” *arr. Mark Hayes*

★ Dedication: “In the Bleak Midwinter” 🎵 VU #55, v. 4

**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.**

★ Offering Prayer

### Prayers of the People

★ Hymn: “What Child Is This” 🎵 VU #74



# CELEBRATING

## Sacrament of Communion

One: Holy One, Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love,

**All: What are we without you?**

One: You bring creation to birth and send prophets to awaken us to your Advent among us.

**All: We give thanks for the stories of our faith that give us this holy night of hope and wonder.**

One: We give thanks for those who, like Mary, have the faith and courage to give birth to your love in the world;

**All: for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem.**

One: We offer praise for your faithful presence,

**All: in womb and tomb, in cradle and cross, in life and death.**

One: For Jesus who became the Christ, in whom love took on flesh, we give thanks and join with all your people of every time and place,

**All: with angels and shepherds and wise one to proclaim your goodness:**

(♪ MV #203 tune: Kingsfold):

**O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.  
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your  
grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings  
your praise. And blessed is the One who comes and  
bears Your name always!**

- One: As we gather at this table on this glorious night **we remember that Christmas was just the beginning for Jesus.**
- All: **We remember that on the night before he died, Jesus had supper with his friends.**
- One: He took a loaf of bread, thanked you as we have thanked you, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying:
- All: **“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me.”**
- One: Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks, he poured it, passed it to his friends, saying:
- All: **“Drink. This cup is the promise of God, made in my blood. Each time you drink from this cup, remember me.”**
- One: Following the meal Jesus was unjustly killed by the powers of his day, by those for whom love was a threat.
- All: **As faithful Jews, his friends saw Jesus as being like the Passover lambs that God had once used to save Israel;**
- One: Lambs that were sacrificed and whose blood adorned the doors of Jewish homes sparing the nation of Israel from the final plague before liberation from slavery.
- All: **To his frightened disciples it seemed that the broken bread was like his body, and the poured wine like his blood.**
- One: It also seemed like injustice and violence killed Jesus and his ministry.

**All: But there were more meals - and more ministries! We give thanks the last supper wasn't the last meal – or the last word!**

One: Remembering the gift of Jesus as the embodiment of God's love, we offer praise, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith in song:

(♪ MV #204 tune: Kingsfold):

**Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!**

One: Holy One, you poured your Spirit on Mary and Joseph enabling them to take great risks in faith.

**All: Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here.**

One: As we eat and drink may we know your life-giving presence.

**All: As we eat and drink may we be opened to a life of faith, a life free of fear.**

One: And so we pray:

**All: Praise be to God, the Source of love!  
Praise be to Jesus, Love incarnate!  
Praise be to the Spirit, Love's power!  
Praise be to God! Amen.**

...the gifts of God for the people of God. Come all is ready.

*(As you are given the bread and the juice you may respond with "amen" or "thanks be to God".)*



## Lord's Prayer – Paraphrase+

**God within us, God beyond us, God among us,  
May the Mystery always be named and  
known among all peoples and in all times.  
May creation give way  
to the rule of love and the power of life.  
Satisfy our hunger, and grant us a  
hunger to see the whole world fed.  
Restore us to right relationship with You,  
with creation, with others, with ourselves.  
Strengthen us to reject all  
that would lead us away from You,  
Come to us when we choose death over life.  
Give us courage to follow your call in this moment.  
For in your love we find the only power,  
the only home, the only honour we will ever need,  
in this life and the life to come.  
Amen.**

+Adapted from paraphrases found in the New Zealand Prayer Book (1989) and one by Sarah-Dylan Breuer found at [http://www.theworshipwell.org/pdf/Lords\\_Prayer\\_Paraphrase.pdf](http://www.theworshipwell.org/pdf/Lords_Prayer_Paraphrase.pdf)

## RETURNING

### Lighting of the Candles

★ Hymn: "Silent Night" ♪ VU #67

### ★ Commissioning and Blessing

Postlude: "In Dulci Jubilo" *arr. Dale Wood*

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**Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer this evening:**

**Ushers:** ..... Peter & Mary McLean, Bud Adams and Jim Bowman

**Greeters:** ..... Anne & Mark Dunbar

**Lay Reader:**..... Marilyn Hill

**Audio/Visual:** ..... Sandy Quehl & Heather Watts

**Chancel Arrangements:**..... Chancel Committee

**Candle Lighters:** ..... Matt & Sarah Bruce

**Communion:** ..... Ken & Mary Willsie

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**The Ministry of Parkminster:**..... All of us  
**Ministers:**.....Rev. Heather Power (x 22) and  
.....Rev. Joe Gaspar (x 23)  
**Music Director:**.....Neil Murray (x 25)  
**Office Administrator:**.....Melanie Chisholm (x 21)  
**Custodian:**.....Allen Switzer (x 26)

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*May Hope, Peace, Joy and Love  
be yours this Christmas  
and always.*