



PARKMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

275 Erb Street East, Waterloo, ON N2J 1N6
519-885-0935 | parkuc@golden.net | parkuc.ca

Sunday, December 24, 2017
CHRISTMAS EVE
7:00pm

Rev. Heather Power & Rev. Joe Gaspar

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: "When Hope Came Down" *arr. by Kari Jobe*
(The Band)

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.

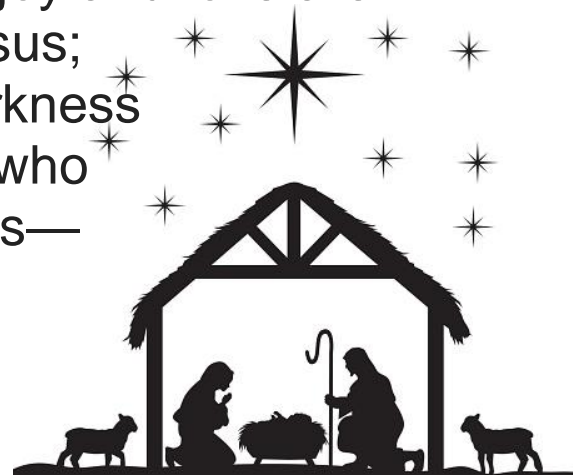
Poem

Rev. Heather & Rev. Joe

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

Christ Candle Lighting – The Promises Are Fulfilled

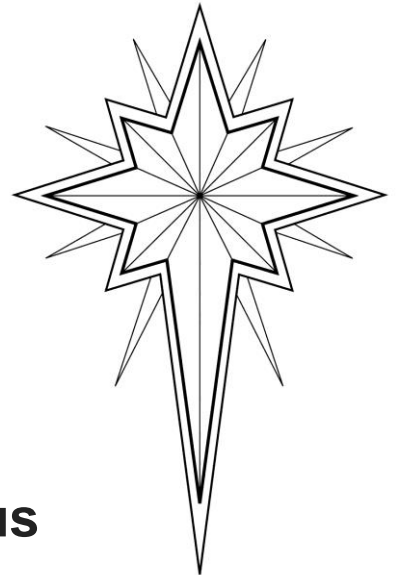
One: After counting the weeks of Advent we have come to Christmas Eve. The waiting is over, it's time to burst out in celebration; The promises of hope, peace, joy and love are fulfilled for us in the birth of Jesus; “The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land 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: “Angels We Have Heard on High” ♪ VU #38

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.

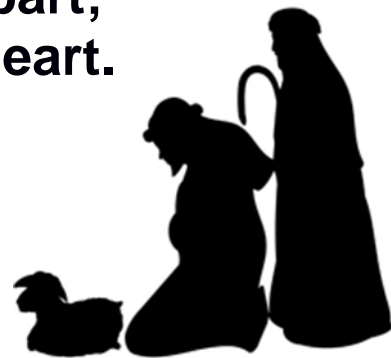
All: Let us share that promise with each other.

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

All: And also with you.

★ 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

RETURNING

★ Hymn: “Silent Night” 🎵 VU #67

As the sanctuary lights are dimmed, the glow sticks provided are meant to illuminate the sanctuary with light. You are invited to take these home to hang on your Christmas tree as a reminder of the light shared this night and always.

★ Commissioning and Blessing

Postlude: “Join the Angels” *by Matthew West*
(The Band)

Thank you to everyone who has offered their gift of time to volunteer in various ways this evening:

Ushers: Gale & Bert Blackburn, and
..... Rebecca Blackburn & Greg Cartmell
Greeters: Karen & Andrew Cartmell
Lay Reader:..... Wendy Watson
The Band:..... Catriona Teves, Colleen Usaty, Jamie Hofman,
..... Lee McWebb, Jeff Stacey,
..... John & Matthew Watson, Angie & Neil Murray
Audio/Visual: Sandy Quehl & Heather Watts
Chancel Arrangements:..... Chancel Committee
Candle Lighters:..... The Hicknell Family: Lisa, Abbie, Gabe & Poppy

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)
