

December 24, 2019
~ Christmas Eve Service ~
10 pm



Theme:
More to Christmas

Moving in the Spirit...
A diverse, welcoming, caring, and active faith community.
A place to learn, grow, build a relationship with God,
and make a difference in the world.

December 24, 2019
~ Christmas Eve Service @ 10 pm ~

Worship Leader: Rev. Tom Hiscock
Music Director: Karen Schuessler

** stand if able*



Soloists

Hannah and Tony Haworth

Prelude

***Hymn:** While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks

VU 75

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.
- 2 "Fear not," said he for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.
- 3 "To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:
- 4 "The heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands
and in a manger laid."
- 5 Thus spake the seraph; and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:
- 6 "All glory be to God on high,
and to the earth be peace;
Good will to all from highest heaven
begin, and never cease."

Call to Worship: (responsively)

One: Glory to God in the highest.

All: And on earth peace, good will towards all.

One: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.

All: Glory be to God on high.

One: For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

**All: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
good will toward all.**

Prayer of Approach:

Worship Leader

O Lord our God, most merciful and mighty:
fill our hearts with joy and our tongues with praise as this night
we keep the watch for our Savior's birth.

Let the Holy Spirit come upon us as we approach the mystery
of his appearing in the flesh as a little child.

Stir up in our hearts the precious gift of faith, that he may be
born anew in us, and that his presence may protect in our
hearts the light of heavenly joy and peace.

Grant this, O God, we ask you for the love of Christ your Son,
our only Savior. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession: (in unison)

**O God, who has given us grace at this time to celebrate
the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. We laud and magnify
your glorious name for the countless blessings which he
has brought unto us, and we ask you to grant that we may
ever set forth your praise in joyful obedience to your will;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

VU 921

Scripture: Isaiah 52:7-10

Lighting of the Christ Candle: Luke 2:1-14

Duet

Hannah and Tony Haworth

Sermon: More to Christmas

Worship Leader

Silent Reflection

***Hymn:** In the Bleak Midwinter

VU 55

- 1 In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
- 2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.
- 3 Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.
- 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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Worship Leader

Many accepted invitations on that first Christmas. Mary and Elizabeth were the first to hear God's call and respond. Joseph ignored the concerns of some of his friends and accepted Mary in reply to God. On the night of Jesus' birth, shepherds were called away from their work and they came. Wise men started on their journey to the cradle, as well. God invites us to this table tonight. By coming forward, we join those who responded to those invitations long ago. Come, not because you must, but because you may. Come all of you who seek the Christ child.

Preface for Christmas Eve: (responsively)

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift our hearts in prayer.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

One: Loving God, Source of all, we thank and praise you with our lips and with our lives, that, having created us and all things through your Word, you welcome our prayer and praise.

For the goodness of creation and the glory of redemption, we praise you.

For the law of holiness, inviting our obedience, and the call of prophets, rebuking our disobedience, we praise you.

Therefore, with all that is, seen and unseen, and with all the faithful of every time and place, we join in this hymn of praise and thanksgiving:

**All: Holy, holy, holy God, power of life and love!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory!
Hosanna through the ages!
Blest is the One who comes to bring
your justice to earth!**

One: Loving God, Holy One, we offer your praise and thanksgiving over this bread and cup, because in Jesus Christ, your only Son, you have joined yourself forever to us, uniting heaven and earth.

Now, therefore, we gratefully remember: Jesus' birth into our humanity, baptism for our sin, compassion for our suffering, intimacy with our frailty, rebuke of our pride, bearing of the cross with its death, and rising from the tomb by the power of God.

On the night before he died, it was Jesus who took a loaf of bread, gave you thanks, broke it, and said, "Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me." Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying, "This is the new covenant; remember me."

**All: We proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our joy and our hope.**

One: Loving God, creative Power, blessing your name, we seek your Spirit. Come to us and bless these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ; the sign and seal of our forgiveness in him, and our adoption as the children of God.

As we eat and drink together, make us one with Christ and one in Christ, a sign of his eternal reign in all the world. This sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving we offer you, loving God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Distribution of Communion

Duet

Hannah and Tony Haworth

You are invited to come forward in groups to receive the elements; please stand around the Communion Table.

If you wish to remain seated, please signal with a raised hand and Communion will be brought to you.

Prayer of Thanksgiving: (in unison)

O Lord, we thank you for the nourishment you have given us in the person of Jesus Christ. To know him is an exciting experience. To love him is to love others. To glimpse into the Bethlehem stable once again is to experience your constant presence in our lives.

Thank you for Jesus Christ.

Thank you, O Lord, for the opportunity to serve you.

Amen.

(end of Communion)

Distribution of The Light

(Congregation please remain in place as the light is distributed)

***Hymn: Silent Night**

VU 67

1 Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

- 2 Silent night! Holy night!
 Shepherds quake at the sight!
 Glories stream from heaven afar,
 Heavenly hosts sing halleluiah,
 Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.
- 3 Silent night! Holy night!
 Son of God, love's pure light!
 Radiant beams from Thy Holy Face,
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Benediction & Three-Fold Amen

Postlude

*Offering plates are available at the back of the Sanctuary
 for your use as you leave the sanctuary.*

Postlude



The Staff would like to wish the congregation and visitors a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season.

HOLIDAY HOURS

Please be advised that during the Christmas season, office hours may be modified. If you are visiting the office, please call ahead to ensure someone is available.

For safety reasons, we are not publishing the hours. There is a sign by the office door and the side entrance bulletin board.

2019 CONTRIBUTIONS

The deadline for 2019 contributions is December 29th, 2019. This allows time for the Office Administrator to record the information in a timely manner.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our weekly newsletter is available at the back of the Sanctuary and outside the office. Our Ushers will happily direct you to their location. If you are a regular attendee, we encourage you to sign-up for newsletter by email; simply fill out a pew card for the office with your name and email address printed clearly.

Email helps reduce paper consumption and you will receive it in your inbox a few days prior to Sunday worship.

WESLEY-KNOX UNITED CHURCH

91 Askin Street, London, Ontario N6C 1E7

wesleyknox@bellnet.ca

www.wesleyknox.com

519.673.4803

Find us on Facebook:

Wesley-Knox United Church:

www.facebook.com/wesleyknoxunitedchurch

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PASTOR(S)

Rev. Thomas Hiscock

519-673-4803 ext. 201

revtomhiscock@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Douglas Ross (Minister Emeritus)

519-673-4803

Glen Pearson (Volunteer Preacher)

519-673-4803

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Arlene Roberts

519-673-4803 ext. 200

wesleyknox@bellnet.ca

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Karen Schuessler

519-673-4803 ext. 202

kasch500@rogers.com

CHILD & YOUTH PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Trevor Johnston (Volunteer, Faith Formation Committee)

519-673-4803 ext. 203

wesleyknoxchildrenandyouth@gmail.com

CUSTODIAN

Bill Jacklin

519-851-4712 or 519-673-4803

wjjacklin@hotmail.com

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

John McFall (Acting Chair)

john.mcfall@rogers.com

519-673-4803

SENIORS' CONNECTION

Paul Stewart

519-673-4803