



**GRACE UNITED CHURCH**  
Christmas Eve Service  
Dec. 24th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.  
Worship Leader: Keith Mayers  
Music Director: Don Salfarie  
Presider: Maria Stevens

**GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD**

**Band Prelude: Winter Wonderland**

**Welcome, Announcements & Traditional Land Acknowledgment**

**Passing of Peace**

Maria Stevens

One: Peace of Christ be with you

**All: And also with you!**

One: Greet each other with the love of Christ.

**Praise and Worship: Led by Choir**

Hope is a Star

(v.1-3 & refrain) VU #7

**Advent Wreath Candle-Lighting (Prepared by Rev. Dr. Lisa Waite)**

Guinness Family

Reader 1: As we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love tonight,

Reader 2: we reflect on these good gifts from God, of God, for us.

**(Pause while first four candles are lit)**

Reader 1: And now, as we light the Christ candle in the center of our Advent wreath,

Reader 2: we're making space for the grace of Jesus!

**(The WHITE Christ Candle is lit).**

Reader 1: We remember the Advent journey we have taken,

Reader 2: preparing, anticipating, and now celebrating the birth of the Christ Child.

Reader 1: Tonight, our long Advent journey has been fulfilled.

**All: Jesus has been born, sent by God to show us illuminating grace.**

**Opening Prayer:**

Loving God, You came down at Christmas,  
All lovely, All Divine;  
Jesus was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign.  
We Worship You the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love Divine;  
We Worship God in Jesus Christ:  
A sacred sign fulfilled this night,  
Love will be our guiding light  
Love for God and all created,  
Love continuously unabated.

*(adapted from 'Love Came down at Christmas' - Christina Georgina Rossetti)*

Maria Stevens

**Praise and Worship: Led by Choir**

Hope is a Star

(v.4 & refrain) VU #7

**TO DISCOVER THE WORD OF GOD FOR TODAY**

**Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:6-7**

**Praise and Worship: Led by Choir (congregation seated)**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

(v.1,3,5,7) VU#1

**Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-4**

**Praise and Worship: Led by Choir (congregation seated)**

O Little Town of Bethlehem (v.1,3,4)

VU#64

**Scripture Reading: Luke 2:5-7**

**Praise and Worship: Led by Choir (congregation seated)**

O Come, All Ye Faithful (v.1,3,5)

VU#60

**Scripture Reading: Luke 2: 8-12**

**Praise and Worship: Led by Choir (congregation seated)**

Angels We Have Heard on High (v.1,2,3)

VU#38

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 2: 1-12**

**Praise and Worship: Led by Choir (congregation seated)**

The First Nowell (v.1,3,5)

VU#91

## TO RESPOND IN FAITH AND HOPE

### Thanksgiving Prayer (by Shawn Redden and Janice MacLean) Led by Keith Mayers

One: We gather around the manger with gratitude:  
In human flesh, Jesus came and humbly lived among us,  
teaching us the wisdom of Love  
and bringing hope for a better world to birth.

All: **We gather in thanks and offer gratitude:**  
**for the gifts of love that sustain and nurture us**  
**for this ancient story and the gift of song,**  
**for ordinary blessings of food and drink and shelter**  
**for community, friends and family**  
**for the wonder and delight of simple things...**  
**We pause to name in gratitude those blessings that come**  
**to mind and heart for us today....[Silent Prayer]**

One: We pray we may find Love's presence not only in the warm  
memories of Bethlehem, but take the gifts of peace, hope, love  
and joy into our daily living.

All: **May we be Christ's presence, Love incarnate,**  
**as we offer friendship to people forgotten and excluded,**  
**ease the pain of friends who are lonely and grieving,**  
**care for those who are hurting, ill, lost and afraid...**

**The Lord's Prayer (said)**

**Offering Invitation**

**Offertory (Band): What Child is This**

**Offering Response: In the Bleak Midwinter**   **Christina G. Rossetti**  
**(V.4) VU #55**

**Offertory Prayer**

## Congregational Candle-Lighting

We will light our candles, pew by pew, from the Christ candle, with the assistance of the ushers. Ushers will be distributing candles to your pew. We will be dimming the sanctuary lights momentarily, but there will still be enough light for safety purposes.  
All done as we sing Silent Night.

### Praise and Worship: Led by Choir

(congregation seated for Candle-Lighting)  
**Silent Night, Holy Night**

**VU#67**

## THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO LIVE ITS FAITH IN THE WORLD

### Blessing and Sending

**Led by Keith Mayers**

One: Go, tell it to the neighbours and to the nations!

All: **Tell the good news to everyone! Jesus Christ is born!**

One: Go, live it in the mountains and the valleys, in the big cities  
and the tiny hamlets!

All: **Live the good news, that Jesus Christ is born!**

One: Go, in the abundant, embodied, inclusive love of God-with-us;

All: **Share the good news, that Jesus Christ is born!**

*(Prepared by Rev. Dr. Lisa Waite).*

**Band Postlude: O Tannenbaum**