

*Joy to the world*

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive its King;  
let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat  
the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.  
The Benediction, Amen and Postlude  
Fellowship & Music in Hall

**Welcoming Worshippers:** Gerry & Nancy Archibald

**Elevator:** Erin Sloan      **Organist:** Dr. Ken Cameron

**Conducting the service:** Rev. Bert Vanderbeek

**Placing the Bible:** Wade MacDonald      **Cellist:** Catherine Little

**Readers:** Lee Walker, Lesley Waugh, Ian Murray, E. Margaret MacDonald

**Audio:** Ross Barkhouse, Luke Campbell, Erin Sloan

**Today:** White Gift Sunday. After the service, all are invited to the Hall for a  
time of fellowship, food and music.

**Sunday, Dec. 22** 10:30 a.m. Advent 4

**Christmas Eve:** 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion, Carols by Candlelight.

The Rev. Whitney Canning will conduct the service.

**Sunday, Dec. 29** 10:30 First Sunday after Christmas – persons from the  
congregation will conduct the service.

**Presbyterians Sharing** – \$4,916.82 is needed to reach our 2024 allocation.



**ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

216 School Street, Dartmouth, NS B3A 2Y4

www.standrewspcc.ca

Interim Moderator: Rev. Calvin Burt

Minister Emeritus: Rev. R.A.B. MacLean

Session Clerk: Cheryl E. Weeks

**ADVENT 3, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024**

**Service Colour: Blue**

**ORDER OF DIVINE WORSHIP**      10:30 a.m.

Prelude (a time for prayer and reflection)

Lighting of the Christ Candle; Doxology (Book of Praise 830)

Call to Worship: (*standing if able*)

The Lord, your God, is in your midst. **Let us sing with loud shout of praises!** God rejoices over you with gladness and renews you with love.

**We will rejoice with all our hearts at what the Lord has done!**

With joy, draw water from the well of salvation in this time of worship.

**God is our salvation; we will trust and have no fear.**

*Oh come, all ye faithful*

1. Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, oh come ye, oh come ye  
to Bethlehem. Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

*Refrain:* Oh come, let us adore him, oh come, let us adore him, oh, come, let  
us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven  
above: "Glory to God in the highest!" *Refrain*

3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory  
given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

Call to confession

Prayer of Confession: (unison) **All knowing God, we know perfect joy  
only comes through faith in you, yet we seek it elsewhere.**

**In search of comfort, we indulge our desires.**

**In search of love, we hide from our faults.**

**In search of approval, we spend beyond our means.**

**Forgive us, O God, for seeking satisfaction in the wrong places.**

**Help us turn again to you, our true source of joy,**

**and guide us to discover what is honourable, just, and pleasing in your  
sight. Amen.**

*Sing: Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord have mercy upon us.*

Declaration of forgiveness: The Lord's Prayer (debts, debtors)

A sharing of the Peace of Christ followed by *Hallelujah* (Hymn 294)

Lighting of the Third Advent Candle Joy (Insert) – Mary Pyche

*The First Noel (all seated)* Presentation of White Gifts

1. The first nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as  
they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,

on a cold winter's night that was so deep. **Refrain:** Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (R) Children gather at the Chancel stairs

Welcome and Announcements

Cello Solo: "Oh come, oh come, Emmanuel"

Lesson: Genesis 22: 15–18

*Go, tell it on the mountain*

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.

Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.[R]

2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth. [R]

3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.[R]

Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2–3a; 6–7

*It came upon the midnight clear (all seated)*

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold: 'To all the earth goodwill and peace, from heaven's all gracious King!' The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world; above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and ever o'er its babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1–9

Piano & Cello: *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Lesson: Luke 1: 26–38

*Angels we have heard on high*

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Lesson: Luke 2: 1–7

*Away in a manger (all seated)*

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in your tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Lesson: Luke 2: 8–20

*O little town of Bethlehem*

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by: yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,

and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.

Sermon

Announcing the Offering of our gifts followed by The Offertory "Prelude" from Suite No. 1 J.S. Bach

Prayer of Dedication (*stand if able*)

Lesson: Matthew 2: 1–11

*Hark! the herald angels sing*

1. Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King, Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies; with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem." Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings

Mild, he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

Born to raise the lost of earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Others (beginning with):

**M.** Lift up your hearts.

**C. We lift them to the Lord.**

**M.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Response: *Generous God, Send joy to the world again*

Lesson: John 1: 1–4, 9–14, 18