



BETHEL UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Norm Laird
Music Director: Sarah Makins

December 24, 2009 Christmas Eve 7:00 p.m. Worship Service

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Advent Candle Lighting:

One: Here before us is the evergreen wreath that symbolizes eternal life. Within it are four candles that we have lit through the weeks of our waiting for Christmas.

All: **In just a few short hours our wait is over. We celebrate the Christ child of long ago. We celebrate the Christ child of today. The light of Holy Divinity shines before us and within us. We proclaim the Good News once more: Emmanuel, Emmanuel, our God is with us.**

Hymn: 64 VU, O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 1 & 3)

Prayer:

Thank you, our God, for the light of Christmas that is as eternal as you are. Thank you for all that we feel as we celebrate again the holiness of birth. May we let our Christ light shine for all to be warmed in its glow. May all know the power of their own sacred light burning within. Amen

Hymn: 75 VU, While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

The Colours of Christmas

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Hymn: 74 VU, What Child Is This (vs 1 & 3)

Father Christmas

Hymn: 58 VU, Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Reading:

Luke 2:1-14 *p. 58 (in the New Testament)*

Hymn: 38 VU, Angels We Have Heard on High

Choir Anthem: 'Peace Has Come Down Tonight'

Music by Don Besig

Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price

Evening comes and breezes are blowing;
stars shine down with heavenly light.

In a stable cattle are lowing.

Peace has come down to dwell in our hearts tonight.

Offering: We consider those who are visiting with us this morning to be our guests. As a guest, when the offering plate is passed by you, please do not feel obligated to place anything on it.

Prayer of Dedication: **On the first Christmas gifts were brought to the Holy One. Tonight we bring our gifts and offer them as well, to you, our God, and to serve many in need. May all be blessed by your generosity and ours. Amen**

On this Night, Know....

Candle lighting:

Hymn: Silent Night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright...

Shepherds quake, at the sight...

Son of God...

Silent Light

Joy to the World

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