

The Barrie Hill Congregation est. 1832

The Speedside Congregation est. 1845

Welcome to Christmas Eve worship with the congregations of the historic, rural Eramosa Pastoral Charge.

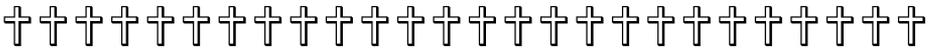
This Christmas Eve pre-recorded service is offered to you from the congregation, Worship Committee, and the Music Ministry of Barrie Hill United Church.

Thank you to all who contributed from the building, and from the safety of your own homes with recorded contributions. Bless you all!

A special thank you to Mary Meads, musicians, the choir, and all those who recorded music and voice to make a 2021 lessons and carols service a joyous reality for the community.



# December 24, 2021



## Recorded 7pm Service at Barrie Hill United Church

Lay Reader

Tim Card

Christmas Eve Candle Lighting

**Barrie Hill Music**

Mary Meads

**Guest Musicians from the Barrie Hill community**

Martha Amidon, Jean and Ted Kent, Mikayla Kent

Shirley McFarlane, Terry, Mark and Wesley Knierim, Judy

Parker, Bonny Parkinson, Lynn Parkinson, Raina Wright

**EPC Children's ministry**

Bethany Parkinson

**EPC Volunteer A/V Technicians**

Ron Hattle, Paul Knierm,

Wesley Knierim, Brian

Star, Jim Parker, Larry

Webb.

**Worship PowerPoints**

Dave Wright

\* Indicates an invitation to stand

***Bold*** indicates an invitation join in worship with your voice

God Gathers Us

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP AND ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Enter, with your vulnerabilities and with your whole self  
just as you are.

**We come seeking hope.**

*The first Advent candle is lit.*

Come, with your brokenness.

**We come seeking peace and healing.**

*The second Advent candle is lit.*

**Come, with your desire for new life.**

We come seeking joy.

*The third Advent candle is lit.*

Come, with your desire to love and to be beloved.

**We come seeking love.**

**We come to prepare the way of love.**

*The fourth Advent candle is lit.*

Come at God's invitation this night.

**We come to welcome the Christ child.**

Tonight, hope, peace, joy, and love  
are found in a manger and throughout the world.

*The Christ candle is lit.*

*(Advent Candle Lighting by Eric Hebert-Daly, Responsable des  
ministers en francais, L'Eglise Unie du Canada in  
Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, Year C, page 69.*

*Used with permission.)*

**Carol**            **O Come All Ye Faithful verses 1 and 4, 5**  
Shirley McFarlane & Martha Amidon

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem: Come and behold him, born the King of angels, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps, venite adoremus, venite adormus, venite adormus, Do minum

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; word of the Father, now in the flesh appearing: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord

**OPENING PRAYER - A BODY PRAYER**

Christmas Holy One (reach up and out)  
May the gift of Jesus (cradle arms)  
Be born in me (circle arms over chest)  
So that all might know (one arm at a time, circle out from body)  
God's hope (widen arms)  
God's peace (clasp hands over heart)  
God's joy (put hands toward centre, wiggle fingers)  
And God's love (open fingers over heart)  
Amen (head down, hands at prayer with palms together)  
*(from Advent unwrapped UCC 2021)*

**Carol**

**VU 64 O Little Town of Bethlehem** verses 1 and 4  
Judy Parker, Raina Wright & Bonny Parkinson

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 ever lasting light, the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Saying: **“May the peace of Christ be with you.”**

Or responding: **“And also with you.”**

Listening For God’s Word in the Christmas Story

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

God of light,

you have revealed your very self to us in your son Jesus Christ, your one Word made flesh, who lived among us, full of grace and truth. Open us to your revelation once again, that in the words of your holy scripture we might know your presence and follow in your light always.

Amen.

The people walk in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
on those living in the land of deep darkness  
a light has dawned.

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7

Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this.

**Carol VU 62 Once in Royal David's City verses 1 & 4**

Mary Meads

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where  
a mother laid a baby in a manger for his bed. Mary was  
that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own  
redeeming love, for that child who seemed so helpless is  
our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to  
the place where he is gone

**Lesson**

Luke 1:26-38 -

Joan McCulligh

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible

with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

**Carol VU 48 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing**

Mary Meads

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!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting  
Lord, late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgins  
womb. Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate  
deity, pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our  
Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing “Glory to the  
newborn King!”

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 us from the earth, born  
to give us second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

### The Birth of Jesus

**2** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

**3** And everyone went to their own town to register.

**4** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

### **Carol**

#### **VU 69 Away In a Manger**

Jean and Ted Kent

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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but the 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.

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.

**Reflection**

Rev. Lynn Hamilton

**Lesson**

Luke 2: 8–20

Mark Knierim

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned,

glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**Carol**            **VU 47 Still Still Still**  
Mary Meads

Still, still, still: the night is calm and still. The Christ child in his crib lies sleeping, angels round him watch are keeping. Still, still, still: the night is calm and still.

Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus, softly sleep, while Mary sings and gently holds you, safely in her arms enfolds you. Sleep, sleep, sleep: sweet Jesus softly sleep.

Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy! For through God's holy incarnation Christ is born for our salvation. Joy, joy, joy; glad tidings of great joy!

*We Respond to God*

OFFERTORY

DEDICATION OF OUR OFFERING VU 541

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures high and low;  
give thanks to God in love made known:  
Creator, Word, and Spirit, One.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**...Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil - for Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Carol            VU 59 Joy to The World** Mary Meads

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing,

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns; let all their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground: he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found,

He rules the earth 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, and wonders of his love.

*We Go in the Power of the Holy Spirit*

A Christmas Prayer and Blessing

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there, present in all times.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen.**

DEPARTING CAROL

**VU 67 Silent Night**

Terry, Mark & Wesley Knierim, Ted  
and Mikayla Kent, Lynn Parkinson

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.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing  
Hallelujah, Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour  
is born.

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.

POSTLUDE

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## *Christmas Eve Remembrance List*

- † Donald Campbell from the Campbell family
- † Mary McAninch from the McAninch Family
- † Edward Card and Blanche Norris remembered by Yvonne & Tim & Family
- † Evan "Bud" Bishop (2020) from wife Gloria, children Rick, Debbie, Jeff
- † Stan and Ella Parker
- † Fred and Susie Packer
- † Ted, Fran and George Cargo
- † Norman and Meryl Froom
- † Russell, Jean (Bessie), Barbara and Allen Campbell,
- † Norman, Ruth, and Bob Kent,
- † Louise Wilson/Kent
- † Jean Reid/Kent
- † Rien and Bev Veldhuis
- † David Norman
- † Rebecca A Parkinson
- † Peter Parkinson
- † Roy and Dorothy Skerritt
- † Warren Parkinson
- † Harold and Alberta Auger
- † Betty Quast
- † Bernice Dunk