



Christmas Eve 8:00 p.m.

We Gather Together

<u>Prelude</u>	Sherry Steele
<u>Welcome</u>	Rev. Valerie Oden
<u>Call to Worship</u>	Isaiah 9: 2, 6
One:	The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
<b>All:</b>	<b>Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them, light has shined.</b>
One:	For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders;
<b>All:</b>	<b>And he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Love, Prince of Peace.</b>
<u>*Opening Hymn</u>	<i>O Come All Ye Faithful</i> vss. 1, 3, 5 <b>VU 60</b>
<u>Opening Prayer</u>	<i>(in unison)</i> <b>God of mystery, You come to us this evening softly, as a mother's sigh, startling, as a newborn's cry.</b> <b>Come into our hearts, we pray, that we might be cradled in your love and stirred by your radiance.</b> <b>We pray in the name of the babe born to change the world, Amen</b>

We Share In the Christmas Story

<u>Hymn</u>	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i>	<b>VU 64</b>
<u>Reading</u>	Luke 2: 1-7	
<u>Hymn</u>	<i>Still, Still, Still</i>	<b>VU 47</b>
<u>Reading</u>	Luke 2: 8-12	
<u>Special Music</u>	<i>O Holy Night! Silent Night!</i> (arr. by Patricia Liebergen) Emily Bamforth and Fiona Bamforth	
<u>Reading</u>	Luke 2: 13-14	
<u>*Hymn</u>	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> vss. 1-3	<b>VU 38</b>
<u>Reading</u>	Luke 2: 15-16	
<u>Hymn</u>	<i>Away in a Manger</i>	<b>VU 69</b>

We Share in Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving:

One:	Glory to God in the highest!
<b>All:</b>	<b>And on earth, peace to all!</b>
One:	Lift up your hearts.
<b>All:</b>	<b>We lift them to God.</b>
One:	Let us give thanks to God.
<b>All:</b>	<b>It is good to give thanks and praise on this holy night.</b>

*The minister continues the prayer...*

One:	So tonight, we join with angels singing and shepherds rejoicing to proclaim your praise:
<b>All:</b>	<b>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might; Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!</b>

## Blessing the Elements

### Receiving the Elements

Music by Sherry Steele

*Please come forward down the centre aisle, receive a piece of bread and dip it in the cup then return to your seat by the outside aisle. Individual serving elements are also available. All are welcome at Christ's Table.*

## We Share the Light of Christ

### Sharing the Light

*Please hold your **lit candle upright** and allow your neighbor to tip their unlit candle. As we pass the candle light, we pass the light of Christ.*

### \*Hymn

*Silent Night (all verses)*

**VU 67**

Verse 2:

***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.***

Verse 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

*\*denotes you are invited to stand as you are able and inclined  
Thank you to Stephen, Fiona and Emily Bamforth  
for helping lead tonight's service.*

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***Thank you for joining us on this holy night.***

***Merry Christmas from the Staff and lay leaders  
of Riverbend United Church***