



FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Swift Current, SK

CHRISTMAS EVE
Saturday, December 24, 2017

Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Pianist/Organist: Mary Anderson



Come into our hearts, we pray,
that we might be cradled in your love
and stirred by your compassion.
We pray in the name of the One
whose coming we celebrate. Amen.
Adapted from: *Celebrate God's Presence*, page 114,

A QUIET CHAMBER

GATHERING

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Candles

Hymn: VU #6 **A Candle is Burning** (verse 5)
(please remain seated)

Call to Worship:

ONE: Tonight is a night of magic
and wonder.

**ALL: Tonight is a night of angelic choirs
and star-lit promise.**

ONE: Tonight is a night of hope
and anticipation.

**ALL: Tonight is a night of
expectation and renewal.**

ONE: Tonight is the night we celebrate
the birth of the baby Jesus.

ALL: Let us sing with thanksgiving and joy!

Adapted from Sudbury Ministers' Liturgy Writing Team, *Gathering*,
Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2006-2007, Pg 27.

Opening Hymn: VU #59 **"Joy to the World"** (verses 1,2 & 4)

Opening Prayer:

Holy Mystery,
you come to us this evening
as softly as a mother's sigh,
as startling as the cry of a newborn child.

"The Cold"

Hymn VU #55 **"In the Bleak Midwinter"** (vs. 1)
(please remain seated)

Scripture: **Isaiah 9:2b, 6-7a** - George Reaves

"Adult"

Hymn: VU #64 **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** (vs. 1)
(please remain seated)

Scripture: **Luke 2:1-5** - Mel Friesen

"The Pageant"

Hymn: VU #64 **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** (vs. 2)
(please remain seated)

Scripture: **Luke 2:6-7** - Kadence Pavely

"The Song"

Hymn: VU #69 **"Away in a Manger"**
(please stand as you are able)

Scripture: **Luke 2:8-14** - Pat Dyck Bunkosky

"The Chamber"

"A Quiet Chamber Kept for Thee" – written by Walter Wangerin, Jr.
from *The Manger is Empty*, pages 57-66.

RESPONSE

Gift of Music: Hallelujah - Mary Anderson & Marie Andrews
- words by Cloverton & Jessie Hanna & Janet Keene
music by Leonard Cohen

Offering

Hymn of Dedication: *(tune Good King Wenceslas)*

**Here our gifts we offer, God
thankful for your blessings.
Take them, Spirit, use them to
spread the Christmas message
that Christ comes to bring to us
life for all creation.
May our gifts help bring to all
love and transformation.**

- words by Sandra Jenkinson
(please stand as you are able)

Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God,
You have given us life
and have provided for all our needs.
We offer back to you only a portion of
what we have been given.
May our gifts this blessed night be used
to bring peace and love to your world.**

Adapted from: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - Whole People of God.

Prayers of the People & the Prayer of Jesus

Lighting the Candles

Commissioning & Benediction

Closing Hymn: VU #67 "Silent Night, Holy Night"
(please stand as you are able)

Postlude