



FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Swift Current, SK

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2023



Leading Worship: Rev. Annette Taylor
Pianist: Mary Anderson
Organist: Patti McCleary
Music Director: James McLauchlan

GATHERING

Welcome

Lighting of the Candles - Jackie and Sophia Ravino
Sung Response: VU #6 *A Candle is Burning* (verse 5)

Call to Worship

ONE: Why do we gather here,
on a night so beautifully dark and quiet?

ALL: To celebrate the birth of a child.

ONE: Who is the child that is born this night?

ALL: The One, the Christ, the God-with-Us.

ONE: Who are we, that we commemorate this birth?

**ALL: His sisters and brothers and siblings,
his followers and friends.**

ONE: Then, as family and friends,
let us come together,
to tell stories and sing songs,

ALL: to celebrate the presence of God!

Adapted from: Richard Bott gatheringworship.ca

Opening Hymn: VU #36 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*
(please stand as you are able)

Opening Prayer

ONE: In joy and hope,

ALL: we pray on this evening of mystery and delight.

Adapted from: Laura J. Turnbull gatheringworship.ca

DO YOU HAVE ROOM?

Introduction

Hymn: VU #64 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verse 1)

Scripture: Luke 2:1-5, 7b - Marie Andrews

The Innkeeper - Part One

Hymn: VU #64 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verse 2)

Scripture: Luke 2:6-7a - Jaevy Perrera

Hymn: VU #64 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (verses 3 & 4)

Scripture: Luke 2:8-16 - Sheldon Zacharias

The Innkeeper - Part Two

Hymn: VU #38 *Angels We Have Heard on High*
(please stand as you are able)

Scripture: Luke 2:17-20 - Judy Killaby

The Innkeeper - Part Three

Special Music: *When a Child is Born*

- sung by Jackie Ravino, Jennifer Demesa,

Joevy Perrera and Ruth Orola

written by Michael Holm,

English lyrics by Fred Jay

Do You Have Room? The Innkeepers Monologue

written by Evelyn McLachlan

<https://gatheringworship.ca/complete-service/do-you-have-room-innkeepers-monologue>

RESPONSE

Offering Invitation

Prayer of Dedication

Many gifts are shared this evening,
some hidden under shining trees
others tucked in socks and stockings.

Receive all the gifts
that are shared this night.

Bless gifts and givers.

Bless the act of giving.

Amen.

Adapted from: Kate Crawford, *Gathering* A/C/E 2016-2017, page 36.

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

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