

Welcome to St Timothy's

# CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT



The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God." (Luke 1:30)

**December 18, 2025**  
**In-Person & Online Service at 7:30pm**

## ADVENT PRAYER

Lord Jesus,  
Master of both the light and the darkness, send  
your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for  
Christmas.

We who have so much to do and seek quiet  
spaces to hear your voice each day,

We who are anxious over many things look  
forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways long for  
the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your  
presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness, yet  
seeking the light.

To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Amen.

- *Henri J.M. Nouwen*

*Prelude: 'Romance' from 'Fantasy Pieces, Op. 2'*  
(Carl Nielsen)

*(Please stand as you able)*

*Opening Carol:*                      **Once in Royal David's City**

*Solo*

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

*Choir*        He came down to earth from heaven  
                     who is God and Lord of all,  
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;  
                     With the poor and mean and lowly  
                     lived on earth our Saviour holy.

*All*            And through all his wondrous childhood  
                 he would honour and obey,  
                 Love and watch the lowly maiden  
                 in whose gentle arms he lay:  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love,  
For that child so dear and gentle  
is our Lord in heav'n above;  
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

**Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see him; but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars his children crowned  
all in white shall wait around.**

*(Irby 123)*

*(Please remain standing as you are able)*

### ***Opening Prayer***

*Presider:* Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe, creator of light and darkness. In this holy season, when the sun's light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of the night, you renew your promise to reveal among us the splendour of your glory, enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son. Through the prophets you teach us to hope for his reign of peace. Through the outpouring of his Spirit, you open our blindness to the glory of his presence.

Strengthen us in our weakness. Support us in our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to sing your praise.

***All:* Amen.**

### ***Opening Reflection***

*(please be seated)*

## *Children's Contribution:*

### **Away in a Manger**

#### ***Choir Carol:***

#### **The Wexford Carol**

Good people all, this Christmas time,  
consider well and bear in mind  
what our good God for us has done  
in sending His beloved Son.

With Mary holy we should pray,  
to God with love this Christmas Day;  
in Bethlehem upon that morn,  
there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
to whom God's angels did appear  
which put the shepherds in great fear.

"Prepare and go", the angels said,  
"to Bethlehem, be not afraid."  
For there you'll find, this happy morn  
a princely Babe, sweet Jesus, born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind,  
the shepherds went the babe to find,  
and as God's angel had foretold,  
they did our Saviour Christ behold.

Within a manger He was laid,  
and by his side the virgin maid  
attending on the Lord of Life  
who came on earth to end all strife.

With Mary holy we should pray,  
to God with love this Christmas Day;  
in Bethlehem upon that morn,  
there was a blessed Messiah born.

Sweet Jesus born, Messiah born.

*(Elaine Hagenberg)*

**Carol:                    O Come, All Ye Faithful**

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, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten not created:  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God in the highest:  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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

*(Adeste Fidelis 118)*

*First Reading from the Book of Isaiah*

**The Prophecy of the Messiah's Birth**

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —  
on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*Isaiah 9: 2, 6*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*Reader:* Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.  
*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

***Choir Carol:***

**For Unto Us a Child is Born (Messiah)**

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:  
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The  
mighty God,  
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

– *Isaiah 9:6*  
(G. F. Handel)

***Carol:***

**O Little Town of Bethlehem**

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 everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of  
wondering love.

Oh morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.  
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.

(*St. Louis 120*)



## *Second Reading from the Book of Micah*

### **A Promised Ruler from Bethlehem**

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,  
who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
from ancient days.  
Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
to the people of Israel.

*Micah 5: 2 - 3*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*Reader:* Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Choir Carol:**

**O Bethlehem**

O Bethlehem, how still you lie.  
Above your dreamless sleep silent stars go by.  
O Bethlehem, how dark the night.  
Within your shadowed streets shines the everlasting Light,  
the Light.

O Bethlehem, how silently He came.  
Greatest gift from heaven, without wealth or fame.  
O Bethlehem, how great your hope and fear.  
Lay to rest your wearied past,  
Your promised One is near. He is near.  
O Bethlehem, the heavens shone bright!  
In a field not far away, shepherds witnessed the sight.

O Bethlehem, how the angels sing!  
O hear them proclaim the birth of the King of kings.  
O Bethlehem, He's come to us.  
O Bethlehem, He abides with us.  
O Bethlehem, hear the angels tell  
how the great I AM has become Emmanuel.  
O Bethlehem.

*(Words adapt. from Phillips Brooks)*  
*(Christin Kieckhafer)*

### *Third Reading from the Gospel of Luke*

#### **The Angel Gabriel Announces the Good News**

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. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

*Luke 1: 26 - 35, 38*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*Reader:* Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Carol:*

## **The Angel Gabriel**

The Angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
'All hail,' said he, 'thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favoured lady.'

Gloria!

'For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be,  
all generations laud and honour thee,  
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold;  
most highly favoured lady.'

Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,  
'To me be as it pleaseth God,' she said,  
'My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name':  
most highly favoured lady.

Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born  
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,  
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say  
'Most highly favoured lady.'

Gloria!

*(Gabriel's Message)*

**Choir Carol:            O Magnum Mysterium**

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,  
jacentem in praeseptio!

Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare  
Dominum Christum.

Alleluia.

O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord,  
lying in a manger!

Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear  
Christ the Lord.

Alleluia!

*(Morten Lauridsen)*

## *Fourth Reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

### **The Birth of Jesus**

Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.'

*Matthew 1: 18b - 21*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*Reader:* Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Carol:*

**Go, Tell It On the Mountain**

*Refrain*

**Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.**

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

*Refrain*

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth!

*Refrain*

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

*Refrain*

*(Go, Tell It)*

*(Lucas Dubinski on clarinet)*

## *Fifth Reading from the Gospel of Luke*

### **The Shepherds Visit the Manger**

Joseph went from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to be registered with Mary. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them and said, 'Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

The shepherds went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

*Luke 2: selected verses*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**Reader:** Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**



**Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Choir Carol: Gloria**

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.  
Laudamus te. Benedicimus te.  
Adoramus te. Glorificamus te.  
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Glory be to God on high,  
and on earth peace, good will towards all.  
We praise thee. We bless thee.  
We worship thee. We glorify thee.  
We give thanks to thee for thy great glory.  
Glory be to God on high.

*(John Rutter)*

## *Sixth Reading from the Gospel of John*

### **The Mystery of the Incarnation**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The true light was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

*John 1: selected verses*

*Silence is kept for reflection*

*Reader:* Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### *Choir Carol:*

#### **Love Came Down at Christmas**

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, Love Divine,  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and Angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love Incarnate, Love Divine,  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine,  
Love to God and neighbour,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

- Christina Rossetti  
(Howard Helevey)

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### *Closing Prayers*

*Presider:* Let us pray.  
Keep watch, dear Lord,  
with those who wake, or watch, or weep this  
night,  
and give your angels charge over those who sleep.  
Tend the sick,  
give rest to the weary, sustain the dying,  
calm the suffering, and pity the distressed;  
all for your love's sake, O Christ our Redeemer.

*All:* Be present, O merciful God,  
and protect us through the silent hours of this  
night,  
so that we who are wearied by the changes and  
chances of this fleeting world,  
may rest upon your eternal changelessness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

*Presider:* As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

*All:* **Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as 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,**  
**for ever and ever. Amen.**

### *Blessing*

*Presider:* May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the  
shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the  
obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of  
the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the  
blessing of God, the Father, the Son and the  
Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

*All:* **Amen.**

***Closing Carol: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing***

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 virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate deity,  
Pleased as one of us 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 each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King."

*(Mendelssohn 138)*

## *The Dismissal*

**Presider:** As we await our coming Saviour, go in the peace of Christ.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Postlude:** 'Humoresque' from 'Fantasy Pieces, Op. 2'  
(Carl Nielsen)

---

## *Musical Guest - Beverly Wang*



A graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, Beverly has served as the Principal Oboe of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra since 2013, and is consistently recognized for her technical precision, rich tone, and expressive artistry. She has regularly been invited to perform as a guest oboist for major orchestras across North America including most recently, the Philadelphia Orchestra, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, and National Arts Centre Orchestra, among others. Beverly also appears frequently as a soloist with recent highlights including performances of Haydn's Sinfonia Concertante, Martinu's Concerto for Oboe and Orchestra, and Mozart's Oboe Concerto.

<https://www.bwoboe.com/>

# CHRISTMAS AT ST. TIMOTHY'S

A small, stylized illustration of a nativity scene is centered behind the text. It depicts the Virgin Mary, the infant Jesus in a manger, and several figures, including shepherds and angels, under a starry night sky. The illustration is rendered in a light, ethereal style with soft colors.

**December 21st** – **4th Sunday of Advent**  
Service of Holy Eucharist at  
10:00am

**December 24th** – **A Family Christmas Eve**  
at 4:30pm  
an intergenerational eucharist  
service and children's pageant

– **Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Eucharist** at 7:30pm

**December 25th** – **Christmas Day Eucharist**  
at 10:00am

**December 28th** – **1st Sunday of Christmas**  
Service of Holy Eucharist at  
10:00am