

GROWING, CARING, MAKING A DIFFERENCE



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
IN ELGIN AND PORTLAND

WWW.EPPC-UCC.COM

Ministers: All of God's People

Guest Preacher: Rev. Kathleen Walton

December 24, 2020 – 4 p.m. @ 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve

✦ indicates please stand in body or spirit

WE GATHER

Announcements

Acknowledging the Traditional Territory

Spiritual Focus:

A Gift in the Night

✦ Hymn: VU 44 "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"

WE APPROACH GOD

Call to Worship (from Isaiah 9: 2-7)

One: The people who walked in Darkness have seen a great light.

All: Light of God shine on us.

One: For God has built us up, and has given us cause to rejoice!

All: Light of Christ shine on us.

One: A child has been born for us – Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

All: Light of Christ, shine into our lives. Shine out into our world. Come let us worship together.

Hymn: VU 60 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Prayer of Approach (Together)

Mighty God, whose love is boundless, here we are, gathered in the dim light of a winter's night, ready to celebrate your birth into our world. Ready to rejoice in your presence and to praise the holiness of these timeless moments. With shepherds and angels, we come, even through the oppressions and separations of our times to kneel and adore. Hear the praise in our muffled voices and see the reflected glory in our adoring eyes and fill us with the assurance of your love and presence. In the name of the Christ Child we pray. Amen.

Hymn: VU 59 "Joy To The World"

Lighting the Christ Candle –

Emily and Claire French @ 4 p.m.

Cam McKay & Norma Cummings @ 7 p.m.

WE SEEK WISDOM

Readers: Hansen Downer 4 p.m.; Cam McKay 7 p.m.

Scripture Readings:

Psalm 96 (VU 816 Responsive)

VU 71: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Luke 2:1-7

VU 69: Away in a Manger

Luke 2:8-20

VU 58: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Word of Life: Rev. Kathleen Walton

"O Holy Night" Janet McKeage (recorded)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S GRACE

Sacrament of Communion

One: God be with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to God

One: Let us give thanks to God

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

.....
We hear the song of angels in this sharing of promise as the whole universe sings:

All: Holy, Holy, God of all power, holy, holy, God of might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the heights! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Blessed is the one who is God's Son!

...

Prayer following Communion (Together)

Life-giving God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Saviour's presence in the simplicity and splendour of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by the life of Christ that we may faithfully proclaim the Good News of your love and that your church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Acknowledging our Offerings to God

Offering Song: MV 191 "What Can I Do"

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Concerns of the People and the Lord's Prayer

GOD SENDS US INTO THE WORLD

✦ **Commissioning & Benediction**

✦ **Hymn: VU 67 "Silent Night"**

Announcements

In keeping with the Government of Ontario Guidelines for the lockdown that starts at 12:01 AM Boxing Day and continues for 28 days, there will be no Church Services during the month of January. The PUC Council will re-evaluate at the end of January to determine if the church will be opened for in person sermons and/or video church services. During that time, you will receive two alternative services to view in the comfort of your home through the EPPC News. Here is the wording from the Government of Ontario Lockdown Weddings, funerals and other religious rites, ceremonies and services can go ahead with a maximum of 10 people — indoors or outdoors — and only with physical distancing in place. Hansen Downer

As we move forward, please submit your announcements to Annette Clarke (office@eppc-ucc.com) by Wednesday at 4 PM to be included in the Sunday bulletin.

Elgin Portland Pastoral Charge

PO Box 251, Portland ON K0G 1V0

Web site: www.eppc-ucc.com

Church Office: (613) 272-2002

Office Hours: Wednesday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., & Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Secretary: Annette Clarke, E-mail: office@eppc-ucc.com

Chair of the Official Board: Cam McKay 613-284-0216

Church Council Chairs:

Elgin: Clint Halladay 613-359-5607

Portland: Hansen Downer 613-799-3440