

*A Warm Welcome to All Who Gather for Worship*

**Quispamsis United Church**

372 Hampton Road, Quispamsis NB E2E 4T8  
847-4924 (Study/Office) [www.quc.ca](http://www.quc.ca)

MINISTER Rev. Audrey Lounder

ORGANIST Pat Vincent

GREETERS Members of Session

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS Claire and Jamie Barefoot

**December 24, 2009, 11:00pm**

*Christmas Eve*

(Congregational responses are in bold type.)

**\*Please stand as you are able)**

Prelude: *Wachel Auf* (Krebs)

**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

Call to Worship:

The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
They lived in a land of shadows but now light is shining on them.  
They rejoice in what you have done, O God,  
for you have broken the yoke that burdened them  
and the rod that beat their shoulders.

A child is born to us!

**A child is given to us!**

**One who will be called Wonderful Counsellor!**

**Mighty God!**

**Eternal Father!**

**Prince of Peace!**

**One who will rule as King David's successor,  
with righteousness and justice,  
from now until the end of time.**

**CAROL:** #60 VU *O Come All Ye Faithful*

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**increase our love for one another,  
and send us forth into the world  
united in courage and peace,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;  
through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Sharing the Light of Christmas

\* Hymn: #67 VU *Silent Night, Holy Night*

**WE ARE SENT FORTH**

\* Commissioning

\* Choral Benediction

*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.*

\*\*Words: Phillips Brooks 1868. Music: Lewis Henry Redner 1868.

Postlude: *A Virgin Pure* (Nicholas LeBègue)

Prayer of Approach and Prayer of Jesus

**We approach this moment of joy, the light of new life before us. A powerless child lies at the centre. Shepherds gather from the fields of work. Wise ones approach with eyes fixed on the hovering star. The celebration begins! We too gather round, from all the earth and every nation, sharing the hope of Christmas. Joined by this infant with every race and culture – woman, man and child. Jesus Christ is with us and, born in every place, there is a promise of peace. Let us worship God. Amen.**

Carol: #64 VU *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Lighting the Advent Candles  
Advent Hymn



**Twilight then darkness, night falls and candles glow  
Gently surrounding us, a new birth of hope.**

**Watching, waiting, awakening a new birth of hope.**  
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Luke 2: 13-14  
The Angel Choir

**Prayer: God of all Creation, whose song the Angels sing on this holy Christmas Eve, may the song of your angels endure forever. May the peace which they foretold in the song sung to the shepherds so long ago come to be for all people always. Amen**

\* Carol: #47 VU *Still, Still, Still*

Invitation to Confession  
Prayer of Confession:

**O God of wonder in ordinary places,  
we wonder if we might have missed your coming,  
had we been there,  
with the stable too out of the way,  
the cradle too makeshift,**

**the animals too noisy,  
the shepherds too crude,  
the carpenter too rough,  
the mother too young,  
the night too dark and cold.  
We confess our preference  
for trumpets and hallelujah choirs,  
for cherub-cheeked children,  
for gift exchanges,  
and shopping day countdowns.  
Forgive us for not seeing you  
in out-of-the-way places and in unlikely people.  
In this season of darkness and light,  
hold us close. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon:**

Just as the Christ was born into our life, moving past all the barriers and traveling towards the people, so the love of God pursues us past our failings and guilts and brings us grace. On this day of all days, we are forgiven!  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

Prayer of Illumination

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7 (*A child has been born for us.*)

Music for Christmas: *In the Bleak Midwinter* (Darke)

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20 (*Jesus is born.*)

Meditation: *Christmas Angels*

\* Hymn: #38VU *Angels We Have Heard on High*

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Our Gifts to God: *The Holy Night* (Vail)

Dedication: # 37 VU

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!*

*Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.*

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!*

*Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Words: trad. liturgical setting. Music: Jacques Berthier, arr. Darryl Dixon 1987. Music copyright©1978, 1980, 1981 Les Presses de Taizé (France). Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications, Inc.\*\*

**Offertory Prayer:**

**The shepherds came that first night to see the newborn child, and offered their hearts in worship and praise. So we come bringing our gifts to you this day, Jesus Christ. Receive them and bless them in ways beyond our imagining and make your love real among those who are in need. Amen.**

**MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS:**

*O Holy Night* (Adolphe Adam)

Ruth Buckley



Invitation to Communion

Communion Hymn: #50 VU *He is Born*

The Great Thanksgiving

And so may the peace of the Christ Child be with you now and always.

**And also with you!**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them before God.**

Pour out your souls.

**It is a good thing to offer our adoration and praise.**

You have entered this place, O God,

and in your holy shadow,

...

For this humanity,

is waiting

for life.

**Holy, holy, holy God,**

**Power of life and love!**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory!**

**Hosanna through the ages!**

**Blest is the One who comes to bring your justice to earth!**

As we gather at this table,

...

And so we remember; and so we believe:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Holy God, our your Spirit on us,

...

all glory is yours, God most holy,  
now and forever.

Prayer of Jesus

Distribution of the Elements

Carols for Communion:

# 44 VU *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

# 75 VU *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*

# 71 VU – *'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime*

The Prayer after Communion

**We give thanks, Christmas God,**

**that you have refreshed us at your table**

**sending to us the child, Jesus Christ,**

**Send us the joy of celebration not only on this eve of Christmas**

**but on all days to follow**

