



# Eastminster United Church

December 24, 2015  
7pm-Christmas Eve

*\*Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

*"The stories we love best live in us forever." - J.K. Rowling*

## We Gather as God's People

Prelude

Words of Welcome

**\*Opening Hymn:**                      **VU#1**                      **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel st. 1, 2, 5, 7**

1. O come, O come, Immanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.

5. O come, O Key of David, come  
and open wide our heavenly home.  
Make safe for us the heavenward road  
and bar the way to death's abode. [R]

Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
shall come to you, O Israel.

7. O come, O King of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind.  
Bid all our sad divisions cease  
and be yourself our King of Peace. [R]

2. O come, O Wisdom from on high,  
who ordered all things mightily;  
to us the path of knowledge show  
and teach us in its ways to go. [R]  
Advent Candle Lighting

Opening Prayer

**As once you came in the hush of darkness,  
Still our hearts by the wonder of this night.  
Make us wise with the wisdom of a little one,  
That love might be born anew in us.  
Amen.**

The Peace Shared

**\*Hymn: VU#9 People, Look East**

1. People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

2. Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

3. Birds, though you long have ceased to  
build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen

God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the bird, is on the way.

4. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.



**We Listen for the Word of Hope**

***The Gift of Light***

Written & Directed by Jane Sanden



*During the pageant you are invited to join in singing the following hymns.  
Make sure you have a paper tag, a piece of yarn and a candle.*

**Hymn: VU#38 Angels We Have Heard on High st. 1,2**

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

Refrain:  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? [R]

**Hymn: VU#96 Will You Come and See the Light st. 1, 4 & 5**

1. Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.  
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.  
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

4. Will you join the hope, alight in a young girl's eyes,  
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?  
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

5. Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,  
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

**Hymn: VU#91 The First Noel st. 1, 2**

1. The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as  
they lay,  
in fields where they lay a-keeping their sheep  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

2. They looked up and saw a star,  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night. [R]

Refrain:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.

Children's Choir This Little Light of Mine

**Hymn: We Three Kings**

Soloist:  
Frankincense to offer have I.  
Incense owns a Deity nigh.  
Prayer and praising all men raising,  
Worship him, God on high.

Congregation:  
**O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

*As we reflect on the gift of frankincense, you are invited to share the gift of prayer.*

Soloist:  
Myrrh is mine: it's bitter perfume  
Breaths a life of gathering gloom.  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Congregation:  
**O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

*As we reflect on the gift of myrrh, you are invited to share and receive the gift of love.*

Soloist:  
Born a king on Bethlehem's plain,  
Gold I bring to crown him again,  
King forever, ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.

Congregation:  
**O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect Light.**

*As we reflect on the gift of gold, you are invited to share and receive generosity.*

**Hymn: VU#74 What Child is This st. 1, 3**

1. What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

Chorus:  
This, this is Christ, the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king to own Him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. [Chorus]

Invitation to the Offering

**Offering Hymn VU#7 Hope Is a Star**

1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,  
leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain:  
When God is a child  
there's joy in our song.  
The last shall be first  
and the weak shall be strong,  
and none shall be afraid.

2 Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
giving a promise of safety and worth. [R]

3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,  
telling the world that the Savior is born. [R]

4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart.  
Jesus has come and will never depart. [R]

*Please stand for the presentation of the offering.*

Dedication Prayer

## We Go Out to Be the People of God

### \*Closing Hymn VU#87 I Am the Light of the World

Refrain:

I am the Light of the World  
You people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love, You'll learn the mystery  
Of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled.  
When the star in the sky is gone.  
When the kings and the shepherds have found  
their way home.  
The work of Christmas is begun! [R]

2. To find the lost and lonely one,  
To heal that broken soul with love,  
To feed the hungry children with warmth and  
good food,  
To feel the earth below the sky above! [R]

3. To free the prisoner from his chains,  
To make the powerful care,  
To rebuild the nations with strength and  
goodwill,  
To see God's children everywhere! [R]

4. To bring hope to every task you do,  
To dance at a baby's new birth,  
To make music in an old person's heart,  
And sing to the colours of the earth! [R]

Blessing & Sending Forth



## Merry Christmas & Blessings in the New Year!

Join us in 2016 for Worship, Church School & Nursery on Sundays at 10:30am

### Join us for Candlelit Communion at 11:00pm tonight

Share in Communion by candlelight, with music to celebrate the awe and wonder of this night.

#### Grace for Christmas Dinner

We gather at this table as the shepherds gathered at the manger  
Bless the gifts of food and time shared.  
As we remember the first Christmas  
Sharing the gifts Jesus shared  
Bread, stories and love. Amen.

#### Upcoming Events

##### \* **Thurs. January 7 @ 6pm: Eastminster Refugee Sponsorship Meeting**

Come for a planning meeting to work on a congregational refugee sponsorship application. Members of the congregation and community are invited to attend.

##### \* **Newcomers and Seekers**

Coming in 2016! Join with others to explore life questions. A path to church membership. Starts January 26 at Eastminster. Led by: Rev. Sarah Miller and Rev. Robin Wardlaw.



~ CAST & CREW LIST ~

<b>Narrators:</b>	Abigail Thomson Nora Wiens- Farrelly Zoe Anum	<b>Director:</b>	Jane Sanden
<b>Congregation Leader:</b>	Sarah Miller	<b>Assistant Director:</b>	Jenn Thomson
<b>Wise One:</b>	Nathalie Strang	<b>Music Advisor:</b>	Hilary Seraph Donaldson
<b>Wise Two:</b>	Wilfred Storey	<b>Accompanist:</b>	Scott Pietrangelo
<b>Wise Three:</b>	Denise Bourcier	<b>Choral Section Leads:</b>	Michelle Suzanne, <i>soprano</i> , Dale Hildebrand, <i>bass</i> , Jeff Schissler, <i>tenor</i> , Joy Klopp, <i>alto</i>
<b>Angel:</b>	Violet Thomson	<b>Set Designer/Props Builder:</b>	Gord Falk
<b>Stars:</b>	Brenna McGinty Sophie Brathwaite Olivia Brathwaite Carena Childerhose Lucy Childerhose Isabel Childerhose	<b>Set Builder:</b>	Earl Groenewegen
<b>Shepherds:</b>	Gus Veenstra Luke Veenstra Chloe Blackburn	<b>Costume Builders:</b>	Bev Falk Leanne Reimer
<b>Sheep:</b>	Ella Bowman Hayden Bowman	<b>Lighting Designer:</b>	Bill Scott
<b>Mary:</b>	Maya Brathwaite	<b>Sound Engineer:</b>	Ferenc Szabo
		<b>Sound Operator:</b>	John Bowman
		<b>Backstage Crew:</b>	Isabelle Strang

**Special thanks to:** Adele Thomson, Rev. Sarah, Gerald Gordon, Eastminster's Awesome Custodians, Dale Hildebrand and many others!

## Our Staff

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<b>Soloists:</b> Michelle Suzanne - <i>soprano</i> , Andrew Hodwitz - <i>bass</i> , Jeff Schissler - <i>tenor</i> , Joy Klopp - <i>alto</i>		