



Eastminster United Church

December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Love

**Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

"Love doesn't just sit there, like a stone, it has to be made, like bread; remade all the time, made new."
Ursula K. Le Guin

We Gather as God's People

Prelude

Welcome

Jill Holroyd

*Opening Hymn VU #36 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Advent Candle Lighting

Adrian, Corrie, Pippa & Earnest So

One: As we gather today we remember Mary and Joseph,
 who travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, adapted from Laura Sauder

All: The city where Jesus was born, bringing peace and hope.

One: A city that today is bound up in conflict and divided by walls;

All: A city where many work for reconciliation, believing that love is stronger than hate.

One: Today we light this candle, a sign of love;

All: And remember all those who work for justice, peace and reconciliation in places like Bethlehem. Together may we show our support for this important and difficult work of creating a shelter of love and peace in Bethlehem and Aleppo, Standing Rock and Grassy Narrows.

Wreath Response Hamba nathi mkululu wethu
 South Africa; alternate text Andrew Donaldson

Zulu traditional,

Ha mba na thi mku lu lu we thu, ha na thi mku
 Come, walk with us, to Beth le hem town, come, walk with us, to

lu lu we thu. Mku lu lu, mku lu lu, mku lu lu we thu, mku
 Beth lehem town. We'll jour ney, we'll jour ney, to Beth le hem town, we'll

lu lu, mku lu lu, mku lu lu we thu.
 journey, we'll journey, to Beth le hem town.

Verse 2: **We bring good news, a story of joy / The story, the story, the story is true**

Opening Prayer

Advent God, the time of waiting is almost over. Whether we long for calm and quiet or festivity and celebration, you are with us. As we work for peace and justice, as we dare to hope, your love is born in all our hearts. Amen.

*The Peace Shared

*Hymn VU# 43 Go Tell it on the Mountain



What Happened Last Night?!



Written by Chris Wilson
Directed by Jane Sanden

During the pageant you are invited to join in singing the following hymns.

Hymn VU#64 v. 1&3 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn: VU#69 v. 1&2 Away in a Manger

Hymn We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
Following yonder star

Glorious now behold Him arise
King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia
Earth to heav'n replies

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

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

Hymn VU#59.v 1,2 &4 Joy to the World

Invitation to the Offering

Offering Hymn VU #58 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Please stand for the presentation of the offering.

Dedication Prayer

Prayers of the People

Mary Miller

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo
Toronto Southeast Presbytery: Parkwoods United Church
Eastminster Prayer Cycle: Out of the Cold Volunteers and Guests

*Closing Hymn VU #35 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

We Go Out to Be the People of God

*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude



~ CAST & CREW LIST ~

What Happened Last Night?! by Chris Wilson

INN KEEPER:	Max Moller
REPORTER:	Natasha Moller
GABRIEL:	Basel Daoud
MARY:	Nora Wiens- Farrelly
JOSEPH:	Denise Bourcier
CAESAR:	Abi Sardar
SOLDIER STEVE:	Isabelle Strang
WISEMAN 1:	Isabelle Strang
WISEMAN 2:	Sam Magnan
WISEMAN 3:	Henry Moller
SHEPHERD TAMMY:	Abigail Thomson
SHEPHERD DANIELLE:	Nathalie Strang
STAR:	Violet Thomson

Director: Jane Sanden

Stage Manager: Adele Thomson

Accompanist: Scott Pietrangelo

Choral Section Leads: Joy Klopp, Dale Hildebrand, Michelle Suzanne & Jeff Schissler

Set Builders: Gord Falk, Earl Groenewegen, Dennis Kehler

Sound: Ferenc Szabo & Jonathan Lin

Lighting: Chris Bennett

Make-up: Pat Roy

Thanks to all the other kids who showed up today to play angels, shepherds, and animals.

Special Thanks to: Sarah Miller, Eva Kolcze, Hilary Donaldson, Gerald Gordon, Anne Sanagan, Natalie, Coulter & the fabulous Eastminster custodians!

Today

* Welcome to Eastminster



Please sign the guest book in the Narthex and include your email address if you'd like to receive the weekly e-blast announcements from Eastminster. Prayer requests can be added to the Prayer book also in the Narthex. Children up to age 4 are welcome to visit the Nursery.

** REMINDER **

As we head into the holiday season this is a reminder to please not leave any items of value or your personal belongings unattended anywhere in the church.



Christmas Events!!

- * **TODAY - Sun. December 18 at 10.30 am: Christmas Pageant: What Happened Last Night?**
On Dec. 18 and Dec. 24, meet the sleepy shepherd's, too lazy to leave their field, an Inn Keeper who can't quite fit those stubborn duvets into their covers and the Wisemen who need a little help with last minute Christmas shopping. This year's very silly Christmas Pageant: 'What Happened Last Night?!' written by 3 time Canadian Comedy Award Winner, Chris Wilson!



* Christmas Trees for Sale!

From December 1-23, Sonny's Christmas trees will be for sale on the Jackman lawn.

Open from 10AM- 8PM

Proceeds go to Out of the Cold.

EASTMINSTER UNITED CHURCH

SONNY'S CHRISTMAS TREES

OPEN DAILY
DECEMBER 1-23
10AM - 8PM

PROCEEDS GO TO
OUT OF THE COLD

- * **Monday December 19 at 6:30pm: Eastminster Choir Concert at Chester Village**
- * **Tues. December 20 at 7pm: Blue Christmas**
Join us and other East End churches for a meditative service for those who have experienced loss or long for a moment of quiet in this busy season.
- * **Christmas Eve, December 24 at 7pm: Christmas Eve Pageant**
at 11pm: Candlelit Communion
- * **Sunday December 25 at 10:30am: Christmas Day!** Hear the story once more and bring your newly unwrapped toys to be blessed! Pajamas are most welcome!
- * **Sunday January 1 at 10:30am: New Year's Day!** Join us for a Lessons, Carols and Poetry service to welcome the New Year!

Community Events

- * **Syrian Welcome Dinners:**
The welcome dinners entail matching local residents in the GTA with a new Syrian individual, couple, or family over for dinner into their home. The dinners are not only about sharing a meal together and tasting local foods, but are designed to welcome newcomers to the city, and to learn about Canadian customs and culture in hopes that a long lasting relationship will develop and a sense of warmth and community is formed. Sign up to host a dinner at www.welcomedinners.ca
- * **Fri. December 30 from 7pm – 11pm: Concert at Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto**
The Mennonite New Life Centre of Toronto located at 1774 Queen St East, is hosting a Welcome Home Benefit Concert featuring local musicians and food provided by Newcomer Kitchen.

Announcements

- * **Holiday Church Closures** – Please note that the church will be closed on December 26, 27 and January 2nd
- * **Refreshments Volunteers Needed!**
Please sign up to bring refreshments after church for a Sunday or two this fall. Our custodian prepares the coffee and tea. You bring milk, cream, juice and cookies. The sign-up sheet is at the back!

Weekly Events

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| Mondays: | 1:00pm | Prayer Shawl Knitters - meet in Sarah's Office |
| Thursdays: | 6:00 - 6:45pm | Children's Choir – meet in the Parlour |
| | 7:30 - 9.30pm | Adult Choir - meet in the Sanctuary |

Staff

Rev. Sarah Miller sarah.bmiller@bellnet.ca Office: 416-463-2179 ex.100 Cell: 416-209-1181

Rev. Jane Brushey-Martin, Volunteer Associate Minister

Hilary Donaldson, Pastoral Musician music.eastminster@bellnet.ca

Scott Pietrangelo, Music Leader

Jane Sanden, Youth & Intergenerational Ministry janesanden@bellnet.ca 416-463-2179 ex. 102

Eva Kolcze, Church Office eastminster@bellnet.ca 416-463-2179 ex. 103

Gerald Gordon, Property Manager property.manager@bellnet.ca 416-463-2179 ex. 104

Alex Sinclair, Bookkeeper pmsinc@interlog.com 416-463-2179 ex. 105

Custodians: Jessica Aguiar, Joshua Somers, Jordana Kuhn

Soloists: Michelle Suzanne - soprano, Andrew Hodwitz - bass, Jeff Schissler - tenor, Joy Klopp - alto