

# St. Luke's Table

## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

### THE ABCs of CHRISTMAS

I bring you good news  
of a great joy which will come  
to all the people;  
for to you is born this day  
a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

*Luke 2.10–11*



# Good Afternoon and Welcome!

## Parish of St. Luke's Child Friendly Christmas Eve Service

Presiding:	Archbishop Ron Cutler
Licensed Lay Minister:	Clair MacInnis
Music:	Carol and Donnie Webb Amy, Jason, Mia and Nate Reid Emery Nelson
Projector:	Lyda Miller

Opening Hymn: The Wise May Bring Their Learning

**The wise may bring their learning  
The rich may bring their wealth  
And some may bring their greatness  
And some bring strength and health  
We too would bring our treasures  
To offer to the king  
We have no wealth or learning  
What shall we children bring**

**We'll bring him hearts that love him  
We'll bring him thankful praise  
And young souls meekly striving  
To walk in holy ways  
And these shall be the treasures  
We offer to the king  
And these are gifts that even  
The poorest child may bring**

**We'll bring the little duties  
We have to do each day  
We'll try our best to please him  
At home at school at play  
And better are these treasures  
To offer to our king  
Than richest gifts without them  
Yet these a child may bring**

Greeting:

This night the TRUE Light arrives

**This night, the light shines brightest.**

The Light of Peace has come.

**The Light of Hope has come.**

The Light of Joy has come.

**The Light of Love has come.**

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace.

Let us kindle the light of the Lord!



The Christ Candle is Lit

We will now share with you  
The Christmas Story,  
using the Alphabet and  
music!

*We are grateful for the inspiration to share  
the ABCs of Christmas, created by Erin Klassen,  
who is in Team Ministry at Deer Park United Church in Calgary, Alberta.*





**A** is for an **angel**, GABRIEL, who began the story with a greeting:

“Good Evening! You are beautiful with God’s beauty, beautiful inside and out! God be with you!”

*Luke 1: 28 The Message*

**B** is for **Bethlehem**, where our story takes place.  
People traveled from far and wide to arrive in the city.  
It was a very busy place.

**C** is for **census** (that's a counting of all the people)  
and the reason so many people filled the city  
of Bethlehem.

**D** is for **donkey** that carried a family on their long journey to Bethlehem to be counted.



**E** is for **exhausted**, that's how everyone felt when they arrived ~ tired from all the travelling.

**F** is for **family** (Mary, Joseph, and their new baby, Baby Jesus), who was born that night in Bethlehem.



Gradual 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.**

**G** is for **Good** News about to be shared with all the earth. This is what was said

Archbishop Ron proclaims the Gospel:  
Luke 2: 8-16

The Gospel of Christ.  
**Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

**H** is for **herds**, all the animals that were present in the stable, and the flocks of sheep in the field with the shepherds when they heard the Good News.



## Blessing of the Creche

**Loving God,  
we come before you in wonder and awe.  
We thank you for the miracle of Jesus' birth.  
Bless this scene we have prepared and let it  
remind us that Jesus is with us always. Amen.**

Carol: Joseph's Lullaby

**Go to sleep my son  
this manger for your bed  
you have a long road before you  
rest your little head.  
Can you feel the weight of your glory?  
Do you understand the price?  
Does the father guard your heart for now  
so that you can sleep tonight?**



**Go to sleep my son.  
Go and chase your dreams.  
This world can wait for one more moment  
go and sleep in peace.  
I believe the glory of heaven  
is lying in my arms tonight  
Lord, I ask that he, for just one moment,  
simply be my child.**

**Go to sleep my son.  
Baby close your eyes.  
Soon enough you'll save the day  
but for now dear child of mine  
O my Jesus sleep tight.**

*(Hum first line with concertina)*

**J** is for **joy**, the excitement and happiness that a new baby, and now this special night, brings.



**K** is for **kindness**, shown by the innkeeper that night, allowing a tired family to stay in the stable when there was no room in the Inn.

**L** is for **love** we share with one another all through the year and especially at Christmas.

Love Came Down at Christmas  
(Emery Nelson)



**M** is for **manger**. It is usually used to hold food for animals, but on this night it held the baby Jesus because he had no crib.



Carol: Away in a Manger

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus a-sleep on the hay.**

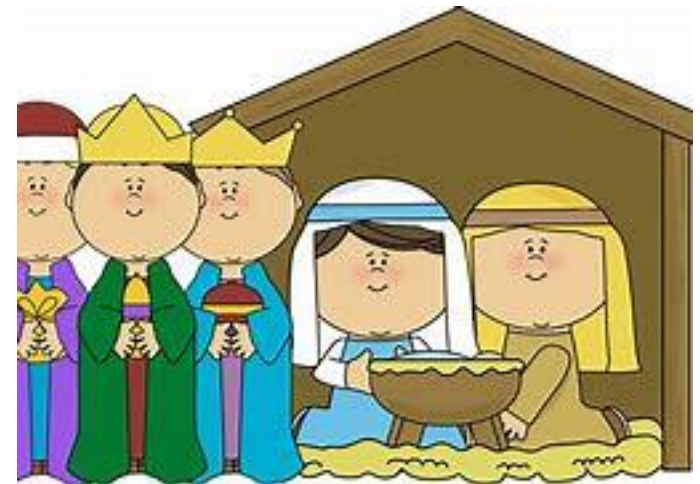
**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
the little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky  
and stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and take us to heaven to live with thee there.**

**N** is for **Noel**, another word for Christmas. It means new birth. That's what happened in our story, and it happens every year.

**O** is for offering. There were many gifts for the baby. We even have some to share now!

Carol: O Holy Night  
(Amy, Jason, Mia and Nate Reid)





Offertory Carol: What Child Is This?

**What Child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?**

**Whom angels greet with anthem sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.**

**This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

**This, this is Christ the king,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.**

**P** is for **prayer** and **praise** and **pondering**, all the different ways people reacted to the amazing thing that happened.

We **pray** and **praise** and **ponder** together the Prayer over the Gifts.

Prayer over the Gifts:

**Gracious God,  
we give thanks for your love made known to us  
in the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem:  
for Mary and Joseph, for angels who sang of his glory,  
and shepherds who knelt in adoration.  
May Jesus' birth bring light to all people  
and joy to the whole world. Amen.**



**Q** is for **quiet**, the deep peace that Christmas brings ~ knowing God is with us.

**R** is for **revelation**, God showing us who God is (in a little baby one night).



**S** is for one **special star** that shone bright in the night showing wise ones the way to Jesus.

**S** is also for **Shepherd**

Let's sing together,  
Rise Up Shepherd and Follow,  
which tells the story of a  
**Shepherd** and that **special star**.



## Rise Up Shepherd and Follow

**There's a star in the east on Christmas morn  
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**It'll lead to the place where the Saviour's born  
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**Follow, follow, rise up shepherd and follow.**

**Follow the star of Bethlehem  
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**Leave your sheep and leave your lambs  
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**Leave your ewes and leave your rams  
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**Follow, follow, rise up shepherd and follow.**

**Follow the star to Bethlehem  
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**If you take good heed of the angel's words  
rise up shepherd and follow.  
You'll forget your flocks  
you'll forget your herds  
rise up shepherd and follow.  
Follow, follow, rise up shepherd and follow.  
Follow the star of Bethlehem  
rise up shepherd and follow.**

**T** is for **trust**, the confidence we have in God.

**U** is for **unity**, all different people brought together tonight to celebrate God's love!

**V** is for vulnerable. A little child needs to be cared for, protected ~ that's our job.



**W** is for **wonder** ~ Our amazement at the beauty of how much God loves us.

**X** is for **Xmas**. The X is actually the symbol for Christ ~ It is the first letter of the Greek word.

**Y** is for **YOU**! All of YOU here to celebrate and worship.

**Z** is for **zeal**, the passion with which we share the Good News and God's Love, tonight.

## Confession and Absolution:

Please stand and as we say together,

**GOD, we have done things we should not have done  
and we have NOT done things we should have done.  
Forgive us, and help us to do what you want us to do,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

God forgives you. You are free to live in new ways.  
Rejoice that God guides you. **Amen.**



The PEACE of the Lord  
be always with you.

And also with you.

Carol:  
O Come Little Children



# Celebration of the Eucharist

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

GOD, you made us, and the world,  
and everything in it.  
All the good we see comes from you.  
You have always loved us  
but people have not always loved you.  
You sent Jesus to show us how to live  
and to bring us back to you again.

And so, with thanks,  
we praise you saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before he died,  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends.  
He took some bread and gave thanks to you, GOD.  
He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them.  
“This is my body,” he said,  
“Do this, and know that I am with you.”  
Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you.  
He shared it with them, and said: “This is my blood,  
which brings new life. Do this, and know  
that I am with you.”

Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine  
can be for us the body and blood of Jesus.  
Through this food give us strength to live as your people,  
caring for your world and for each other  
in the way that Jesus showed us.  
Blessing, honour, and glory be yours,  
here and everywhere, now and forever. **Amen.**



## The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, we are bold to pray

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth, as it is 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.**



## The Breaking of Bread

We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**God here among us,  
light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

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## Music During Communion:

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly  
When Mary Hugged  
Her Newborn Son  
Born in the Night



Journey to Bethlehem

## Prayer After Communion

**Heavenly GOD, may we who have been fed  
on your Word, and at your Table,  
always follow the Way of Jesus.  
Amen.**

## Blessing

Light of God: **guide our way;**

Joy of God: **fill our hearts;**

Peace of God: **change our lives.**

And the blessing of God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be with you now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Carol: Go Tell It On The Mountain

**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.**

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

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

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



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

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

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