

# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

## December 24, 2024

Organ prelude: O Little One Sweet

Bruce Nasmith

Words of Welcome & Lighting of The Christ Candle

**\*Carol: O come, all ye faithful**

**No. 159**

1. Oh come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
oh come ye, oh come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels:

**Refrain:**

**Oh come, let us adore him;  
oh come, let us adore him;  
oh come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

2. God of God, Light of light,  
born unto Mary, the virgin blest,  
very God, begotten, not created:  
**(Refrain)**

3. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks draw nigh with holy fear;  
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:  
**(Refrain)**

4. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above:  
'Glory to God in the highest!'  
**(Refrain)**

## Prayer of Approach & Confession

What shall we offer you, O Christ, on this the eve of your birth? It is for our sakes that you have revealed yourself to us in a human being.  
**Every creature made through you, offers you thanks.**

The angels offer a hymn;  
**the heavens, a star;**

the wise men, gifts;  
**the shepherds, their wonder;**

the earth, its cave;  
**the animals, the manger;**

and we, a human mother.  
**O God, who has given us your beloved Christ child,**

have mercy upon us and give us new life this Christmas.  
**Amen.**

May the Peace of Christ be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

Choir: Angel's Carol

John Rutter

Scripture Reading: Matthew 1: 18-25

Dr. Pam McCarroll

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will

bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ 22All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’ 24When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. Amen.

**\*Carol: What child is this**

**No. 161**

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?

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

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent word is pleading.

Nails, spear shall pierce him through,  
the cross be borne for me, for you.  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,  
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.  
Raise, raise the song on high;  
the virgin sings her lullaby.  
Joy, joy for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2: 13-23

<sup>13</sup> Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup> and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

<sup>16</sup> When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> “A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup> When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup> “Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup> Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup> There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that

what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

Solo: O Holy Night

Adolfs Adam, arr. D. Konovalov

*Soloist Shaun Alphonso*

Sermon:

SEEKING REFUGE

Dr. Harris

**\*Carol: Away in a manger**

**No. 149**

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

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.

Choir: This day the Christ is born

Jim Nasmith

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Intercession & The Lord's Prayer

“Away in a manger...”

We pray for those away from family:

**Those not at home due to work commitments; those who must travel this night; those who are in prison... (silence)**

**“No crib for a bed....”**

**We pray for those who have no home:**

**Those who have suffered because of floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, and fire; those who are living through the devastations caused by war, conflict and violence; those who must live on the streets and in alleyways without adequate food and clothing, for refugees the world over...(silence)**

**“The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head....”**

**We pray for those needing rest:**

**Those who are struggling to make ends meet; those who labour through the night so that we might rest; those who fear what lies ahead and have no rest; those who are protesting for greater justice, human rights and freedoms, struggling against tyrannical regimes and leaders; those who cannot sleep because of pain, loneliness or grief...(silence)**

**“The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay....”**

**We pray for the illumination of God’s revelation upon us all:**

**Upon those who have lost their faith; upon those who are uncertain about their future; upon those who need their confidence and hope restored; upon those who hold power in corporations, nations and our communities...(silence)**

**“The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.”**

**We pray for those whose labours are done:**

**Those who have departed from our midst, those who find rest in the assurance of God’s presence...(silence)**

For all these, O God, we offer our prayers to you. And we rest assured that you hear our prayers, through Christ our Lord who taught us to pray saying,

**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, forever. Amen.**

Lighting of Candles

**\*Carol: Silent night**

**No. 154**

1. Silent night! holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child,  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night! holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight:  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing 'Hallelujah,  
Christ, the Saviour is born! Christ, the Saviour is born!'

3. Silent night! holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**\*Carol: Hark! the herald angels sing**

**No. 139**

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King.

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!  
Hail the incarnate deity!  
Pleased on earth with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King.

3. Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild, he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise the lost of earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King

Benediction

**\*Threefold Amen**

Organ postlude: Fugue in G major (the Gigue Fugue)

J. S. Bach

*\*Remain seated if you are more comfortable*

Thank you for making Armour Heights a part of your  
Christmas traditions.

To contribute to the life and ministry of Armour  
Heights Presbyterian Church, please scan here:



## Coming Events

### **Sunday, December 29**

Special Christmas Service based on “The 12 Days of Christmas” Carol / Sacrament of Baptism

### **Sunday, January 5**

Epiphany Sunday

### **Sunday, January 12**

Baptism of Jesus Sunday – Dr. Carol Loudon

### **Friday, January 17**

PA Day Camp

### **Sunday, January 19**

Epiphany 2 Sunday  
Open Mic (more details coming soon)

### **Wednesday, January 22**

Ancient Prayer practice: *Lectio Divina*, 7:30pm

### **Friday, January 24**

Youth Group, 7-9pm

### **Sunday, January 26**

Epiphany 3 Sunday

### **Tuesday, January 28**

Book Club, “Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt, 7:30pm via zoom

### **Wednesday, January 29**

Winter Study begins: The Gospel of John, 7:30pm



#### **Armour Heights Presbyterian Church**

105 Wilson Avenue, Toronto M5M 2Z9  
Church: (416) 485-4000, [estone@armourheights.org](mailto:estone@armourheights.org)  
Website: [www.armourheights.org](http://www.armourheights.org)  
“Discover the vitality of faith”