



The heart in the heart of Huntsville



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast, are on the traditional territories of Indigenous people.

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Pastoral Care Coordinator: Judy White
Director of Music: Kyung-A Lee
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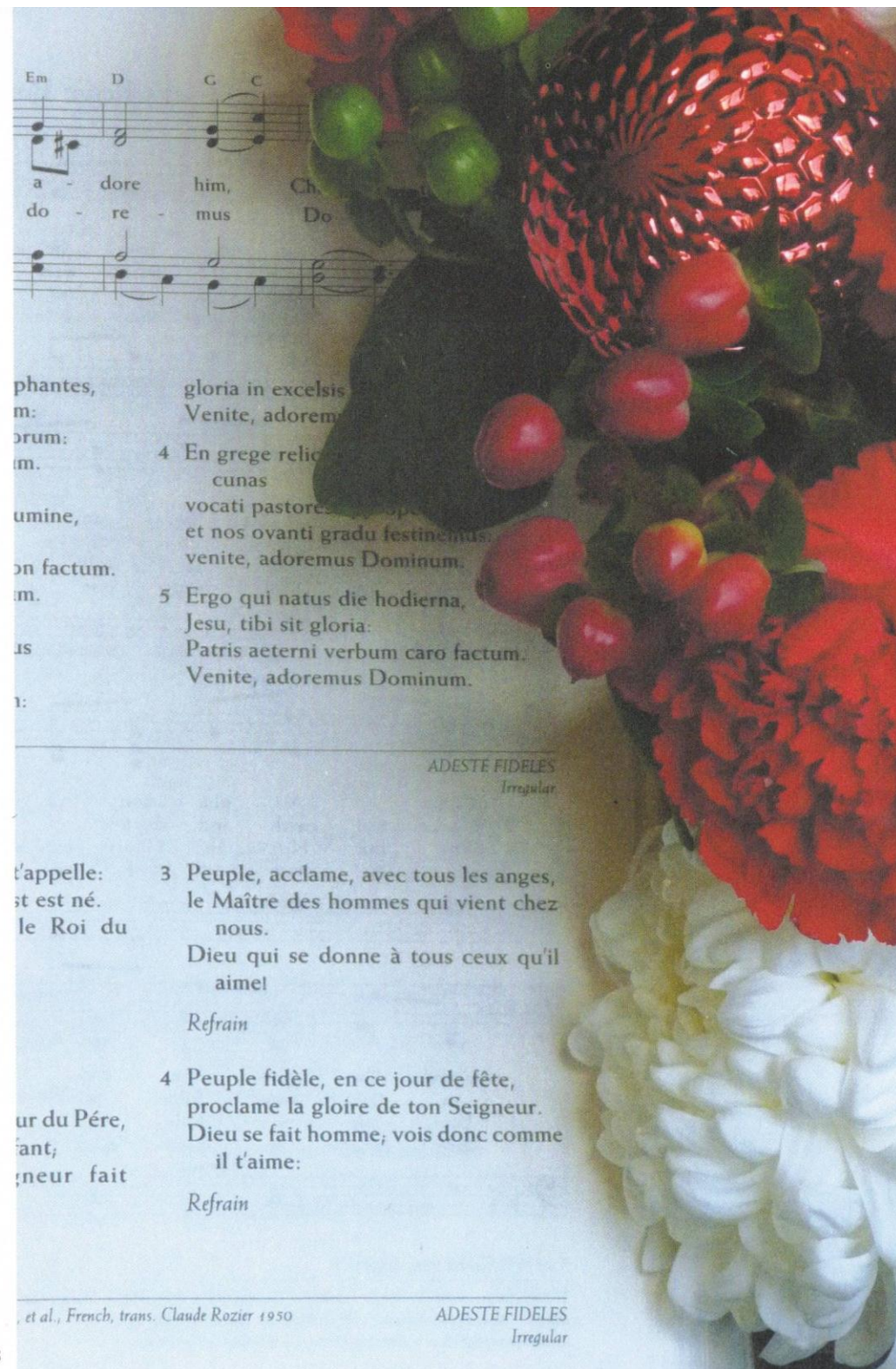
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Photo: The United Church of Canada



B18-48



Welcome to Trinity
The Heart in the Heart of Huntsville
Christmas Eve Family Service
December 24, 2025 – 5 pm

“Loving Hearts ... Open Minds ... Serving Hands”

*“The Christmas story reminds us that God is present
and active in us and our world.
That God-in-us is constantly calling us to hope,
peace, joy and love.”*

Instrumental Introit: “Sleigh Ride”

Greeting

One: God of the manger we come to follow the light of the world. The time has come to celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

**All: God, shine your light into our hearts so Christ may
be born anew in us this Holy Night.**

One: Now, let us join our hearts and voices in song and celebration on this Holy Night!

A Medley of Christmas Carols

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” (VU 60 - verses 1,3,5)

“Silent Night, Holy Night” (VU 67)

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain” (VU 43)

Call to Worship

One: Welcome everyone on this holiest of nights.
Welcome home! As Mary prepared herself to give birth to Jesus...

**All: Let us prepare ourselves to welcome new birth and
new possibilities into our own lives.**

One: As a child prepares to open that special gift on Christmas morning...

**All: let us prepare our hearts to receive once more the
wonder of God’s amazing love that came down that
first Christmas.**

One: God of wonder, God of light, fill us with wonder and mystery as we experience your loving presence with us now and into the Christmas season stretching before us.

**All: May the blessing of this Holy Eve touch the
deepest places of our being.**

Opening Hymn: “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy” (VU 73)

Opening Prayer

One: **God of stars and mangers, thank you for the gift
of our Prince of Peace. He offered people, he offers us
tonight, a new and different way of living our lives.
One that doesn’t require us to worship at the altars of
secularism. Help us to once again prepare our hearts
for the babe in Bethlehem. Prepare our hearts to
receive “the light of the world.” And may Christ be
born anew this night in our hearts and our actions of
hope and love. Amen.**

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

One: Tonight is one of the most anticipated nights of our entire year. It’s the night both young and old have been waiting for. Our Advent wreath will now be completed with the lighting of the Christ candle. Four candles are already lit, hope, peace, joy and love. These gifts manifest

in one candle we light tonight, the Christ candle. Jesus is the light of our world, a light that breaks through our darkness and gives us hope. May this flame remind us of Spirit's loving presence tonight and in the new year ahead.

Our Christ Candle is now lit.

Candle Lighters: Rick Wearing and Sandra Parrott

All: **We give thanks for Spirit's unique presence revealed in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus lived his life manifesting the hope, peace and love of God (whatever your understanding of God may be). His voice is still audible today for those whose hearts remain open and tender. Come, Jesus, be born anew in us this night, in our hearts, in our minds and in our lives. May your light shine through us into this troubled world. Amen.**

Hymn: "Christ's Love" (*tune of White Christmas*)

All: **I'm dreaming of a bright Christmas,
with every Advent flame that lights.
When our lives turn softly, toward the godly,
and we hear angels in the night**

**I'm dreaming of a bright Christmas,
that will remind us of the child.
Newborn in a manger, no more a stranger,
the One in who God's love has smiled!**

**I'm dreaming of a bright Christmas,
and now the Christ child's flames alight.
May these days be merry and bright.
May we live Christ's love with all our might.**

HEARING THE GOOD NEWS OF CHRISTMAS

New Testament Reading: Luke 2: 1-7

(Luke tells the story of Jesus' birth.)

Reader: Neil Thain

Hymn: "Away in A Manger" (VU 69)

(Joseph and Mary and baby Jesus walk slowly from the back of the church to the manger waiting for them at the front of the church.)

Second New Testament Reading: Luke 2: 8-16

(The Shepherds hear from the angels and go to Bethlehem where they find the newborn baby.)

Reader: Sheila Petch

Hymn: "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (VU 48)

(The angels appear (Anna and Isabelle Mueller) and make their way to the manger with the Holy family.)

Third New Testament Reading: John 1: 1-8

(The true light which enlightens everyone is coming into the world.)

Reader: Sue Hicks

Hymn: "A Light Is Gleaming" (VU 82)

Anthem: "Snow! A Winter Celebration" Trinity's Choir

A Brief Christmas Message: Rev. Diane Knowles

Our Christmas Offering Invitation

One: Christmas Spirit, as we hear again the Christmas story, rekindle in our souls the light of Christ. May this light inspire us to love unconditionally and to give generously. With the love of Christ in our hearts, even the

smallest of offerings are transformed into mighty miracles!
Let's be miracle makers this Christmas Eve!

Our Christmas gifts will now be received.

Offering Hymn: "God of Love" (*tune of Edelweiss*)

One: **God of love, hear our prayer,
bless this offering we bring you.
May our lives do your will, guide and guard us forever.
Give us the courage to stand for truth,
help us care for others.
God of love, hear our prayer,
bless this offering we bring you.**

Our Christmas Offering Prayer

All: **What a gift we have been given! The Christ child
born into this world as love itself! May these gifts
now bring love to those who feel rejected, friendship
to those who are alone and peace to those who are
struggling to cope with the overwhelm in their lives.
Use these gifts and us to make this world a gentler and
brighter place for all members of our grand human
family. Amen.**

Birthday Song and Cake Presentation

*Our Light Beamer leader, Jeannette, will lead the children with
their tea light candles over to the manger where the Holy
family and angels will rise and leave the church with the
children of the light following behind them.*

One: The light of the world has come. Now it's up to you
to shine Christ's light back out into our world in acts of
kindness, love and generosity. That's the true work of
Christmas all year long.

Closing Hymn: "Joy to the World" (VU 59)

Commissioning

One: Go in joy, go in peace, go in the light of Christ born for
us this night.

Christmas Eve Blessing

One: As you go into this holy night,
may the gentle light of the Christ child
shine upon your path
and warm your homes with peace.

May the song of angels echo in your hearts and
the courage of the shepherds guide your steps.

And may hope rise in you and love wrap around you like a
soft blanket.

Musical Recessional: "Joy To The World!" and
"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"

*"Tonight, we are celebrating the birth of Jesus,
but also that Divine Spark that glows within us
and through us into our hurting world."*

Wishing you the light of faith,
the warmth of home and the love of family
at Christmas time and always.
And may you be wrapped in the light
and love of this Holy season.

Christmas Blessings!
Rev. Diane and Family

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