

Sharing the bread and juice

One: The body of Christ, the Bread of life.

Many: The body of Christ, the Bread of life.

Worshippers eat.

One: The lifeblood of Christ, the cup of blessing.

Many: The lifeblood of Christ, the cup of blessing.

Worshippers drink.

Let us take a moment of silence to contemplate this holy mystery that is Emmanuel, God-With-Us.

Time of silence.

Prayer After Receiving

Many: God of shepherds and kings, you gather us by the light of the star of promise. You lead us not only to hope for the future, but to trust in your presence and renewal of life in every time and place. Guide us this night, by the light of that same star. Lead us to the manglers of this world, where uncertainty is met with the renewal life and the transformation of this world is most deeply felt in love, one with another. Be with us on this most wondrous of nights, we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offertory *O Holy Night* arr. J. Michael Case

Offering

Carole of Dedication

VU 74 *What Child Is This* (remained seated)

Prayer of Dedication (by Emily Perry, Kincardine U.C., Kinkardine, ON)

Carol: *Silent Night, Holy Night* **#239**
(Light your candles while we sing)

Benediction & Extinguishing the Candles (by Bob Root, Peterborough, ON)

One: And the blessing of God who came in frailty and humble circumstances, the blessing of God who can be found by looking at the night sky, the blessing of God whose Spirit moves among us and gives us life this day, this night, and always. Amen.

Benediction in Song: VU 64 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* (v. 1 & 4)

Postlude *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*
arr. Cindy Berry



Christmas Eve
8 pm
Communion

Glory
to God
in the
highest!

Order of Worship
God Invites Us to Gather

• *indicates standing for all who are able*

Prelude *In Dulci Jubilo* J.S. Bach

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle (written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Rugby and Leeds, North Dakota)

One: This one candle is powerful. Its fragile flame is worth great pomp and circumstance. This light heralds the coming of Christ. This candle's tiny glow declares the birth of our Saviour, Jesus, the Son of God. Amid the Christmas lights, their glitter and twinkle shines this light, a welcome to our God who came to earth for you and me.

Many: This one candle is powerful. It is the candle of Christ.

• **Carol VU44** *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Christmas Eve Prayer (adapted from prayer by Gail Corbett, Lakefield, ON)

One: Come, Lord Jesus, God Incarnate, be water to our thirst, food to our hunger.

Many: Come Emmanuel, bright star of David, illumine our path this Christmas.

One: Sweet Jesus, Light of lights, Radiant Sun and Moon and Stars, Depth of Sea, Keeper of the Eternal Hearth, Most Tender God, Prince of Peace,

Many: be with us this Christmas. Give peace to our paths. Give us songs for a sacred season.

One: O Bringer of Light, Counselor, Prince of Peace, Mighty God, we herald Your presence among us; with cherubim and seraphim, we fall down before You in wonder and awe.

Many: Then we jump for joy. We jump for joy. For in You, we live and move and have our being. In life's many seasons, be ever close, enfold us, Holy Christ Child, in Your heart forever. Amen.

Choir Anthem *Come to Us Now, Emmanuel*
Nancy Price, Don Besig

Prayer of Illumination Ken Boulton

Gospel Lesson *John 1:1-5, 10-14, 16-18* Ken Boulton

Message: *This Holy Mystery* Rev. Joe Hopkins

Song of Preparation

VU 473 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Holy Communion Service

(Prayers written by Rev. Andrew O'Neil, St. Paul's United Church, Riverview, NB) We will sing verses of **VU 55** *In the Bleak Midwinter* throughout these prayers.

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: God of all times and places...and we sing:

**Many: In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow; snow on snow.**

in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

One: We remember Jesus...and we sing:

**Many: Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

One: On that night...remember me."

**Many: Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.**

**Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.**

One: Come to us, life-giving Spirit of God...Hear our prayers, O God,

Many: and in your mercy, answer.

One: We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness revealed:

Many: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

**What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring
a lamb, if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give
him—give my heart.**