



ORDER OF SERVICE

**St. Matthew's United Church and Bloor Street United Church
Toronto**

Carols in a Minor Key / Blue Christmas
December 15, 2022
7.30 pm

Led by: Betsy Anderson, Russ Daye, Tina Edwards, Nancy Gordon,
Beatrice Kabagenyi, and Michael Perkins

Music Director: Mikey Zahorak
ZOOM-host: Brad Antle

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Tina

WORDS OF WELCOME

Tina

OPENING PRAYER

Russ

CAROL 55 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Words: Christina Georgina Rossetti. Music: Gustav Theodor Holst.

In the bleak mid-winter
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 mid-winter
Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

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.

LIGHTING CANDLES IN THE ADVENT WREATH

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

There's a Light

Emmylou Harris, sung by Diane

There's a light, there's a light in the darkness
And the black of the night cannot harm us

We can trust not to fear for our comfort is near
There's a light, there's a light in the darkness

It will rain it will rain in the desert
In the cracks of the plain there's a treasure
Like the thirst of the seed we will await we believe
It will rain it will rain in the desert

We will fly we will fly we will let go
To this world we will die but our hearts know
We'll see more on that side when the door opens wide
We will fly we will fly we will fly we will fly
We will all go

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Beatrice

Hear these descriptions of the one who comes at Christmas, first from the prophet

Isaiah 9

For unto us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

And from Isaiah 43

Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him,
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.
He will not quarrel or cry out;
no one will hear his voice in the streets.
A bruised reed he will not break,

and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,
till he leads justice to victory.
In his name everyone will put their hope.

And from Matthew 11

‘Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For
my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.’

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Mikey

READING

Betsy

Darkness is where incarnation begins. The gorgeous texts of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany shimmer with the light that God brings into our midst, as in the prologue to John’s Gospel: The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it (John 1:5). Yet if we lean too quickly toward the light, we miss seeing one of the greatest gifts this season has to offer us: that the deepest darkness is the place where God comes to us. In the womb, in the night, in the dreaming; when we are lost, when our world has come undone, when we cannot see the next step on the path; in all the darkness that attends our life, whether hopeful darkness or horrendous, God meets us. God’s first priority is not to do away with the dark but to be present to us in it. I will give you the treasures of darkness, God says in Isaiah 45:3, and riches hidden in secret places. For the Christ who was born two millennia ago, for the Christ who seeks to be born in us this day, the darkness is where incarnation begins.

Jan Richardson

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

River

Joni Mitchell, sung by Emily

It's coming on Christmas
They're cutting down trees
They're putting up reindeer
And singing songs of joy and peace

Oh I wish I had a river I could skate away on

But it don't snow here

It stays pretty green

I'm going to make a lot of money

Then I'm going to quit this crazy scene

I wish I had a river I could skate away on

I wish I had a river so long

I would teach my feet to fly

Whoa I wish I had a river I could skate away on

I made my baby cry

He tried hard to help me

You know, he put me at ease

And he loved me so naughty

Made me weak in the knees

Oh, I wish I had a river I could skate away on

I'm so hard to handle

I'm selfish and I'm sad

Now I've gone and lost the best baby

That I ever had

Oh I wish I had a river I could skate away on

I wish I had a river so long

I would teach my feet to fly

Oh I wish I had a river

I could skate away on

I made my baby say goodbye

It's coming on Christmas

They're cutting down trees

They're putting up reindeer

Singing songs of joy and peace

I wish I had a river I could skate away on

CANDLE LIGHTING

Nancy

Let us, at this time, light candles representing a heartfelt hope or sorrow, for yourself, or in honour of a loved one.

As you light your candle at home, you may put the name in the Zoom chat (or say the name aloud if you're on the phone), and we will light corresponding tapers in the church candle holder.

IONA CHANT VU 19 *Kindle a Flame*

Kindle a flame to lighten the dark
and take all fear away.

CLOSING PRAYER

Russ

O come, Emmanuel, come to us,
for we are lonely for God.

Come, bring the peace of God-with-us.

O come, Wisdom from on high,
**lead us in the ways of knowledge,
and show us the paths of peace.**

Glorious Shoot from the Jesse tree,
**come and bring life,
fresh and green and lovely, to our spirits.**

O Rose which blooms in the snow of winter,
come and grant to us the blessed gift of hope.

O Bright Morning Star of the darkened world,
come and be for us the Light, the Truth, and the Way.

Jesus our Christ, we welcome you.

**Come and be known among us,
for we want to be your people. Amen.**

BLESSING

Betsy

CAROL VU 67 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

Words: Joseph Mohr, English trans. John Freeman young. Music: Franz Xavier Grüber.

Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night
Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven above
Heavenly, hosts sing Hallelujah.
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

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.

Christmas at St. Matthew's and Bloor Street:

Fourth Sunday of Advent	December 20 th at 10.30 am
Christmas Eve Candlelight	December 24 th at 7.30 pm
Christmas Day	December 25 th on Bloor Street United Church's YouTube channel only at 10.30 am
1 st Sunday after Christmas	January 1 st at 10.30 am

All are welcome.

We wish you all the blessings of Christmas

and a very happy New Year.