

ANTHEM *(as we share candlelight with each other)* O Holy Night!

*Arr. Adolphe Adam
Soloist: Edgar Ramirez*

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining. Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, the night when Christ was born; O night, O Holy Night, O night divine! O night, O Holy Night, O night divine!

HYMN Silent night *(seated)*

Stille Nacht (67)

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

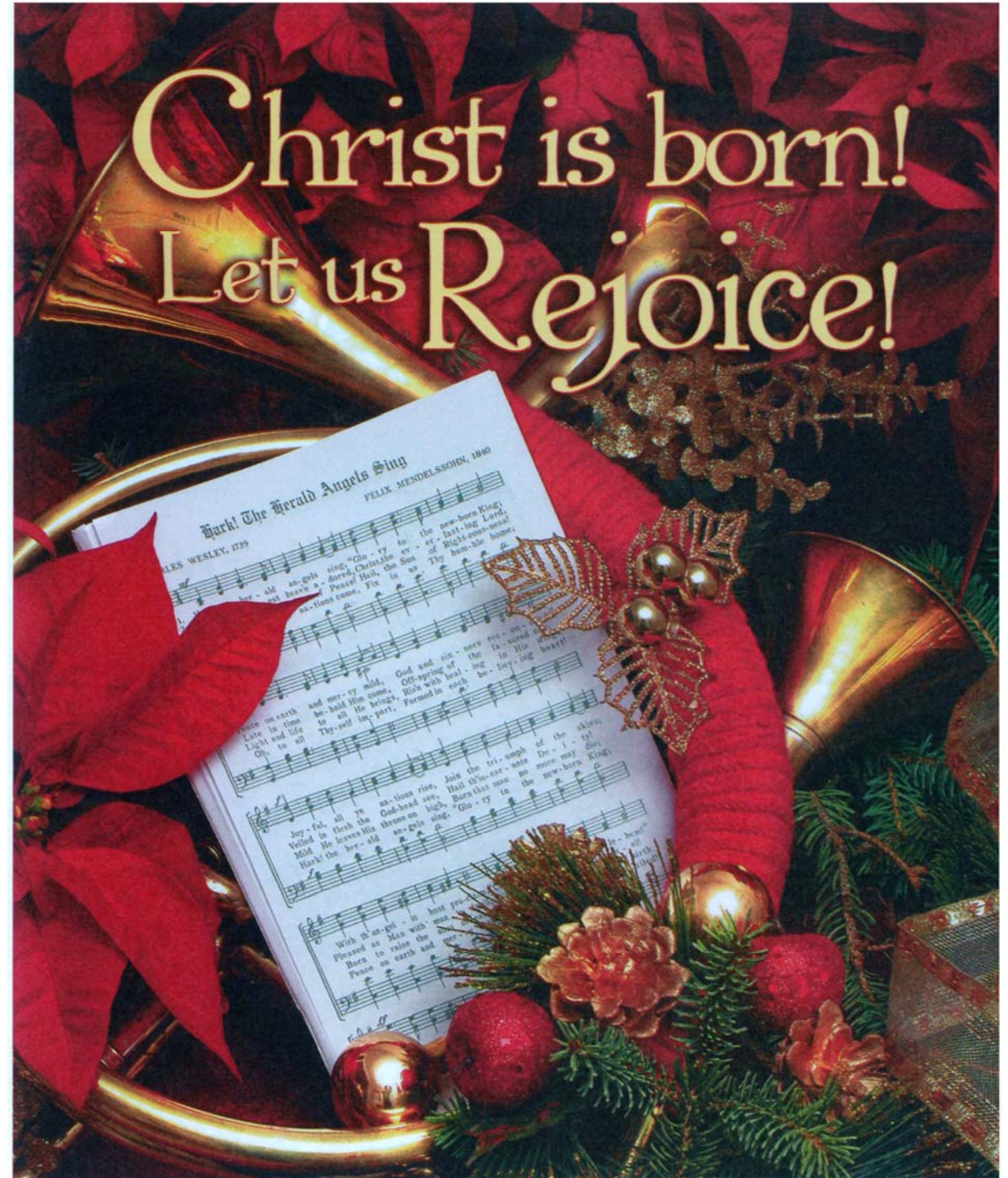
BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE Grand Fantasia on 'Joy to the World'

Marc Cheban

Participating in this evening's services: Doug McWhirter (coordinating greeter); Michael Brown, Julie Brown, Sam Brown, Grace Brown, Thomas Brown (greeters and candle lighting 8 pm); Margot Blevins (reader 8 pm); Connie Capes-Leslie, Barbara White (liturgists 8 pm); Bob Anglin, Marg Anglin, Gail Carson, Kathy Fletcher, Richard Fletcher, Doug Reid, Walter Wells (greeters 10 pm); Chris Bee, Joanne Bee (candle lighting 10 pm); Kelsey Hyodo (reader 10 pm); Nicholas Coates, Deborah Hart (liturgists 10 pm); Don Parsons (preacher 8 pm, 10 pm); Samantha Denham (sound); Fred Graham and the Choir.

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Welcome to our Christmas Visitors

We are very pleased that you have chosen to spend this Christmas Eve with us at Eglinton St. George's United Church. Some of you are returning to your church "home" for this holiday, while others may be joining us for the first time. Please know that you are all very welcome here, and if you live in Toronto, we hope you will return to join us throughout the year. Our Activity Guide for January and February, found at the Welcome Desk, details the many activities and opportunities for worship that will take place within this vibrant church community.

This year, we welcome the congregation of Bedford Park United Church and the leadership of their minister, Barbara White, at the 8:00 p.m. service. We are also grateful for the participation of Nick Coates, our Youth Minister, at the 5:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. services.

Our faith and our worship here at ESG inevitably lead us to seek out opportunities to make a difference in our world, especially at this time of year when we are reminded of the good news of Christmas – the birth of Jesus, God's gift to us. As we accept and embrace this gift, may we too be transformed by the joy of giving. Throughout this evening, many from our congregation will welcome 150 guests at the Out of the Cold program for dinner, located at Blythwood Road Baptist Church. Thank you to the team who is assisting with this meal.

We, on behalf of the Governing Council and Staff, wish you all a very happy Christmas and blessings for the coming New Year.

Doug Reid, *Chair, Governing Council*
Connie Capes-Leslie, Deborah Hart and Don Parsons, *Ministers*
Fred Graham, *Interim Director of Music*
Debbie Bozzi, *Director of Administration*

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND OUR WORK

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Shepherd's Pipe Carol

Rutter

Going through the hills on a night all starry on the way to Bethlehem, far away I heard a shepherd piping. Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King is come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying cradled there at Bethlehem." "Tell me, shepherd boy, piping tunes so merrily, who will hear your tunes on the hills so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?" "None may hear my pipes on those hills so lonely, but a King will hear me play sweet lullabies when I get to Bethlehem." Angels in the sky came down from on high, hovered o'er the manger where the babe was lying cradled in the arms of his mother Mary, sleeping now at Bethlehem. "Where is this new King, shepherd boy, piping merrily, is he here at Bethlehem?" "I will find him soon by the star shining brightly in the sky o'er Bethlehem." Angels in the sky brought this message nigh: "Dance and sing for joy that Christ the newborn King is come to bring us peace on earth, and he's lying in a manger there at Bethlehem." "May I come with you, shepherd boy, piping merrily? Come with you to Bethlehem? Pay my homage too, at the new King's cradle; is it far to Bethlehem?" Angels in the sky sing for joy that "Christ is born this night on lowly stable yonder, born for you at Bethlehem."

DOXOLOGY (*The congregation stands as able for the presentation of the offering.*) *The First Nowell*

**Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense.**

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

**Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRISTMAS (*The congregation may be seated.*)

In the beginning was the Word;
and the Word was with God; and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him,
and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life,
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

in Baie Comeau and Botswana.

**A son is given in Wetaskiwin and Welland,
in Tokyo and Taizé.**

The future of the whole earth
is placed upon the shoulders of a daughter
in Tuktoyaktuk and Toronto,
in Glasgow and Glace Bay.

**And the place of their birth is called
Vermilion and Vera Cruz,
Managua and Maple Ridge.**

An angel of the Lord appears in the night sky
over Rankin Inlet, saying,

**This shall be the sign: you will find the baby
wrapped in cast-off flannel,
lying on a bed of straw near Kindersley.**

And several hours north, just this side of Englehart,
while northern lights dance across the midnight sky,
a newborn is sleeping in its mother's arms
on the shoulder of the highway where their car broke down.

**For unto us,
in all the places of their birth,
is born a child.
And nativity is given every name.**

HYMN 40 Before the marvel of this night* *Marvel*
*(*Someone challenged Jaroslav Vajda to write a poem about what happened at the 'dress rehearsal' of
the angels, and what God said to them prior to their descent to earth on Christmas Eve.
The text of this hymn is the result.)*

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.**

EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH

December 24th, 2011 8 pm and 10 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

*The congregation is invited to join in responses which are **bold**.*

OPENING DOORS

PRELUDE Suite on 'In Dulci Jubilo' *Denis Bédard*

WORDS OF PREPARATION Luke 2: 1-7

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 60 O come, all ye faithful *Adeste Fideles*

CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION *(Please remain standing, as you are able.)*

God be with you.

And also with you.

Friends, hear the good news:

For to you is born this night, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to all!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE *(The congregation may be seated.)*

We have been waiting through the season of Advent -
preparing for the hope, peace, joy and love of God
to come alive for us in the birth of Jesus.

Now the time of waiting is over.

Our journey has brought us to the Bethlehem barn.

We light the Advent candles which have been
for us "signposts" for our pilgrimage:
the candle of hope...*(the first candle is lit)*
the candle of peace...*(the second candle is lit)*
the candle of joy...*(the third candle is lit)*
and the candle of love...*(the fourth candle is lit)*

These candles remind us that the God of hope,
peace, joy, and love is with us always.

**We now light the Christ candle,
the sign of Christ's presence alive in our midst.**

(the Christ candle is lit)

We know the story.
We have heard it many times before.
As we gather this holiest of nights,
we pray that the story will enter our hearts in new ways,
and expect that Jesus will enter our lives
and our world in new ways,
bringing the change - the hope, peace, joy, and love -
for which we long...
Jesus - Emmanuel - God with us.
Let us not be afraid.
This good news is for all the earth!

Let us pray:
**God of light and love,
thank you for the gift of this night:
Emmanuel - God with us
light and love among us. Amen.**

HYMN

Moon Beams (VU 7)

**Christ is our Hope, our Joy, and our Peace;
Love without measure that never shall cease.
When God is a Child, there's joy in our song,
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
And none shall be afraid.**

(Text by Lydia Pedersen)

WELCOME

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

(We are invited to share signs of Peace with those around us.)

OPENING MINDS

ANTHEM Creator of the starry skies

Malcolm Archer

Creator of the Stars of Night, thy people's everlasting light; Jesus, Redeemer save us all, and bear thy servants when they call. Thou camest, bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to eventide, proceeding from a virgin shrine, the Son of Man yet all divine. At thy great name, exalted now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow, and things in heav'n and earth shall own that thou art Lord and King alone. To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, Laud, honour, might and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 9: 2-7

This is the witness of God's people.
Thanks be to God.

CHRISTMAS GOSPEL Luke 2: 8-20

The Gospel of Jesus Christ.
Praise to you, O Christ.

ANTHEM On this day earth shall ring

C. Hylton Stewart

On this day, earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Son, Christ the King. Born on earth to save us, Him the Father gave us: Ideo, Gloria in excelsis Deo. His the doom, ours the mirth, when He came down to earth, Bethlehem saw His birth. Ox and ass beside Him from the cold would hide Him. God's bright star, o'er his head, wise men three to Him led, kneel they low by His bed, lay their gifts before Him, praise Him and adore Him. Gloria in excelsis Deo! On this day, angels sing, with their song earth shall ring praising Christ, heaven's King. Born on earth to save us, peace and love He gave us. Ideo! Gloria in excelsis Deo! *(Words from Old Swedish)*

SERMON

What's a God like you, doing in a place like this?

HYMN 59

Joy to the world

Antioch

OPENING HEARTS

CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION

We believe in God who created the universe in darkness,
and continually makes all things new.
**Darkness is a womb in which
the mysterious birthing work of God is accomplished.**

We believe in Jesus the Christ who was born in the deep of night,
and became Light for us, and for all the world.
**Christ gives light to
God's realm of justice and peace on Earth.**

We believe in the Spirit,
who moves in all that lives and breathes.
**Through the energy of the Spirit, re-creation is a Holy gift,
and love's promises are fulfilled.**

For unto us this night is born a Child
in Attawapiskat and Amherstburg,