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*Did you know that Eglinton St. George's has amazing programs for children and youth?*



On Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. check out the **Church School** program for children in the Upper West Wing (infants - grade 6) and **'The Underground' Youth Group** in the Youth Room (grade 7 and up). Social events and outreach opportunities for youth are held throughout the year on Friday or Saturday evenings. Please feel welcome to join us each week!

Visit our table today in the Narthex for more information. Contacts: Connie Drossos, *CE Administrator*, [connied@esgunited.org](mailto:connied@esgunited.org) (Church School), Nick Coates, *Youth Leader* [nicker.coates@gmail.com](mailto:nicker.coates@gmail.com) (The Underground).

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HYMN 69      Away in a manger (*verse 1*)

*Cradle Song*

The Angels Sing  
The Shepherds Search  
God's Gift

HYMN 69      Away in a manger (*verses 2, 3*)

*Cradle Song*

*(Children and parents return to their seats during the final verse.)*

### OPENING HEARTS

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND WORK

SOLO      The Birthday of a King

*W.H. Niedlinger*

*In the little village of Bethlehem, there lay a child one day; and the sky was bright with a holy light, o'er the place where Jesus lay: Alleluia! O how the angels sang, alleluia! How it rang. And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'twas the birthday of a King. 'Twas a humble birth-place, but oh! how much God gave to us that day; from the manger bed, what a path has led, what a perfect holy way. Alleluia! O how the angels sang, Alleluia! How it rang. And the sky was bright with a holy light, 'twas the birthday of a King.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

THE ARRIVAL OF ST. NICHOLAS

HYMN      A song for St. Nicholas

*Away in a Manger (6)*

**The saint now is coming, we all sing with cheer.  
A day of rejoicing, his message is clear.  
We love you, St. Nich'las, your praises we sing,  
awaiting the good news this glad season brings.  
Strong winds of December, the cold in the air;  
good children be ready: nice presents he bears.  
The old and the young, all his coming await,  
the only true Santa, O please, don't be late!**



**EGLINTON ST. GEORGE'S UNITED CHURCH**  
35 Lytton Blvd., Toronto

**December 24, 2011 5:00 pm**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

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

### OPENING DOORS

PRELUDE      Organ Preludes on Christmas Carols

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOLO      Born in the night, Mary's child

*Geoffrey Ainger, 1964*

*Born in the night, Mary's Child, a long way from your home, coming in need, Mary's Child, born in a borrowed room. Clear shining light, Mary's Child, your face lights up our way; light of the world, Mary's Child, dawn on our darkened day. Truth of our life, Mary's Child, you tell me God is good; yes, it is true, Mary's Child, shown on your cross of wood. Hope of the world, Mary's Child, you're coming soon to reign; saviour of all, Mary's Child, walk in our streets again.*

GREETING

Welcome to God's house.

**God's word comes alive this night  
in the birth of Jesus.**

God's love comes to us this night  
in the birth of Jesus.

**God's light shines on us this night  
in the birth of Jesus.**

Let us worship this God of love and light,  
for God loves us all!

HYMN 48      Hark! The herald angels sing

*Mendelssohn*

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OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:

**God of stable, stars and surprises,  
of light, hope, peace and new life:  
open our eyes and hearts  
to your miracle in the world.  
Open us to your love and grace,  
that we might hear again  
the message of the angels,  
and respond with a song in our hearts,  
and in our lives. Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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 journey:

the candle of hope                   *(light the first candle)*  
the candle of peace               *(light the second candle)*  
the candle of joy                   *(light the third candle)*  
and the candle of love           *(light the fourth candle)*

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.**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

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 -

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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)*

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(The congregation is invited to share signs of peace with their neighbours.)*

**OPENING MINDS**

**THE STORY OF CHRISTMAS**  
based on readings from Isaiah and Luke

HYMN 73

The virgin Mary had a baby boy

*The Virgin Mary*

*(During the final verse of the hymn, young people are invited to come to the chancel steps for the story -  
children 8 years of age and under, please bring an adult with you.)*

The Messiah is Predicted

The Long Road to Bethlehem

Love Made Known