



## **Gathering Music**

### **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

### **Candle Lighting**

**Story:** It Came upon the Midnight Clear

**\*Hymn:** It Came upon the Midnight Clear VU 44

**Children's Time:** The Twelve Days of Christmas

**Song:** The Twelve Days of Christmas Verses 1-5, 12  
*See page 5 for words*

**Scripture Reading:** Luke 2:22-32 Laurie Nicholl Hall

**Story:** What Child Is This

**\*Hymn:** What Child Is This VU 74

## **The Life and Work of the Church**

### **Offertory**

#### **Prayer of Dedication:**

**In the gifts of word and song,  
we hear the story of your gift of life,  
and we offer what we can of ourselves.  
May our words become witness,  
and our witness become work,  
giving life to your people, and our world. Amen.**

**Story:** Good King Wenceslas

**\*Hymn:** Good King Wenceslas *See page 6 for words*

## **Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern:**

As you have drawn us to your cradle of wondrous love, O God,  
draw us together in this place,  
that we might pray for your people and your world.

**Today, we give you thanks**

**for the gift of your child, Jesus Christ,  
who in birth, life, death, and resurrection revealed  
your unending love for all people and opened to us  
the purpose and promise of life together.**

We give thanks also for the gifts of this season:

hope for the vision of justice you promise,

**even in the midst of despair;**

for peace within and among your people,

**even in the midst of conflict;**

joy found in reunion and celebration,

**even amid the challenges of this life;**

and love, with the power to transform and heal all things,

**even in the midst of brokenness.**

We pray for those who still long for these, your gifts,

God of Love:

for those who will spend this season alone or anxious...

for those who grieve an empty place at the table this year...

for those who are ill, in body or in spirit...

for those in hospital and in care...

for those who endure the terror of conflict and oppression...

for those who will go hungry this day,

and who long for the simplest of creation's gifts...

**for your people and your world, we pray, O God.**

Let us listen to the angels' song again,

**your song of love for this world.**

Move us to return that song in what we say and do,

**that we may be instruments of your hope and peace  
and joy and love.**

We pray these things in the name of Jesus,

who became the Christ, and who taught us when we pray

to say together, Our Father...

### **\*Commissioning and Benediction:**

When the carols have been stilled,  
When the star-topped tree is taken down,  
When family and friends are gone home,  
When we are back to our schedules,  
The work of Christmas begins:

**To welcome the refugee,  
To heal a broken planet,  
To feed the hungry,  
To build bridges of trust, not walls of fear,  
To share our gifts,  
To seek justice and peace for all people,  
To bring Christ's light to the world.**

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world!"  
**Let us embrace that light, let us be that light,  
in God's world and in Christ's name.**

### **\*Sung Response:**

We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year!  
Good tidings we bring to you and your kin,  
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### **Postlude**

#### **Upcoming Services and Events**

<https://www.rideaupark.ca/news-events/calendar-of-events/>

The church will re-open January 2 at 1pm. Rev. Jim will be available should an emergency occur.

Sun, Jan 11	Cluster Service at Emmanuel United <i>Service will be in-person and online</i>	10am
Sun, Jan 18	Sunday School returns	10am

**rideaupark.ca**  
**info@rideaupark.ca**



**Rideau Park  
United Church**

## The Twelve Days of Christmas:

Verses 1-5 and 12

- 1 On the first day of Christmas,  
my true love sent to me  
A partridge in a pear tree.
- 2 On the second day of Christmas,  
my true love sent to me  
Two turtle doves,  
And a partridge in a pear tree.
- 3 On the third day of Christmas,  
my true love sent to me  
Three French hens,  
Two turtle doves,  
And a partridge in a pear tree.
- 4 On the fourth day of Christmas,  
my true love sent to me  
Four calling birds,  
Three French hens,  
Two turtle doves,  
And a partridge in a pear tree.
- 5 On the fifth day of Christmas,  
my true love sent to me  
Five gold rings,  
Four calling birds,  
Three French hens,  
Two turtle doves,  
And a partridge in a pear tree.
- 12 On the twelfth day of Christmas,  
my true love sent to me  
Twelve drummers drumming,  
Eleven pipers piping,  
Ten lords a-leaping,  
Nine ladies dancing,  
Eight maids a-milking,  
Seven swans a-swimming,  
Six geese a-laying,  
Five gold rings,  
Four calling birds,  
Three French hens,  
Two turtle doves,  
And a partridge in a pear tree!

## Good King Wenceslas:

All

**Group 1**

*Group 2*

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,  
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.  
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,  
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.

***“Hither, page, and stand by me, if you know it, telling, Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?”***

*“Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,  
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain.”*

***“Bring me food and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,  
You and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.”***

Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,  
Through the cold wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

*“Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,  
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.”*

***Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,  
You shall find the winter's rage freeze your blood less coldly.”***

In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;  
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.  
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, while God's gifts possessing,  
You who now will bless the poor shall yourselves find blessing.