

***Sung Response:** A Candle is Burning VU 6 verse 5
We honour Messiah with Christ-candle's flame,
our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night,
as God comes among us, the Christian's true light.

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8-14 ("A Charlie Brown Christmas") Victoria Bailey

***Hymn:** Angels We Have Heard on High VU 38

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:15-16

Music: Away in a Manger / Jingle Bells Cherub Choir

Music: Christmas is Here, Sing Noël / Calypso: Lullaby Joyful Noise

The Christmas Story

Scripture Reading: *Adapted from Isaiah 9:7*

To us ...

a child is born!

To us ...

a son is given!

His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,

Mighty God,

Everlasting Father,

Prince of Peace.

Hymn: The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy VU 73

A Christmas Eve Prayer: Billy Tong

Gracious God:

for children who wait excitedly for the morning, **we pray joy;**

for children separated from those they love, **we pray comfort;**

for children in hospital, **we pray healing;**

for children in places of violence, **we pray safety;**

for children who are hungry, **we pray sustenance.**

Jesus, child of hope and light of the world;

for all children, **we pray new blessings,**

this Christmas and always. Amen.

Music: Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas Rebecca Sheik, Sue Perkins

Prayer:

**Jesus, as we celebrate Your birth,
we look forward with hope to the year ahead.
We don't know what it will bring,
but we trust that You will be with us each step of the way. May the joy and
wonder of Christmas
stick with us beyond this night,
reminding us that You are Emmanuel, God with us. Amen**

Offertory

Prayer of Dedication:

**God, you gave us the gift of yourself,
wrapped up in the form of a tiny child.
Now we offer our gifts,
and pray that they may be used
to bless all your children. Amen**

***Hymn:** Il est né (He Is Born) VU 50

Prayer: Prière de Noël VU 51

Message: The Christmas Song

Commissioning and Benediction: The gift of Christmas

Loving God, thank you for the gift of Christmas.
It doesn't come wrapped like other presents,
it's deeper and warmer and brighter.
It is more personal, more challenging, more beautiful.
It is a mystery, a birth, a hope.
Thank you.

**Help us to receive Christmas in our hearts
and to share it with others.
In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain VU 43

Postlude