

Preston Mennonite Church

*Being transformed by and extending God's love
through worship, hospitality and service*

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Pastor: Claire Osinkosky

Song Leader: Margaret Martin Accompanist: Dianne Winkler

Special Music: Muriel Bechtel & Marg Martin

Christmas Eve Carols & Candlelight:

To YOU –

Good News of Great Joy!

PRELUDE

ENTERING THE MYSTERY

Welcome

Hymn: HWB 197 “Angels we have heard”

Call to worship

Leader: Starlight and song
have once again summoned us
home to the stable.

**ALL: And so,
with the beasts of the field
and the humble and the high
we have come to gaze
on the face of God.**

Leader: Starlight and story
have once again drawn us
home to the manger.

**ALL: And here, through words worn
smooth with telling, and gifts
given life through sharing,
may we once again see and
know you,
Emmanuel—God with us and
for us.**

Celebrate New Birth: STS 131

Hymn: HWB 209 "Oh, how joyfully"

Opening prayer

Leader: Christmas Child, as we wait now
for you, steal softly into our lives.

**ALL: Still our restless bodies
with the quiet of your coming.**

Leader: Christmas Child, as we look now
for you, steal softly into our minds.

**ALL: Transfigure our dull thinking
with the colours of your seeing.**

Leader: Christmas Child, as we long now
for you, steal softly into our
hearts.

**ALL: Enrich our meager loving
with the warmth of your being.**

Leader: Christmas Child,
as at Bethlehem's stable,

**ALL: Steal softly in among us now
and heal us and wash us
with your Presence.**

Leader: Christmas Child,

Special music: "How far is it to Bethlehem?"

Lighting the Christ candle

Hymn: HWB 190 "Twas in the moon of
wintertime"

Young people's time: "The Christmas Story"

Hymn: Praise 186 "Away in a manger"

ENGAGING THE MYSTERY

Gospel reading: Luke 2:1-20

The Good News: "To US"

CELEBRATING THE MYSTERY

Hymn: HWB 195 "It came upon a midnight
clear, verses 1 & 5"

Passing the Christ light

*Reminder: For safety, always **keep the lit
candle UPRIGHT** and let your neighbour light
theirs from yours!*

Hymn: "Silent Night" (see back page)

Extinguish your candle.

Passing the Peace—with your eyes and your
words!

Sending

Leader: The starlight and song and story
which call us home,
now compel us to go out.

**ALL: May we who have knelt at the
 manger always have room
 to hold within ourselves
 the Christmas Child.
 May we who have gazed on the
 face of God learn to live fully
 and to share freely
 all that we have and are.
 So may Emmanuel—God with
 us and for us—be born once
 again, incarnated in the world.**

POSTLUDE

CREDITS: Call to worship (adapted), Opening prayer (adapted), Sending (adapted)—
The Feast of the Christ Child by Pat Bennett, Wild Goose Publications;
Lighting the Christ candle, Passing the Christ light—*Seasons of the Spirit*
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SILENT NIGHT

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,
Heav'nly host sing, "Alleluia!
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.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing,
"Alleluia" to our King,
"Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born."