

SAINT LUKE'S UNITED CHURCH

House of Friendship

December 17, 2017 Carol Service 10:30 a.m.

⁹In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. (Isaiah 40:1)

PLACING OURSELVES BEFORE THE WONDER OF GOD

Hymn Sing Praise Team

♪ **Hymn** VU 79 (t: 383) "Arise, your light is come" **Evelyn/Rosa**

Call to Worship (Psalm 139:7-10) David Hallman

ONE: You come to us, alive and present in that Word clothed in human flesh, so we might hear those songs about forgiveness, echoing with joy.

ALL: You come to us, Shepherd, feeding us with your peace, so we might go out and offer the bread of hope to all the lost.

ONE: You come to us, Spirit of comfort, welcoming us into the reign, where righteousness is our best friend, where justice lives right next door.

ALL: Come, let us worship God. (Season of the Spirit)

Prayer of Approach (standing) David Hallman

Advent 3: Joy

(The wreath's circular shape reminds us God's love ever ends. The evergreen branches remind us that in God there is life and growth. The purple candles represent gifts we receive from Christ: Hope, Joy, Peace and Love.)

MV 221 I Am Walking a Path of Peace (while people are coming up)

Nestor: In a distressing and despairing world,

All: we are called to share God's joy,

Edith: a joy that cannot be purchased or packaged,

All: a joy that is ... (silence)

Nestor and Edith: Grant us the courage to share this joy,

All: as we proclaim the joy of the world, God-with-us, Emmanuel.

Nestor and Edith: May this gift of a candle's defiant flame remind us of God's gift of Joy!

(Light the third Advent candle.)

All: Amen!

Sung Response *MV 221 I Am Walking a Path of Peace* **Evelyn/Rosa**
I am walking a path of love (x3)

Lead me home, lead me home.

(United Church)

Announcement and Sharing Gifts

Friends, what a gift we are going to have. Unto us a child is given and his name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting God, Prince of Peace. Can there be any other response but thankfulness? Let our thankfulness spill over into generously!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Anthropology of Christmas Day

Prelude: Once In Royal David's City (VU 62, v 1)

The Shepherds (Luke 2:8-20) Peter Kopplin
♪ **Carol 75** While Shepherds Watched Their Flock (vs 1-3)

The Animals (Luke 2:7,8) Rosemarie Agustin
♪ **Carol 56** Jesus, Our Brother (vv 1-3)

The Angels (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:8-15) Kathleen Angers
♪ **Carol 36** Angels, From the Realms of Glory (vv 1-2)/
Or Choir

The Innkeeper (Luke 2:7) Rhoda Carbonell
♪ **Carol 69** Away In a Manger (vv 1-2)

The Magi (Matthew 2:1-12) Nestor Agustin
♪ **Carol**

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts, we traverse far
Field and fountain
Moor and mountain
Following yonder star

Oh, star of wonder, star of might
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading
Still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Born a babe on Bethlehem's plain
Gold we bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign (refrain)

(During the hymn, the offering are brought front)

The Holy Family

♪ **Carol 74** What Child Is This?
Or Hernandez, Camerino, Panganiban family

Lighting of the Christ Candles

Ruth and Cipriano Coniega

Christmas Prayer

Rev. Hoon Kim

♪ Carol 62

Once In Royal David's City

Commissioning and Benediction**Postlude** **Praise Team**

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Welcome to Saint Luke's, the House of Friendship, where all are welcome regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, differing abilities, or economic circumstances.

Please sign the Guest Book in the Narthex and join the congregation for a time of fellowship after the service.

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Check this schedule each week.

Service	December 10	December 17	December 24
Ushers	Bob Keel Volunteers needed	Adeline Asencio Melba Atayde	Volunteers needed
Counters	Olga Semple Edna Lisondra	Julie Atayde Eva Palecpec	Gordon Winch Rose Marie Agustin
Presiders	Melba Atayde	David Hallman	Youth and Sunday school

Readers please check this schedule each week.

Date	Readers	Scripture Lessons
Dec 24 Adv 4	Pageant	Luke 1:26–38 Luke 1:47–55
Dec 31	Terry Burrows Doug Mills	Mark 1:1–8 Isaiah 40:1–11
Jan 7	Avi Camerino Andrew Macpherson	Mark 1:4–11 Acts 19:1–7
Jan 14		John 1:43–51 1 Samuel 3:1–10, (11–20)

Next Week**Scripture Lessons for December 24 (Advent 4)****Isaiah 9:2–7** A child has been born for us.**Psalm 96** Sing to God a new song.**Titus 2:11–14** Live a godly, upright life.**Luke 2:1–14, (15–20)** Jesus' birth.

Tuesday Study Group On The Old Testament by Christine Hayes at Yale (cf. <http://oyc.yale.edu/religious-studies/rfst-145>)

Today**Pastoral Prayer of this week:**

Those in need of your prayers:

Adeline Asencio, Ruben Flores, Anita Dorotheo, Marion Mallette.

Froilan and Yuki Ocampo; Carmen, David, Hannah and Manuel Pokala (The Pastoral Care Committee will put names for you to remember in your prayers. Please speak to Olga Semple, Rev. Hoon Kim or the church office)

Autumn at a Glance

Rev. Hoon Kim delivers daily devotional, TeleHope, to you on internet and/or hand phone. Give him your e-mail address and/or hand phone number.

December 17 Advent III: Christmas Carol Service

Pot Luck Christmas Dinner

24 Advent IV: Christmas Eve Service with Pageant

31 Andrew Macpherson will speak (The Births of Jesus)

Musicians for November and December

Evelyn Camerino

Rosa Lim

David Hallman

Minutes for Missions**A Chaplain and Church Planter**

Our gifts for Mission & Service have supported training for ministers and building churches. Let us hear the story of one man who made a huge difference in many lives!

The Rev. Dr. Waldo Edward Lovel Smith was a United Church minister, author, navy chaplain, professor, and church planter who is remembered fondly by former students, veterans, ministers, and parishioners. The ripples of his commitment can be felt today.

During World War 2, Waldo was granted a leave from his pastoral charge in Grafton, Ontario, to serve as chaplain in the 1st Canadian Armoured Brigade in Canada, England, and Italy. He was awarded the Military Cross for rescuing John Matheson in 1943 while serving in Italy. Waldo carried John from where he lay on the ground to a field hospital. John Matheson is the man who helped Canada choose the flag design we love today.

After the war, while teaching at Queen's Theological College, Waldo used support grants to create many churches in the developing communities around Kingston, Ontario. One that is still a thriving congregation today is St. Andrew's By-The-Lake United Church. Waldo formed the congregation in a nearby school in 1951. With support from the Missionary and Maintenance Fund (now Mission & Service), the church was created in its current location with student minister leadership until 1957, when it called its first full-time ordained minister.

We sing thanksgiving for the giving hearts of those who have answered the call to chaplaincy.

If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

When we celebrate a child's birthday, people bring presents for the honoree. Why is it that when we celebrate the birthday of Jesus – Christmas Day – most people expect presents for themselves and not for the honoree?

I would suggest that this Christmas we bring a present or two to Jesus. What I am thinking as presents will not cost a dime, but it is a gift that Jesus will truly welcome and love. I suggest that each member of our church bring a playmate, classmate, friend, co-worker, neighbor or family member to church for the first time as a Christmas present to Jesus, the one whose birth we honor.

Dear God, help us this Christmas season to give gifts that truly honor your son.

TeleHope is a daily devotional program on the telephone. You can receive the message on your e-mail or your phone.

Contacting the Church

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Ext. 226	Caretaker on duty: Prince Graham, Matthew Cardinal, Kelly Adams.	

TeleHope

A Gift for Jesus

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worship him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gift of gold and of incense and of myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)