

“A Christmas Paraprosdokian: They were bending over backwards to be nice to each other on this blessed day, but in so doing, knocked down each other’s head, immediately turning Christmas into Boxing Day.” –San Cassimally



Photo by Ian Schneider on Unsplash

Prelude *Gentle Mary Laid Her Head (Tempus Adest Floridum)*

Lighting of the Candles and Ringing of the Bell

Welcome

Centering Song

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see you lie.
Above your deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in your dark streets shines forth the everlasting light,
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in you tonight.
O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
Renew our hearts and light our lives, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell,
O come to us, and dwell with us, O Love, Emmanuel.

Call to Community *enfleshed.com (adapted)*

One: We gather together to behold something new born among us!

Many: Into the heart of struggle, new hope is born.

One: The miracles of love are always a threat to those who like things the way they are.

Many: Peace is always turned away by the arrogant.

One: Joy is often kept from those vulnerable to hunger and despair.

Many: Let all the earth be a shelter. Let solidarity be our praise.

One: May we be the ones who perceive, who protect, who nurture...

Many: The sources of Love, hope, peace and joy among us.

***Opening Hymn** *Born in the Night, Mary’s Child*/New Century Hymnal #152

Opening Prayer

Long-Awaited One, we have prayed, we have kept watch, we have longed for your presence. And you, faithful one, have come bearing the flesh of the earth. Teach us to perceive. Do not let us pass you by. May our attention be turned from all that keeps us from recognizing Love is birthed. Born among us as an infant, entirely dependent on community, that believed in the holy potential of what a life can become. As we reflect on this meaning for us today, may we experience love afresh and anew within our hearts. Amen.

December 29, 2024

First Sunday of Christmas

We’re so glad you’ve joined us today. Please feel free to ask any questions and participate or not in any parts of the worship service as you desire.

Service Volunteers

Usher: **Wayne Titus**

Greeters: **Linda Charvat, Paul Burdick**

Offertory: **Sue Scott, Larry Fuerst, Laurie VanDenBeldt**

Acolyte: **Phil Raywood**

Reader: **Lynne Snyder**

Sound Board: **David Bohn**

Video Camera: **Toni Perrine**

Staff

Pastor **Rev. Jody Betten**

jody@douglasucc.org

Music Director **Peter Black**

Cantor **Jeff Spangler**

Administrative Asst. **Julie Ridl**

julie@douglasucc.org

Phone **269.857.2085**

Worship

Sundays at 10am

Quiet Contemplation

Thursdays at 5pm

Join Us after Church

After Service for Coffee Hour and treats at our Church Office building, 88 Spring Street (the white house just West of the Church).

Asterisk () means stand if you wish and are comfortable doing so.*

Congregational voice parts look like this.

And service music lyrics look like this.

DOUGLAS UCC



Assurance of Grace and Peace

One: Peace be with you.
Many: And also with you.
One: Let us share peace with one another

*Passing the Peace

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful child.
Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;
new life, new hope, the child will bring.
Listen to the angels sing.
"Glory, Glory, Glo—ry" let the heavens ring.

Contemporary Reading Remembering That it Happened Once
Poet, Wendell Berry

Ancient Reading Luke 2:21-39 Rev. Tere Krueger

Reflection *The Gifts of the Holy Family*/Jody Betten

Moment of Quiet

Offering and Offertory *Grown-Up Christmas List*
by David Foster and Linda Thompson-Jenner
Jeff Spangler
with Lauri Donaldson on keyboard

Joys and Concerns • Tibetan Prayer Bell

One: Thanks be to God! **Many: Alleluia!**
One: O God, **Many: Hear our prayer.**

*Doxology *Oh Glorious God*

Praise God for miracles of birth,
Praise Light that shines o'er all the earth,
Praise Love incarnate, come to dwell
On earth with us; Emmanuel

Celebration of Holy Communion

One: God be with you. **Many: And also with you.**
One: Lift up your hearts. **Many: We lift them up to God.**
One: Let us give thanks to God. **Many: It is good to give God thanks
and praise.**

Creation's Praise *Body of God*

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.
Glo- - -ria, in excelsis Deo, Glo- - -ria, in excelsis Deo
See the child in manger laid, whom the stars and angels praise;
All who gather, lend your aid, as our hearts in love we raise. (refrain)

*Sharing of the Bread and Cup *(gluten-free option, non-alcoholic juice in trays)*

The Bread of Life, the Gift of Heaven. Amen.
The Cup of Love, the Drink of Compassion. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer *(sung to the tune of It Came Upon a Midnight Clear)*

Creator God who reigns above, Most ho-ly is_ your name.
Your kindom come, your will be done, On Earth as heaven the same.
Provide today the food we need; forgive us as we_ forgive.
Lead us away from harmful paths, and guide us as we live.
For yours the kin--dom, power, and grace, With glo-ry shining bright.
Forevermore, through every age, Your love our guiding light.
Amen, Amen, let voices sing, From earth_ to heaven's wide span,
With joy and peace_, your praises ring, Forevermore! Amen!

Ways to be Love in the World

*Hymn of Sending *Dream a Dream*/Handout

*Benediction

Postlude *Angels from the Realms of Glory*/arr. Craig Currey



Scan this code to read and subscribe to our **Weekly E-Pistle**.

Prayer List

Family of Nancy Grib; Paul & Carrie (Julie Ridl's brother-in-law and sister); Melanie (Stacy Honson's sister); Bev Hawkes; Dan McGavin and Family of Carol Brown; Barbara Lindsay (Lewis Corbin's Bridge Partner); Rev. Marchiene Rienstra Family; Karen Clement (Friend of Debra Carr's); Ann and Jim Hopkins; Sally LaRowe (Linda Charvat's friend); Janice Campbell children & grandchildren (Pete Wehle's friends); James Higgins (Friend of Shane Anderson and Michael Tuleja), Joe Scarpone (Friend of Tom Fahlstrom); Fred Hamlin; John Kerr; Ruth Fahlstrom (daughter of Tom Fahlstrom); Stuart Family; Mary Westenbroek; Jerry Elpers and family (Beth Howley's Dad); Edie Plantinga (Nancy's Mom); Max Matteson; Eric Cooley (Jo Cooley's brother)

Birthdays

December 29: **Todd L. Smith**
December 30: **Scott Bryers, Tom Fahlstrom**
December 31: **Jan DeVries**
January 4: **Greg Gerrans**

Anniversaries

December 29: **Nicole & Doug LaCroix**
January 2: **Doreen & Tamara Ritt**

Weekly Financial Stewardship Report

for December 22, 2024

Attendance: 80 Viewers: 258

Collection Plate/Mail:	\$3,780.00
Online Giving:	\$1,741.47
Total:	\$5,521.47



Scan this code to support us with an online gift. (The code will take you to our website: douglasucc.org/giving.)

Or give from your smartphone by texting any US\$ amount to **844-931-2849**.

Thank you!

Your gifts sustain our mission of service.

www.DouglasUCC.org

Born in the Night, Mary's Child

152

Geoffrey Ainger, 1964; alt.

Luke 2:1-7; Mark 10:18; John 1:1-5, 14;
John 19:16b-18

Unison

1 Born in the night, Mar-y's Child, a long way from your home;
2 Clear shin-ing light, Mar-y's Child, your face lights up our way;
3 Truth of our life, Mar-y's Child, you tell us God is good;
4 Hope of the world, Mar-y's Child, you're com-ing soon to reign;

Com-ing in need, Mar-y's Child, born in a bor-rowed room.
Light of the world, Mar-y's Child, dawn on our shad-owed day.
Prove it is true, Mar-y's Child, go to your cross of wood.
Sov-ereign of earth, Mar-y's Child, walk in our streets a - gain.

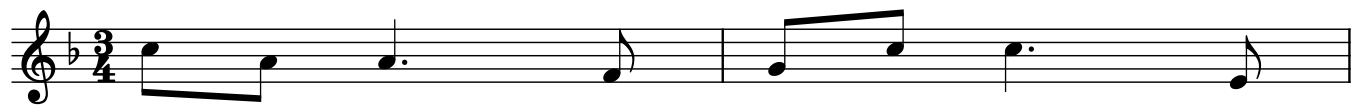
Methodist minister Geoffrey Ainger's song was part of a drama he wrote for youth at his church in Loughton. Set in this section of London, the play depicted Mary and Joe arriving on the subway, with baby Jesus being born in a room above a filling station. The carol made its way around the world, and on Christmas 1969, Ainger recalls, it was being sung in India, Australia, in South Pacific islands, and at Festival Hall in London.

Tune: MARY'S CHILD 7.6.7.6.
Geoffrey Ainger, 1964
Harm. Richard D. Wetzel, 1972

Dream a Dream

Closing Song

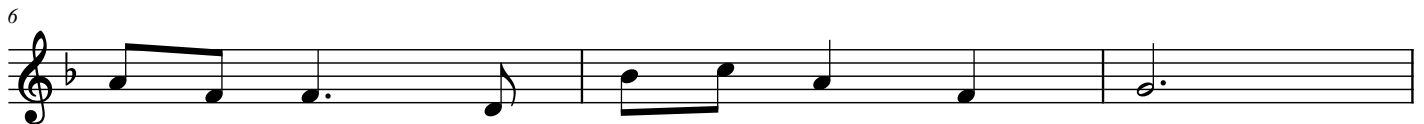
Shirley Erena Murray



1. Dream a dream, a hope - ful dream as
2. Dream a peace, our plan - ets peace, the
3. Dream a day, a bright - er day, where



3
chil - dren do on Christ - mas eve, im - a - gin - ings, sur -
green - ing of the earth at play, the ho - ly ground where
walls of hat - red fall a - way; where peace is dear, and



6
pri - sing things to hold and to be - lieve.
life is found, where God has touched the clay.
all draw near, to build the world we pray.



9
Dream a time this Christ - mas time when no - one's hun - gry
Dream a gift, the Christ - mas gift that chan - ges ev - 'ry
Dream a light, a ra - diant light that brightens ev - 'ry



12
or a - fraid; that wea - pons go and
thing we see: the shim - mer - ing of
shad - owed place, a warm - ing glow to



14
har - vests grow, that friends are met and made.
an - gel wing, the Child, the Mys - ter - y.
hearts we know, the gleam of love and grace.