



*Christmas Eve 2022*

*5:00 p.m.*

*Children's Service*

# **ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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Sunday Services: 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Service: 11:00 a.m.

***We warmly welcome you here this evening to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. If this is your first visit to our church we hope you will consider making St. Margaret's your church home.***

***For your convenience we have provided an envelope for your Christmas donation. Receipts will be issued for gifts of \$10.00 or more unless otherwise requested.***

## **Assisting this evening:**

Celebrant & Preacher:	The Rev. Canon Simon Bell
Audio/Video:	David Paradis
Readings:	Beth Steffler
Music:	Craig Snider
Chancel:	Beth Steffler
Sidespersons:	Bill Goodyer

# Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2022

5:00 p.m.

## THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Open:            *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*            #138 HB  
                      *Joy to the World*                                    #154 HB                                    #118 HB

The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means “God with us”.  
Matthew 1:23

Welcome:        Welcome to this Christmas Eve Service to celebrate Christmas. We are borrowing an idea from the Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, which uses “clothing of the cradle” in readiness for the birth of Christ as a way of preparing ourselves for Christmas.

Opening  
Responses        We meet together with one purpose  
                      **To prepare a place for Jesus**  
                      We do not know the day or the time  
                      **But we will be ready with open hearts.**  
                      Let us make a welcome here.  
                      **Let us make a welcome for Jesus.**

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath Christ Candle

Leader:         Jesus said “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.

All:              **Why do we light this candle?**

Leader:         Because it is the CHRIST Candle. Its light flickering in our sanctuary bids us come on the run to see the mighty thing that God has done. God in Christ Jesus is reconciling the word to himself!

All:              **Come Lord Jesus, we are open to your Spirit. We await your full presence. You bring light to the world.**

Hymn:            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.

Song:            *O Come All Ye Faithful*                                    #118 HB

Opening  
Prayer:         Lord Jesus, we have gathered in this place to prepare our hearts and minds to welcome you once more into our lives. We come with our joys and our sorrows. We come with our prayer that this Advent your birth might herald the peace on earth which you will for all people and for which we long. Amen.

Song:            *Huron Christmas Carol*                                    #146 HB

Reading:        Luke 2:1-20

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child.

And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Reflection: Fr. Simon

Song: *Away In a Manger*

#126 HB

Invitation to

Commitment: As we approach Christmas, we buy presents in preparation to give to our friends and neighbours. But how can we prepare to welcome Jesus who is at the heart of the season?

We may begin to think about that now, by joining in a very simple action.

In front of us is a crate which, if covered with cloth, might make a fine cradle for a baby. Beside the crate are strips of cloth which, if laid on top of each other, might make a patchwork quilt on which a baby could be laid.

So, let us be still for a moment and turn our minds away from preparing for Christmas, to preparing for Jesus.

Silence: *This will last about 10 minutes.*

*While we sing the song we may, as and when we wish, come forward to lay strips of cloth across the cradle symbolizing our intention to make a place and keep a welcome for Jesus.*

Song: *Silent Night*

#119 HB

Prayers: Here is a place for you, Lord Jesus.  
**Just as our hands have made it ready,  
So make our hearts ready,  
To love and to welcome you.  
Be born again, not in a manger, but in us.  
Make us your Bethlehem,  
Where God is personal  
And all things and all people  
Are made new. Amen**



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