

Carols by Candlelight December 14 2025 | 7:00pm



Good, New By Carmelle Beaugelin Caldwell, printed with permission

Gathering in the FBCH Sanctuary

Prayer candles are available in the north transept if you would like to light one.

For more information about the life of FBCH,
visit our website: fbchalifax.ca or like us on social media.

*Stand as you are able

Wifi Password for FBCH Guest: youareloved





I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams...

This Advent–Christmas season at First Baptist Church Halifax (FBCH), we are reflecting on the Holy Family's search for home. Where did Mary, Joseph, and their infant son Jesus call home? The Gospels offer different portraits—Luke imagines them travelling from Nazareth to Bethlehem for a brief stay, while Matthew describes Bethlehem as their home until displacement forced them to migrate to Egypt.

For many of us, home is just as complex. It may be a place we once lived, a place we yearn for, or a place we hope to find. Even when our address is settled, our sense of home can shift with life's seasons. And for some, home is less about geography and more about the relationships that help us feel grounded—those spaces where we can be fully ourselves, known and loved.

Whatever your story of home may be, our hope is that FBCH contributes to Halifax feeling like a community of belonging. For some, that belonging grows through weekly worship. For others, through gatherings such as our monthly *Sacred Sounds*, *Sacred Silence* series, joining together for justice initiatives, or attending occasional services like tonight's *Carols by Candlelight*. If you're curious about ways to connect more deeply, we invite you to explore our website or socials to learn what is happening in the life of this congregation.

Tonight, as music and candlelight open our hearts, may each of us sense the joy at the centre of Christmas: the good news that God chooses to make a home among us.

Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards (he/him)
Senior Minister

Carols by Candlelight

Service livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and fbchalifax.ca.

Guest Organist, Shawn Whynot

First Baptist Church Senior Choir
under direction of Lynette Wahlstrom

Special Guest Choir:
Halifax Ukrainian Children's Choir,
under direction of Oleksii Fishchuk



Prelude

Organ Prelude

Shawn Whynot

Pastorale (from Oratorio de Noël) ~C. Saint-Saëns

Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme ~J. S. Bach

Prelude on 'Greensleeves' ~S. Drummond Wolff

Choral Prelude

Halifax Ukrainian Children's Choir

Ой чи є, чи нема - traditional Ukrainian Carol,

Oi chy ye, chy nema

"Oh is he here, or not here, is the host at home?

Generous evening, a good evening, is the host at home?

Oh he's not here, he's not here, He has rode out to the mill.

Generous evening, a good evening, is the host at home?

Yet some flour to trade out, Beer - honey to buy.

The generous wish, to toast."

Halifax Ukrainian Children's Choir
with Soprano, Emily Forest

Ave Maria -Guilio Caccini

"Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee"



Carols & Lessons

Welcome

Paula Zanello Antunes

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

David Dexter

New Revised Standard Version

^{5:2} But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

***Processional Carol Once in Royal David's City (IRBY)**

1.Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;
Jesus Christ, her little child.

2.He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and mean and lowly,
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3.For he is our childhood's pattern;
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless;
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

4.And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

5.Not in that poor lowly stable
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Anthem

Senior Choir
Shawn Whynot, organ

Gallery Carol -arr. Robin Wells

"Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth, O praise our Redeemer, all mortals on earth. For this is the birthday of Jesus our King, who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing. A heavenly vision appeared in the sky; vast numbers of angels the shepherds did spy, proclaiming the birthday of Jesus our King, who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing. Likewise a bright star in the sky did appear, which led the wise men from the east to draw near; They found the Messiah, sweet Jesus our King, who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing. And when they were come, they their treasures unfold, and unto him offered myrrh, incense and gold. So blessed forever be Jesus our King, Who brought us salvation, his praises we'll sing."



Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Angela Giacomantonio

New Revised Standard Version

^{1:26} In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' ³⁴Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' ³⁵The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God...' ³⁸Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

*Carol Angels, from the Realms of Glory (REGENT SQUARE)

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

4. All creation, join in praising
God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising
to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

Anthem

Senior Choir

Ding Dong Merrily on High -arr. William Llewellyn

“Ding dong! merrily on high; in heav'n the bells are ringing: Ding dong! verily the sky,
is riv'n with angel singing: Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.
E'en so here below, let steeple bells be swungen, And i-o, by priest and people
sungen: Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.
Pray you, dutifully prime, your matin chime, ye ringers; May you beautifully rime, your
evetime song, ye singers: Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis.”



Third Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

Manuela Roemer

New Revised Standard Version / Inclusive Bible Translation

- ^{1:46} And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in you, my Saviour,
⁴⁸ for you have looked with favour on the lowliness of your servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is your name.
⁵⁰ Your mercy is for those who fear you from generation to generation.
⁵¹ You have shown strength with your arm;
you have scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² You have brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ you have filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ You have helped your servant Israel, in remembrance of your mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise you made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

Offertory Interludes

Halifax Ukrainian Children's Choir

Ой, у полі, в полі -Ukrainian Carol

Oi v poli, poli

"Oh, in the field there stood a little stable.

There dear Jesus has been born, the little Child of God.

The shepherds in the fields there were watching their sheep,
When they all heard the good news, they quickly ran to greet Him.

They had quickly run there, then they stood there asking,
Will the Blessed Mother of God, allow us all to greet Him?

Oh Jesus, dear Jesus, a sweet rose flower,
Grant us fortune, grant us good fate in this our dear home.”

Добрий вечір тобі -Ukrainian Carol

Dobri vechir

"Good evening to you, Dear host, rejoice!
Rejoice, the whole world, the Son of God has been born!

There has been news in Bethlehem, rejoice!
Rejoice the whole world, the Son of God has been born!

He who the prophets mentioned in ancient times, rejoice!
Rejoice, the whole world! The Son of God has been born!

He brings salvation to the believing hearts, rejoice!
Rejoice the whole world! The Son of God has been born!"

Donations

*All contributions to FBCH support our mission and ministry and
are greatly appreciated. You may donate as the plates are passed or
donate by credit or debit card in the Narthex.*

E-transfers can be sent to accounting@fbchalifax.ca.



Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

David Clarke

New Revised Standard Version

^{2:1}In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Anthem

Senior Choir

Dormi, Jesu -Edmund Rubbra

"Sleep, Jesus, mother smiles to see the little loving one.
If you don't sleep, mother weeps, between threads she prays in song,
Come soothing sleep."

***Carol O little town of Bethlehem (ST. LOUIS)**

1.O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2.For Christ is born of Mary
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king,
and peace to all on earth.

3.How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4.O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!



Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

Atman Rajesh

New Revised Standard Version

^{2:8}In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favours!’

Anthem

Halifax Ukrainian Children's Choir

Щедрик

Shchedryk; Carol of the Bells - Ukrainian Carol

Congregation: "Ding, dige, don"

“Tidings, good news, prosperity, abundance.
A swallow came, singing his song, chat - chat - tering:

O Lord, calling him out, come out, O Lord,
go look and see, all you possess.

There all the ewes have given birth,

and all the lambs, now have been born.

All that you have is very good.
You will possess money enough.

Tidings, good news, prosperity, abundance.
A swallow... came!"



;
Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:15-20

Janet Margeson

New Revised Standard Version

¹⁵When 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.' ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

***Carol**

Away in a Manger (MUELLER)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.

I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.



Seventh Lesson

Matthew 2:1-15

Joseph Fraser

New Revised Standard Version

^{2:1}In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them

where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' ¹⁴Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

Christmas Prayer

Rusty Edwards

Anthem

Senior Choir
Andrea Mathis, piano

Iesous ahatonnia (Jesus is Born)

- Andrée Levesque Sioui/ Sarah Quartel

Wendat and English text: " Sky Woman, **Yäatayenhtsihk**, fell from the sky at sea. An island formed on Turtle's back, **Atiio** (*wild animals*) diving deep. From battling Twins rose harmony, creation's circle **önaiändih** (*for a long time*). Singing **ahskennon'nia** (*peace*). Then came the missionaries with their own mythology: a child born to Mother Mary, come to set souls free. Three Magi bearing gifts they came, led by a star to praise his name. **Iesous ahatonnia** (*Jesus is born*). The Jesuits' story, fashioned as the Wendat's own, drove some toward these new beliefs as death and war had grown. As conflict grew, division came; the Circle severed, ever changed. **Höndatrawanh** (*they have separated and taken different paths*). Sing thanks to those who've come before to teach us harmony. A world of peace where differences can shape our unity. True friendship grows a Circle strong, for generations yet to come! Singing **ahskennon'nia** (*peace*), **kwaten'ndiyonhrahchondiah** (*let us prepare our minds*)."



Eighth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Arla Johnson

New Revised Standard Version

^{1:1}In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a parent's only son, full of grace and truth.

*Recessional Carol Silent Night, Holy Night! (STILLE NACHT)

1.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.

2.Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia;
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born."

3.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.

4.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.

Postlude

Shawn Whynot

Noël Suisse ~L. C. Daquin



THANK YOU TO SPECIAL GUEST CHOIR: HALIFAX UKRAINIAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Learn more by visiting:
facebook.com/HalifaxUkrainianChildrenChoir/

Special thanks to tonight's musicians and worship leaders:

FBCH Senior Choir
Emily Forest | Soloist
Shawn Whynot | Guest Organist
Andrea Mathis | Piano
Oleksii Fishchuk | Director Halifax Ukrainian Children's Choir
Lynette Whalstrom | FBCH Director of Music
Paula Zanello Antunes | Community Engagement Lead
Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards | Senior Minister
Rev. Arla Johnson | Minister of Inclusive Community

Angela Giacomantonio | Reader
Manuela Roemer | Reader
David Clarke | Reader
Atman Rajesh | Reader
Janet Margeson | Reader
Joseph Fraser | Reader
David Dexter | Reader

JOIN FBCH ON CHRISTMAS EVE

All services are in person and online.
To worship online join us on the FBCH Facebook Page,
YouTube Channel, or on our Website (fbchalifax.ca).

FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - 4:00 PM


This service is designed with children in mind. Come celebrate the birth of Christ with your entire family through a dramatic telling of the Christmas story and carolling.

CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE - 9:00 PM




This service is in the contemplative tradition. Music, candlelight, scripture readings, and Communion invite us to reflect on the mystery of Christ coming into our world and our lives.



FIND OUT MORE

 fbchalifax.ca

CONNECT ONLINE

 First Baptist Church Halifax
 fbchalifax
 First Baptist Church Halifax

BREAKING STEREOTYPES SINCE 1827

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
HALIFAX