



the wonder by being a part of the healing of the world. (Light the pink candle).

Today, we light the fourth Advent candle awakening us to God's promise to be with us and to love us, now and always. (Light the fourth candle). Let us pray together:

**All: Loving God, we thank you for Your promise that You will be with us always. We have journeyed through a time of waiting, watching, wondering and awakening. We rejoice now in Your faithfulness. Give us courage to respond with the same love and compassion shown to us by the baby born in Bethlehem. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn:** Hope is a Star VU #7

**Story time for the Young and Young at Heart**

**"Our Christmas Story"** starring our children and youth

**Piano Solo:** The Little Drummer Boy Alex Ebbett

**A Family Gathering**

**\* Hymn:** Angels We Have Heard on High VU #38

**Guitar Solo:** In the Bleak Midwinter (arr. Peacock)

**Connecting to Our Hearts' Longing\*\*:** Kyrie Eleison MV #69  
(Sung by the Choir)

**Silent Prayer**

**Assurance of God's Love**

## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

### Prayer of Preparation:

William Luton

**Holy God, help us to give voice to the wonderful news:  
You, Yourself, are coming to dwell among us!  
Quicken our imaginations to find new and creative ways  
to proclaim Christ's coming. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading:** Isaiah 7:10-16 and Matthew 1: 18-25

### Congregational Response:

**One:** May we be inspired with the wonder of this story.

**All:** **May we be inspired with the vision of justice for all. Amen.**

**Anthem:** This Night (Sterling)

**Reflection:** "The Path of Love" Rev. R-H Gaskin

**\* Hymn:** Herald! Sound the Note of Gladness VU #28

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Announcements of Our Common Life

#### Sharing Our Faith

Beverley Harper

#### Invitation to the Offering of Our Life and Work

**Offering being received this morning by: Matthew Chase, Laura Coon,  
Nathan Gorey, Madeline Messenger, Claire Vezina and Lucie Vezina**

**Offertory Music:** Wondrous Night (Armstrong)

#### Doxology:

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,  
Yet what I can, I give him, give my heart.**

(VU #55, "In the Bleak Midwinter," verse 4)

**\* Prayer of Dedication \*\***

Gifted by Your grace, we offer You what You have given us, O God, and pray that these gifts may be used for the sharing of love, the doing of justice and the giving of peace. Amen.

**Anthem:** My Soul Doth Magnify (Purifoy)

**Prayers of the People**

**\* Closing Hymn:** Go, Tell It on the Mountain VU #43

**Choral Benediction:** A Christmas Blessing (Purifoy)

**Postlude:** From Heaven Above to Earth I Come (Zachau)

\*\* Based on prayers from Gatherings, Advent, 2013

Greeter at the door at the front of the sanctuary this morning is Matthew Messenger

\*\*\*\*\*

If you wish, you are invited to remain for the Postlude as it is part of our Worship Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WELCOME** to this service of worship and thank you for being with us today. You are invited to join us for **COFFEE & CONVERSATION** in the Dr. G. M. Young Memorial Hall following the worship service. Thank you ***Susan MacLeod*** for hosting today's Coffee and Conversation.

**BULLETINS:** This week's bulletins are in celebration of ***ROD and ELEANOR NORRIE's 50th Anniversary***. The Norries were married here at Wilmot United Church on December 21, 1963 by the Rev. Dr. George Minielly. The following morning, they attended the Sunday Service of Worship. Although they do not reside in Fredericton, they have come to celebrate and have joined us this morning as they did 50 years ago. WELCOME & CONGRATULATIONS!

**FLOWERS:** Flowers have been placed in the sanctuary this morning in memory of ***Virginia Lockerbie, Ada Paynter and Doug Lockerbie*** by Beth and Jacques Paynter.

**THE PRAYER CIRCLE** offers confidential prayer support for those with physical, emotional, family and spiritual needs. To have your concerns added to the Wilmot prayer list contact Guy Vezina (455-6174) or Raday Brown (454-3001).

**BANNERS:**      **DOVES & CANDLES** (Advent)

The candles of the Advent wreath - four purple ones in Advent and the white Christ Candle at Christmas - ascend this design by Carolyn Atkinson. Each is flanked by white doves, the dove being the symbol for the Holy Spirit. The background colour for the tapestry is blue, the alternate colour for Advent.

**MANGER SCENE** (Christmas)

This traditional design shows Joseph, Mary and the infant Christ in a stable, with a Bethlehem star blazing in the deep blue of the night sky. The effect is tranquil and serene -- a good visual for a night when little persons are so excited!

**SYMPATHY:** Our love and condolences are extended to Helen Dykeman and Gabe Gibson on the recent death of Helen's brother, **Walter Dykeman** who passed away on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. A private family grave side service will be held at a later date. Also our love and condolences are extended to Cliff Moase and family on the recent death of **Joyce Moase**. A funeral service was held last Friday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> for Joyce here at Wilmot.

**WILMOT'S CHRISTMAS DINNER:** A big thank you to Andy MacDonald for his organizational skills in putting together the turkey dinner. Thanks to our Wilmot volunteers and to the Drop-In volunteers who worked all day Sunday preparing the dinner. Many thanks to UCW members for the donation of the apple pies. Also thank you so much to those who cooked turkeys, hams, pies and cakes. We raised over \$200 which was given to Outreach Committee towards the Mitten Tree and food expenses for newcomer families.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROGRAM THANK YOU!** Our Christmas Hamper Program has once again been completed. Thanks to the **many volunteers** who made this possible. The gifts for the Mitten Tree together with monetary donations from individuals and groups all have contributed to help make this program a success. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped with the gift-wrapping, and the delivery of the hampers. You have helped to make 26 newcomer families feel welcome to our community.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:**

4 pm	Children's Service
7 pm	Family Service
11 pm	Communion Service

**YOU ARE INVITED:** Friends and family are invited to a 50th wedding anniversary open house for ***Ronald and Elizabeth Savoie*** on Saturday Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. It will take place at the Wilmot United Church. Best wishes only.

**DEC. 29<sup>th</sup>:** Worship service will be held at 10:30 am at St. Paul's United.

**THE ADULT BIBLE CONVERSATION** which meets Sunday mornings 9:30-10:30 will not take place on Sunday Dec 29. It will resume Sun., Jan. 5, 2014 in the Board Room. This conversational group considers the scripture readings of the week both for immediate meaning and application to life, and for historical background and understanding. All views considered!

**CHURCH OFFICE** will be open on Tuesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> - weather permitting.

**WILMOT BOOK CLUB** has a special page on the Wilmot Website: <http://wilmotuc.nb.ca/book.php>. You will discover there the books that members have read and discussed over the past few years, as well as upcoming titles for discussion in 2014. For those interested in books that will be discussed in the coming year, as well as books to give for Christmas, this is the site to check.

**CANDLELIGHT SERVICE:** The congregation of Brunswick Street Baptist Church invites you to join them for the annual Candlelight service – an oasis of peace in the midst of the Christmas rush! **This evening**, December 22, at 6:30 pm. Includes music by choir, soloists, instrumentalists and preceded (6:10 pm) by a mini-concert by Steven Peacock (guitar) and Yvonne Kershaw (flute). The offering goes to support the Community Health Clinic on Brunswick Street.

**CAN YOU HELP?** Charlotte Staples, a cello teacher that works out of Wilmot has asked if we can help one of her students find a home: I have a cello student - a 44 year old Japanese woman who has diligently studied cello with me for 4 years. The retired couple she has boarded with for several years have sold their house and she needs a room for Jan.1st - a rather difficult time of year for anyone to be searching. She has her Masters in Biochemistry but works as a chamber maid up on Bishop's Drive and does not drive; she rises early and retires early. In Japan she worked in the health sector - as a dietician, I think. SO - I am trying to help her. Her English is not bad, but she comprehends on a higher level than she can speak. I cannot recommend her more highly. She is always punctual, courteous, helpful and kind. She is from Osaka, and will be sent back to Japan if she cannot find a job in about another year or so - so she lives very sparsely. She would appreciate anyone who can help - even if it is temporary. My contacts there are limited, but I thought of Wilmot, with its rather interesting array of people. Her name is Minako Arita and her email is [minako027@hotmail.com](mailto:minako027@hotmail.com) She does not have a phone, but her landlady is Paula at 455-1436 (707 Charlotte St.)

**Ministers:**

**Rev. Rose-Hannah Gaskin**  
**292-1680**

**Rev. Ellen Beairsto**  
**206-1943**

**Ministers Emeriti:**

**Rev. Vic Moriarty , Rev. Cliff Moase, Rev. Bob Jones**

**Organist: Virginia Leiter**

**Choir Director: Steven Peacock**

**Office Administrator: Marlene Phillips**

**Sexton: Randy Randall**

<http://www.wilmotuc.nb.ca/>