

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

The psalmist knew that God would come into the world bringing righteousness and justice. He knew that it would be a cosmic event – God's salvation was not only for humanity but for all creation. The whole universe would bow in worship before God's glorious presence. Even the trees of the forest would sing for joy (Psalm 96 v. 12).

That is what happened the night that Jesus came into the world. The star lit the way. The luminescent angels mixed with the scruffy shepherds to bring praise. The whole earth took a deep breath, and let out a note of joy and relief. The one who was promised has come. The waiting is over. The new day has come.

Joy to the world!
Let heaven and nature sing!

The Rev. Sarah Travis lives in Oakville, Ontario.



Christmas



**MacNab Street Presbyterian Church
CHRISTMAS EVE 2014**

GATHERING

Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve 2014

Call to Worship Fernanda Koshwal/Rev. Cathy Stewart
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
On them has light shined.**

What came into being in Jesus was life
And that life was the light of all people.
The light shines in the darkness;
And the darkness did not overcome it.
Come, let us worship God.

Entry of Christ Candle

Carol O Come All Ye Faithful BP 159

First Reading from Genesis 1 and 3 Kathleen Brooks

Second Reading: from Hosea 11 Barry Betzner

Carol: It Came upon a Midnight Clear BP 148

Third Reading: Isaiah 9: 6-7 Geoff Greer

4th Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-4a; 6-9 David Stone

Carol: 'Twas in the Moon BP 144

5th Reading: Annunciation to Mary Luke 1: 26-35, 38. Abby Teeuwsen

Carol: What Child Is This? BP 161

6th reading: Luke 2: 1, 3-7 Myrna Cumberbatch

7th Reading Luke 2:8-16 Gregory Beres

The Word in conversation

Carol While Shepherds Watched BP 138

8th Reading Luke 1: 68-79 (Benedictus) Tom Watson

9th Reading: from John and 1 John

Ruth Pearson

Prayers

Carol: In the Bleak Mid-winter BP 145

Offering

Offertory: Joy to the World BP 153

Prayer of Response

**Ever creating God
Flesh of our flesh
Bone of our bone
Breath of our breath
As we celebrate this birth
May we be born in a new way:
May Christ come to life in us, and make us truly alive
That we too might become mysteries of your making,
Mysteries of love to the world you love,
By your spirit, by your grace,
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

Carol : Silent Night BP 154

Sending Forth and Benediction

WELCOME TO MACNAB!

GIFTS THAT REALLY DO KEEP ON GIVING!

Your special Christmas Offering gifts will be used throughout the coming year by our Mission and Service Committee to respond to the needs of our community, and to spread God's love in tangible ways throughout the city of Hamilton, across Canada, and around the world.
Thank you in advance for your generosity to those who need it most.

A Special Thank You! To our readers this evening and Organist and Music Director, Dr. Christiaan Teeuwsen,