

How the Light Comes

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.

What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.

That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us.

That it loves
searching out
what is hidden
what is lost
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.

That it has a fondness
for the body
for finding its way
toward flesh
for tracing the edges
of form
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.

I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.

And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still

to the blessed light
that comes.

~ Jan Richardson



CHARLESWOOD MENNONITE CHURCH
699 Haney Street, Winnipeg MB R3R 0Y7
T: 204-837-7982

E: office@charleswoodmennonite.ca

W: www.charleswoodmennonite.ca

Co-Pastors:

Lisa Enns – lisa.enns@charleswoodmennonite.ca, 204-795-7091

Jonathan Neufeld – jonathan.neufeld@charleswoodmennonite.ca, 431-336-1977

Charleswood Mennonite Church

December 24, 2024

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Charleswood Mennonite Church ~ December 24, 2024, 6:30 pm

*The congregation is invited to stand for the songs marked with **

Prelude Verna Wiebe and Caroline Klassen
Welcome and Opening Prayer Lisa Enns, Co-pastor
*VT 715 Longing for Light Congregation and Choir
Artwork: Glory Mancini, from the series “The Innocents: Apocalypse III”

Awaiting the Light

First Lesson
Isaiah 60:1-6
On the Edge
VT 241 O Come All Ye Faithful (v 1, 2) Congregation
Artwork: Joel Sheesley, “O Magnum Mysterium (O Great Mystery)”,
2012

Second Lesson
Isaiah 11:1-9
O Radix
Lo, How a Rose Choir
Artwork: Emily Dickey, “Parched Earth”, 2019

Third Lesson
Luke 1:46-55
Come, Join in Mary's Prophet Song Choir
O Rex Gentium
Artwork: Jacob Riis, “In the Home of an Italian Rag-Picker, Jersey
Street”, ca 1890

Receiving the Light

Fourth Lesson
John 1:1-5
Wisdom from On High is Dawning Choir
Artwork: Judith Tutin, “Nativity”, 2011

Fifth Lesson
VT 257 Away in a Manger Congregation
Love Has Come a Light in the Darkness Choir
Artwork: Linda Syddick Napaltjarri, “Nativity”, 2003

Sixth Lesson
Luke 2:8-14
*VT 253 While Shepherds Watched Congregation
Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light Choir
Artwork: Luke Hua Xiaoxian (華效先), “The Angel Brings Good News to
the Shepherds (天使向牧人 傳佈嘉訊)”, 1948

Seventh Lesson
Luke 2:15-20
*VT 249 Angels We Have Heard on High Congregation
Artwork: Pablo Sanaguano, “Cristo nace cada día (Christ Is Born
Every Day)”, 19m94

Eighth Lesson
Matthew 2:1-14
*VT 250 The First Noel Congregation
The Refugee
Artwork: Allan Rohan Crite, “Nuestra Señora de Humildad/
Our Lady of Humility”

Celebrating the Light

Ninth Lesson
Mary
Candle Lighting
VT 244 Silent Night (v 1-3) Congregation
Artwork: Ihor Paneyko, “Я родився (I Am Born)”, 1986

John 1:14 Lisa Enns, Co-Pastor
*VT 274 See Whose Glory Fills the Skies Congregation
Artwork: The Virgin and Child surrounded by angels, frescoed dome of
the side chapel of the Church of the Holy Saviour in Chora, Istanbul,
14th century

VT = *Voices Together Hymnal*

Italics = Poems by Malcom Guite from *Sounding the Seasons*

Conductors: Bob and Verna Wiebe
Scripture Readers (in order): Kenton Lobe, Sheila Klassen-Wiebe, Lisa Enns
Cover Art & Poetry Readings: Lynette Wiebe
Projected Visuals: Julia Thiessen
Technician: Kent Haase
Instrumentalists: Rebecca Harder, Alisa Wiebe, Jonathan Wiebe,
Jeremy Wiebe, Emily Rempel
Ushers: Darryl Dyck, Valerie Martens, Matthaeus Dyck, Micah Dyck