

Visions United
Spirit Gathering, December 24th, 2023 – 10:30am
The ABC's of Christmas
An Interactive Child-friendly Service with Story and Song

**Stand as able*

Our Community Gathers

Gathering Music/Prelude

Piano: Martha Shaw

Welcome

God's Doors Are Open to All!
Open Doors · Open Minds · Open Hands · Open Hearts
 Visions United seeks to be a safe place for people of all
 races, creeds, ages, cultural backgrounds,
 sexual orientations and gender identities to worship.

Acknowledgement of Land

One: We remember with gratitude
 that we live and worship on lands that are, by law,
 the unceded territories of the Mi'kmaq.

**All: May we live with respect on this land,
 and in peace and friendship with its people.**

Gathering Words & Lighting the Advent Candles

(Wells-Richard family)

Reader: The Candle of hope!

All: Welcome Hope!

Carol VU#6 A Candle Is Burning (v.1) Words: Sandra Dean ©1986. Music: James R. Murray, 1887
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Reader: The Candle of peace!

All: Welcome Peace!

Carol VU#6 A Candle Is Burning (v.2) Words: Sandra Dean ©1986. Music: James R. Murray, 1887
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Reader: The Candle of Joy!

All: Welcome Joy!

Carol VU#6 A Candle Is Burning (v.3) Words: Sandra Dean ©1986. Music: James R. Murray, 1887
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Reader: The Candle of Love!

All: Welcome Love!

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Theme Conversation – Gift of Christmas Love

Christmas Prayer

We Listen for Wisdom
The ABC's of Christmas in Story & Song

A

Story Luke 1:28 (*The Message*)

Sharing the Peace

Peace Be with You
 And also with you.

***Carol** (*standing*) VU#38 Angels We Have Heard on High (v1&3) Words: French Trad.
 Trans: James Chadwich 1860. Music: French carol melody, Arr: Edward S. Barnes 1937. Public Domain.
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B - C**Scripture Story** Luke 2: 1-5*Reader: Charlotte Baycroft***D - E - F**

Carol (seated) VU#64 O Little Town of Bethlehem (v1) Words: Phillips Brooks, 1868;
 Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868. Public Domain.
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Scripture Story Luke 2: 6-7*Reader: Anwyn Slupsky-Clark***G**

***Carol (standing)** VU#43 Go Tell It on the Mountain (*refrain, v. 1, ref. v2, refrain*)
 Words: John Wesley Work 11, 1907. Public Domain. Arr: © Oxford University Press.
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Scripture Story Luke 2: 8-16*Reader: Simon Baycroft***H - I**

Carol (seated) VU#56 Jesus, Our Brother (v1,3&4) Words: French Carol Trans. © CPP/ Belwin Inc.
 Harmony ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House.
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J - K - L - M

Carol (seated) VU#69 Away in a Manger (v1) Music: William James Kilpatrick, Public Domain
 Arr. Desmond Hassell ©1992
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N - O**Sharing Our Gifts**

Carol (seated) VU#91 The First Nowell (*Refrain, v. 5, refrain*)
 Words/Music: traditional English Carol, harm. John Satiner©1926 Oxford University Press, Inc.
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P**Community at Prayer****Q - R**

Carol (seated) VU#47 Still, Still, Still (v.1&2) Words: Austrain Carol, trans. John Rutter
 Music: arr. Walter Ehret © 1994 Hinshaw Music Inc.
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S - T - U - V - W**Song Video** Hey Mary!<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgJ4M0t4xlc>**X - Y - Z****Lighting of the Christ Candle**

Sharing of the Light & Carol VU#6 A Candle Is Burning (v.5) (*seated*)
 Words: Sandra Dean ©1986. Music: James R. Murray, 1887
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Blessing

***Carol (standing)** VU#59 Joy to the World (v.1&4) Words: Isaac Watts ©1719. Music: attrib. George Handel 1742
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Merry Christmas!