

**Christmas Eve  
Dec 24, 2023  
LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE**

**WE GATHER**

**Welcome and Gathering Statement**

**Lighting Candles of the Advent Wreath**

*(As the first blue candle is lit the singing bowl rings)*

**Reader:** On the first Sunday of Advent, we lit a candle for Hope.

*(as the second blue candle is lit the singing bowl rings)*

**Reader:** On the second Sunday, we lit a candle for Peace.

*(as the pink candle is lit the singing bowl rings)*

**Reader:** On the third Sunday, we lit a candle for Joy.  
*(as the last blue candle is lit the singing bowl rings)*

**Reader:** On the fourth Sunday of Advent we lit a candle for Love.

*(as the white candle in the centre is lit the singing bowl is rung 3 times.)*

**Reader:** The time has come to light the Christ candle.  
As the flame of the Christ candle begins to burn,  
Let God's Spirit shine in our hearts;  
let God's Love shine in our world; and let the wisdom of  
the Christ-child be born in us tonight.

*(Baby Jesus figure is placed in manger of Nativity Scene)*

Music for Reflection: "O Holy Night"

Prayer of Approach (unison)

**Holy God, You come to us as love incarnate,  
grace-filled yet baby frail.**

**May our hearts cradle you,  
our voices sing to you,  
our spirits leap to you,  
and our hearts dance with you.**

**Amen**

**Opening Hymn:** O Little Town of Bethlehem VU #64

**WE LISTEN TO THE STORY**

**Reading: Luke 2: 1-7**

Congregational Hymn: Away in a Manger VU#69

**Reading: Luke 2: 8-20**

Congregational Hymn: Hark the Herald Angel's Sing VU#48, v.  
1,3

**A Christmas Word from Rev Meg**

**WE RESPOND**

**Call for Offering**

**Offertory/Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication**

**A Christmas Prayer (unison) VU #66**

**Lighting of Christmas Vigil Candles**

**Hymn: Silent Night**

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 Hallelujah,  
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.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

May the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the joy of the angels,  
the perseverance of the Magi,  
the faithfulness of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ child  
be yours this Christmas. Amen.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

### **SEE YOU IN PIONEER HALL ON DECEMBER 31!!**

We will be gathering in Pioneer Hall for shared services for next few month until better weather permits. Easter Sunday falls on March 31st in 2024.



## **LAKE OF BAYS PASTORAL CHARGE**

Knox United Church, Dorset 5 p.m.  
Pioneer Memorial United, Hillside 7 p.m.

**December 24th, 2023**  
**Christmas Eve**

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