

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Host.....*Alyssa LaRocque*
Welcome
Carol Singing.....*Worship Team*
Silent Night
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
Hark the Herald Angels Sing
Joy to the World
Message: "Why Jesus?"
Advent Wreath
Candle Lighting
Closing Song: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
Closing Prayer

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**Tomorrow is Christmas Day!** May you be richly blessed as you celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour with family and friends!

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"Lord, part your heavens and come down. Touch the mountains, and they will smoke. Flash your lightning and scatter the foe; shoot your arrows and rout them. Reach down from on high; rescue me from deep water..."

Psalm 144:5-7

When imagining the entrance of the God of the universe onto a scene, it is biblically accurate to imagine some pretty dramatic audiovisual effects! There are many passages like the one above from Psalm 144 which reference powerful noises that accompany Him. The hiss of a steaming, smoking mountaintop and the crack of thunder accompanying the brilliant strike of lightning are just a couple of examples. These descriptions should come as no surprise to us; what else would we expect when the Infinite and the finite meet?

And yet...when we imagine ourselves at a manger-side in Bethlehem thousands of years ago, we find that the sights and sounds surrounding the Infinite in the form of the baby start off gently. The stars in the bright sky silently look down on where He lays, and the cattle are softly lowing (or so the Christmas carol tells us). Nothing earth-shattering.

But the dramatic effects would come; for Jesus' birth was the "Word now breaking Heaven's silence" (1), and Heaven was overjoyed about it! This was not just a divine birth announcement; this was the announcement of the salvation of humanity, and Heaven's excitement was about to overflow in a spectacular display of sound and light!

Join us this Christmas Eve as we enter into the brightness and joy of that birth announcement - for Christ OUR Saviour was born!

(1) From Chris Rice, "Welcome to Our World".

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 **CALVARY GRAVENHURST**

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