

*Clifton Pastoral Charge*

*Old Barns and Hilden United Churches*

*We are Affirming Churches in an Affirming Pastoral Charge*

**Clergy:** Reverend Phillip Kennedy

**Organists:** Old Barns--Beckie Burrows, Hilden--Edith Selwyn-Smith

**Church Bulletin Secretary:** Judy Loughead

*Mission Statement: To provide a friendly welcoming, caring, and safe environment to promote spiritual growth.*

---

**December 24, 2024**

**Hilden Christmas Eve Service**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Led by Rev. Phillip Kennedy**

**Introit** “*Calypso Carol*” words and music Michael A Perry, Arr. By Sheila and Paul Leddington Wright, © 1965 and this arr. ©1993 by Hope Publishing Co.

**Welcome and Christmas Greetings**

**Hymn (VU #60** Vrs 1 & 3) “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

**Advent Wreath - Christmas Eve**

We come into this church thankful for Joseph and for his willingness to venture to Bethlehem with Mary.

**The courage of Joseph is light for us this Christmas Eve.**

*(Light a candle)*

We come to this church thankful for Mary, who took responsibility for bringing Jesus to birth.

**The commitment of Mary is light to us this Christmas Eve.**

*(Light a candle)*

We come to this church thankful for shepherds, angels, and Magi, who responded with joy to Jesus’ birth

**Their stories—which are shared in our readings and carols—are light to us this Christmas Eve.**

*(Light a candle)*

We come to this church thankful to the saints, who have faithfully celebrated the birth of Jesus down the ages.

**The faithfulness of God’s people is light to us this Christmas Eve.**

*(Light a candle)*

We come to this church thankful for God’s chosen child, whose birth story we hear and whose life story changes our lives.

**Jesus is the light of our lives this Christmas Eve and throughout the year.**

*(Light the White Candle)*

**Hymn (MV #221)** “I Am Walking a Path of Love”

**Scripture** Matthew 1:18-24

**Anthem** “Joseph’s Song” Words and music by Pat Mayberry, Arr. By David Kai, © 2018

**Scripture** Luke 2: 1 – 20

**Message** ‘Nativity: Gospel Overtures’

**Hymn (VU #75)** “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks”

**Offertory Prayer**

**Hymn (VU #38)** “Angels We Have Heard on High”

**A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, and the beauty of the Gospel that began in a lowly manger in Bethlehem.**

**We believe in the One whose spirit brings music to people all over the world in communities both large and small.**

**We believe in the One for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and we confess that our hearts still want to exclude Christ from our lives today.**

**We believe in the One whom the rulers of the earth ignore and the proud do not understand,**

whose life is among the common people,  
and whose welcome comes from people with hungry  
hearts.

**We believe in the One**  
who looks at people and makes them see  
what God's love sees in them  
and who by love accepts all people and who forgives all  
sinners.

**We believe in the One**  
who willingly eats with saints and sinners alike.

**We believe in the One**  
who can penetrate even the darkest night  
and bring healing and light to the soul and the world.

**We believe in the One**  
who can fill our empty hearts with love now  
and forever. Thanks be to God. Amen

**Duet** (*Vicki Canton Austin and George Creelman*) "The Gift"

**Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn** (VU #59) "Joy to the World"

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Let us go out thankful for the chance to glimpse into the  
stable once again and to experience God's gift of  
unconditional love.

**May we listen for the still, small voice that continually  
leads us to a life of following in the footsteps of Jesus.**

Bless you as you make this journey: Bless you with the  
hope of new life growing within you;

Bless you- for God is with you,

God will never leave you.

Let us go in hope, peace, joy and love. Amen

**Hymn** (VU #67) "Silent Night, Holy Night"

**Postlude**

*May Christmas gifts of hope, joy, peace and love be yours!*

*Merry Christmas!*

*Phillip and Valerie*

