



We Owe Them a Complicated Debt by Rachel Epp Buller, 2017

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2023 6:30 pm

PRELUDE

Jesse Graber, Steve Goeke, Gail Goeke

***SINGING IN THE LIGHT VT 241** *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

The light sculpture at the front of the sanctuary was created by Arlie Regier and his son Paul. We cherish the long tradition of featuring this gift during Advent and Christmas. Thank you to the Duncan family for bringing in the light this year.

WELCOME

Ruth Harder and Adam Linscheid

CAROL VT 254 *Oh, How Joyfully*

BETHLEHEM THEN

Luke 2: 1-20

VT 245 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

VT 243 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

*VT 247 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

*VT 259 *To Us a Child of Hope is Born*

BETHLEHEM NOW

Reflections: Gail Goeke, Janice Friesen, Steve Friesen,
Sandy Wetzel, Ruth Harder

Little Drummer Boy, Eli Jantzen, solo; Jesse Graber, guitar

PRAYING FOR AND WITH BETHLEHEM

Little town, text by Linford Detweiler

Caitlin Linscheid, solo, Jesse Graber, guitar

OFFERING for Deacons' Fund

The Deacons' Fund is an above-budget fund administered by the Rainbow Deacons for the primary purpose of assisting members and neighbors in need, as well as tending to congregational health and well-being. The fund is primarily generated by above budget offerings made payable to Rainbow Mennonite Church and designated "Deacons' Fund." Scan the QR code provided to give online.



VT 248 *It came upon a midnight clear*

***CANDLELIGHTING**

At this time we invite everyone to come forward down the center aisle in order to form a circle around the sanctuary. Please bring your candle with you, as well as the worship program for the text to Silent Night (see next page).

***BENEDICTION**

*Please stand

Please note that the nursery, located at the top of the stairs in the education wing, is staffed this evening.

Welcome to our annual Christmas Eve service. At Rainbow, we strive to welcome everyone without regard to race, ethnic identity, gender, sexual orientation, age, and economic or other life circumstances. For information about our church or the Mennonite faith, literature is available in the east and west foyers outside the sanctuary.

Land Acknowledgement Statement

- We at Rainbow Mennonite Church acknowledge the land we gather on is the ancestral and treaty homeland of the Kaw/Kansa and Osage Nations.
- We acknowledge the land was taken from these Peoples by force.
- We acknowledge as many as 30 Nations, including the Shawnee, Delaware, Cherokee, Iowa, Kickapoo, Lanape, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Sac & Fox, and Wyandot, were forcibly relocated to Kansas before the US government violated the treaties and violently compelled them to move further west.
- We acknowledge that the Christian church was, and is, complicit in justifying this theft and participated in the cultural genocide of these Nations.
- We acknowledge that these Peoples are still here and that recognizing their deep historic connection to the land is the first step towards building right relationships with them and working together to create a more just society.



Scan the QR code above to see the commissioned art piece by Tokeya Waci U Richardson.
You may see it in person by going down to the Fellowship Hall.

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.

Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

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.

Silent night, holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing
"Alleluia" to our King,
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.