

**Applewood United Church**  
**an Affirming Congregation**  
**Sunday, December 28, 2025**  
**Casual Christmas Service**  
*(\*please stand in body or in spirit)*  
***Bold words are for all to share***

Music for Gathering

**Territorial Acknowledgement and Announcements**

We understand that the land on which we live, work and worship is situated upon traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron - Wyandot, the Haudenosaunee and later the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. The territory is mutually covered by the "Dish with One Spoon" Wampum Belt agreement. In the spirit of reconciliation, we commit to building relationships with all created beings, those who were here before, those who have settled, and those who continue to settle on this land. We commit to partnering with our Indigenous neighbours in being stewards and caretakers of God's Creation. Today, this remains the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we seek to live as reconciled people through our respect for, and our learning and understanding of, our Indigenous siblings.

Centering Music: "What Child Is This" VU 74 Verse 1

\* Call to Worship and Opening Prayer: *(responsive)*

One:      Glory to God in the highest,  
              and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.

**All:      For out of God's own being,  
              Jesus has come to bring light and love to all people.**

One:      Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us,  
              come to gather our tears and laughter,  
              our work and our play, into God's loving embrace.

**All:      Glory to God in the highest,  
              and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.**

One:      Let us pray.

**All:      O God of angel song, shepherd surprise,  
              stable warmth, and birthing cry.  
              you are dawn in our darkness,  
              you are a song that rings through our silence,  
              you surprise us with wonder**

**and with joy this season.  
Continue to fill us, lead us and astonish us  
as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Amen**

\* Opening Carol: "Good King Wenceslas" (*see insert*)

Poem: "First Coming" *Madeleine L'Engle*

Carol: "All Poor Ones and Humble" VU 68 verse 1 and chorus

Poem: "Earthed" *Jeremy Williams engagedworship.org*

Carol: "See Amid the Winter's Snow" VU 76 verses 1, 2, 5

Poem: "Dancing God" *Joyce Rupp*

Carol: "God Rest ye Merry Gentlefolk" (*see insert*)

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:13-23 *NRSVUE*

Carol: "The Coventry Carol" (*see insert*)

Poem: "Remembering that it happened once" *Wendell Berry*

Carol: "Do you Hear What I Hear?" (*see insert*)

Invitation to the Offering

Offering of Music

\* Hymn of Dedication: *Tune VU 75*

**We bring our gifts with humble hearts,  
to you our gracious God.  
May all we share and all we do  
bear witness to your love.**

\* Offering Prayer: (*together*)

**All: With these gifts, we bring ourselves, O God,  
in response to the greatest gift of all—  
the Babe of Bethlehem.  
Bless all that we offer, so that it may truly  
bring your peace on earth. Amen**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (*said*)

\* Closing Carol: "The First Noel" VU 91 Verses 1, 2, 6

\* Commissioning/Benediction

\* Sung Amen

Music for Scattering