



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**December 10, 2017**

*Through Faith, we walk on the path Jesus set for us.  
The people of St. Paul's Belong... Believe... Listen... Love... Lead.*

**WE APPROACH OUR GRACIOUS GOD**

PRELUDE: *Thank you to the Jr. Bells*  
WELCOME: Look Toward Christmas *See insert*

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY LAND**

This land has been home to many over the centuries. Before Europeans came it was the territory of the Beaver and the Cree. Now we live on it together as treaty people.

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION**

CALL TO WORSHIP:  
GIFT OF MUSIC: Emmanuel Will Come

**WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**ADVENT CANDLES**

During Advent, God's light illuminates a weary world. For any who have grown weary of waiting:

**God speaks, "Peace, be still."**

For any who are anxious about the worries of tomorrow:

**God speaks, "Peace, be still."**

For any whose lips have been silenced:

**God speaks, "Peace, be still."**

Sung Response  
Lift Up Your Eyes

*See insert*

Prayer

**Gracious Lord, our souls long for the peace that only you can provide. We confess that, all too often, we only add to the discord, separation, and tension around us. Help us to feel your peace in our lives and strive to reflect it more in our witness. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: People look East

# 9 Voices United

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**Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)**

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***Labyrinth Walks***

*Please join us for meditation  
an inward journey on a sacred path.. 7:00 pm  
December 17<sup>th</sup>*

**The Salvation Army kettle campaign** is about to start and is in need of volunteers!! St. Paul's United Church has taken on 2 dates and locations to help with. There is a signup sheet on the table in the foyer if you are able to spare a couple hours and volunteer your time.

***Looking for an Alternate way to buy Christmas gifts?*** Want to use your Christmas money to help make a change in the world? Check out the United Church's new Gift Catalogue "Gifts With Vision" in the foyer or Find it on-line at <http://www.giftswithvision.ca/>

**The first Sunday of each month** there is a second offering that is dedicated to local outreach. **This month from November 1 – 30 we gave out 12 food/ gas vouchers for a total of \$1100.00 from** our local outreach fund. The food bank is experiencing a shortage; consider bringing a non-perishable food donation. Thank you for your continued support

**2018 United Church Calendars** are now available for purchase. You can buy yours from Carla in the church office for \$5.00 but our quantities are limited so don't wait too long!

**Ministry Teams:** 2018 Budget forms are in your mail box

**Are you a lady? Do you like to eat supper?**

Come join the gals at St. Paul's United Church in GP for their annual UCW Christmas Potluck. Monday December 11 @ 6:30 pm, please bring a potluck dish, your own place setting, cutlery. Last but not least, please bring your sense of humor! Hope to see you there!!

**Offering Envelopes** - Making your donation using a set of offering envelopes is the easiest way to ensure you receive a tax receipt for your givings. If you don't have a set of offering envelopes, and would like some, please contact Carla in the church office. Also please make sure you have envelope # on your givings so it can be record to the correct person.

## ATTENTION ALL HOUSEHOLDS

### Have you joined St. Paul's Recyclable program yet?

St. Paul's has an easy fund raiser to help with the Church renovations. All you need to do is bag up all your empty bottles, cans and milk jugs and put our **church id # 1468-2415** visible on each bag and drop them off at the bottle depot on Resources Road and before you leave, check in with the cashier and let them know how many bags/boxes on bottles/can you dropped off.

\*\*\* \$478.65 has been brought in since January 1, 2017\*\*\*

**Parents** – If your children are using the nursery, please tidy it up before leaving.



### JUST A REMINDER...

For those parents with small children, please be reminded there is a nursery available when your children need more room to run around, or are upset and inconsolable. The nursery is conveniently just down the hall across from the Friendship Room.

**At St. Paul's We Are So Fortunate** To Have A Church That Is Busy And Full Of Life PLEASE Be Sure To Check with Carla In The Church Office Before You Expect A Room Will Be Free For Your Use. Rooms Booked With Carla In The Office Will Have First Priority.

**New to the church?** Want a photo directory? See Carla in the church office to buy your copy for \$15.00

### **Moved?? New to the Church??**

If you have moved, or you are new to the Church, please stop by the church office or send Carla a quick email ([secretary@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca)) with your new details so we can keep our records up to date! Thank you!

### **Beginner Bells**

Have you ever wondered about playing handbells? If so, this is the time to try them out. You can try them without committing to being in our choir, but please come and try! Beginner Bells meet every Sunday after Church (with the exception of other church events on a Sunday, or School holidays) from 11:20 ish until noon. Hope to see you enjoying the beautiful sound of handbells!

## WE SHARE AS GOD'S CHILDREN THE BIBLE'S STORY IN WORD AND IN SONG:

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns  
Celebration of Communion

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 55:1-13

### SILENT REFLECTION

(trusting that God is at work in our midst we allow the words we have heard to settle and stir in our souls)

SERMON Go Out in Joy

Hymn: O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

#31 Voices United

## WE EXPRESS OUR GRATITUDE TO GOD AND PREPARE FOR MINISTRY IN THE WORLD

### THE OFFERING

Mission Minute

The Invitation:

Dedication Offering Hymn: *Tune: While Shepherds watched Their Flocks*

**May every heart prepare to give our gifts to God on high**

**Not just what's left But all that brings God's kingdom closer by.**

### PRAYER FOR AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God we look at the news headlines and we wonder,

**where is there room for hope in such a broken world?**

We remind ourselves of your vision for the future and we wonder,

**how long do we have to wait for the reign of peace and justice?**

The tides of despair threaten to overwhelm us,

**when, we wonder, will we go out with joy and be led forth in peace?**

God, as we wait, and wait, and wait,

**grant us patience, open our ears to hear the songs of mountains and hills, open our ears to hear your words of hope and promise.**

And in your grace,

**help us to see both where we are part of the broken-ness and where we can be part of enacting the vision.**

*...time of silent prayer...*

In this Advent season of preparation and waiting we wait expectantly. God WILL break into the world again. God WILL share the Good News for all people. Angels will sing and the world will

be changed, renewed, restored. We will be changed, renewed, restored as well. And the trees of the field will clap their hands.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

Hymn: There's a Voice in the Wilderness

# 18 Voices United

COMMISSIONING:

Joy shall come even to the wilderness!

**A shoot shall spring forth from the stump of Jesse!**

The parched land shall know great gladness!

**As a rose, like a garden, the desert will blossom**

The Anointed One is coming!

**And in response we sing songs of Good News**

Go out from this time of worship ready to proclaim the promise that we are not alone, that God is with us, that Christ will be born in our world again.

**We go with God, who brings renewal and hope. Amen**

(uses words from "Joy Shall Come" [#23 in *Voices United*] which echoes Isaiah 35)

Sung Benediction: You Shall Go Out With Joy

2X

# 884 Voices United

POSTLUDE

*This week the Advent Candles are being lit on behalf of the "Senators Table". The senators are the group of gentlemen who sit at the dining table in the Friendship Room during post-worship coffee each Sunday.*

*Steward trust that God will replenish what has been given freely, and so dare to be wellspring for others.*

**Christmas Caroling At Senior's Lodges.  
Bring your voice and Christmas spirit and  
Gaudy Christmas sweaters encouraged!**

**Heritage Lodge - Friday, December 15, 7:00 PM**

**Wild Rose - Friday, December 19, 7:00 PM –**  
Social time afterwards hosted by Sharon Schellenberg and Alice Hickson

**We are in need of Scripture Readers and Door Greeters every Sunday.** Please sign the lists in the foyer if you would like to volunteer to help during the worship services.

# Announcements

**Ministry by: The Congregation**

**Enabling Minister: Rev. Gord Waldie Church Office: Carla Johnson**

**Telephone: (780-532-2415) Email: [secretary@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca)**

**Sunday School: Holly Loughead**

**Youth Ministry: Janis Schau-Steinke**

**Music Director: Alison White.**

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*If you have a prayer request, please write it down in our prayer book on the table at the entrance into worship. Your needs will be added to our community prayer.*

*Thank you*

*If you have noticed someone missing from our congregation, please contact them by phone or visit them in person. You may be their "angel"*



*Our Prayers are offered for, Eathyn Anderson and Family*

## **Church Office Hours!**

Our Office is open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

\*the Office is closed during the lunch hour.

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## **Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)**

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- **Mon., Dec 11<sup>h</sup>** – 6:30 pm - UCW Christmas potluck
- **Sat., Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00 am - Pageant Rehearsal
- **Sun., Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00 am Sunday School Pageant This year's Christmas Pageant performance promises to be unforgettable. Please join us for this year's original script pageant.
- **Sun., Dec 17<sup>th</sup>** – 3:00 pm Blue Christmas Service – in the Friendship Room
- **Mon., Dec 18<sup>th</sup>** – 7:00 pm Adult bell choir will be playing at McKenzie Place
- **Sun., Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** – 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service – All Welcome
- **Sun., Dec 24<sup>th</sup>** – 8:00 pm Adult bell choir plays during the worship service

**Would you like to put an announcement in the Sunday bulletin?** Please have them to Carla in the Church office by **Wednesday at noon** in order to have them in for the current week's bulletin.