



## ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

December 17, 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

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

As people of joy, we gather together for worship.

**Continuing along the road that leads to a manger in Bethlehem.**

As we travel along the road we share the story.

**Today we hear it from a different perspective.**

But still the story fills us with joy.

**And so our hearts are lifted as on the wings of eagles.**

As we gather to hear the story and sing the carols, we greet each other with the Peace of Christ, whose Birth we await...

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

#### ADVENT CANDLES

In a world torn asunder by violence, Jesus says, "No more."

**"As it is written, a new command I give, 'Love one another as I have loved you'."**

In a world where hurting people are too often neglected, Jesus says, "No more."

**"As it is written, a new command I give, 'Love one another as I have loved you'."**

In a world where another's needs are too often overlooked, Jesus says, "No more."

**As it is written, a new command I give, 'Love one another as I have loved you'."**

Sung Response

Lift Up Your Eyes

*See insert*

Prayer

**Gracious God, scripture says we love because you first loved us. We confess**

**that, too often, we fail to love others the way you love us. With our eyes fixed upon you, help us to love others in the manner you love us. We pray this in your heavenly and holy name. Amen.**

#### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn: Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

#73 Voices United

### WE HEAR THE CHRISTMAS STORY THROUGH OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL PAGEANT

**"The Flocks Talk" -- Have you herd?**

CAROL: The First Nowell

Verses 1&2

#91 Voices United

CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verse 1

#64 Voices United

CAROL: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

#75 Voices United

CAROL: There's a Star in the East

#70 Voices United

CAROL: Jesus, Our Brother

Verses 1&4

#56 Voices United

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHOIR: Have you herd?

### 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.**

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn: Go, Tell It on the Mountain

#43 Voices United

#### COMMISSIONING:

Children run Joyfully! Jesus is born!

**Joy to the World! The Lord is Come!**

We have gathered with the sheep to witness a remarkable event.

**We have welcomed the child into our midst.**

Now go, tell it on the mountain, the street corner, the dinner table

**Unto us a child is born! A saviour who is Christ the Lord!**

As we join the angel song we trust that God sings with us,

**Peace on Earth and Goodwill toward all! Hallelujah!**

Sung Benediction: You Shall Go Out With Joy

2X

# 884 Voices United

#### POSTLUDE

# 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.

**This week the Advent Candles are being lit on behalf of the “Lunch Bunch”.**

**This is a group that goes out to lunch after worship each week. There are reports that there are some great conversations around that table.**

*God gives us glorious, perplexing, unbelievable wonderful gifts! Stewards recognize them for what they are – and give God the best they have to offer in return*

**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.

**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.

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## Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

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- **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

**PLEASE NOTE!!** As Wild Rose Manor has a flu outbreak they have had to cancel all scheduled activities so we will not be caroling there on Tuesday December 19.

### 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!

### **Labyrinth Walks**

*Please join us for meditation*

*an inward journey on a sacred path.. 7:00 pm*

*December 17<sup>th</sup>*

**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/>

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

**P&M** breakfast / work meeting Saturday, January 13th at 8:00 a.m.

**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.

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## Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

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### 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!

**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