



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**December 24, 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 (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**

**SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP:** O Come, All Ye Faithful #60 Voices United

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

**ADVENT CANDLES**

During Advent, we remember the light that shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.

**Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.**

For all who face the sting of loss, God's word speaks:

**Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.**

For all who wrestle with the unknown of tomorrow, God's word speaks:

**Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.**

For all who battle the questions that arise in the silence, God's word speaks:

**Though sorrow may last for the night, joy comes in the morning.**

Sung Response  
Lift Up Your Eyes

*See insert*

**Prayer**

**Gracious God, we thank: you for the way you have guided us throughout our Advent journey. As we move closer to the celebration of your birth we sense the wonder and joy. Continue to break into the dark areas of our world as you open our eyes to your hope, peace, love, and joy all around us. By your light, guide us as we walk in faith. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

We welcome through Baptism:  
Emily Adelle MacLennan  
Daughter of Malcolm and Nancy

*and*

Hadley Jerome Stryker Gillis  
Son of Leah Gillis

**WE TELL THE CHRISTMAS STORY TOGETHER**

CAROL: 0 Little Town of Bethlehem	(verses 1, 2)	#64 Voices United
CAROL: Silent Night		#67 Voices United
CAROL: Once In Royal David's City	(Verses 1, 2)	#62 Voices United
CAROL: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear	(verses 1, 2, 4)	#44 Voices United

**GIFT OF MUSIC:** Good News! Everybody Listen! *Choir*

CAROL: Hark The Herald Angels Sing	(verses 1, 2)	#48 Voices United
CAROL: We Three Kings	(verse 1)	
CAROL: Joy To The World	(verses 1, 2, 3)	#59 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.**

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns  
Prayers of the People

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**COMMISSIONING:**

Today we have gathered for worship.

**We have welcomed new members into the family of faith**

Together we have told the story.

**We have shared the excitement of shepherds and the wonder of Magi**

Now we continue our Christmas celebrations

**Listening for the song of angels, looking for the bright star of hope, watching for God to be made real in our midst.**

Go, tell it on the street corners, in the parks, and everywhere  
**Jesus Christ is born Alleluia!**

Sung Benediction: You Shall Go Out With Joy  
POSTLUDE

# 884 Voices United

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- ✚ Please join us for coffee, cake and fellowship in the friendship room after today's service.
  - ✚ All are welcome for tonight's 8:00 pm candle light service.
  - ✚ On behalf of the St. Paul's church council and congregation we wish you a Merry Christmas

