



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
November 26, 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: Open Our Hearts (3X) #21 More Voices

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TREATY LAND

We gather here on land that is covered by Treaty #8, specifically the traditional land of the Beaver in the traditional territory of the Cree.

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

May the Peace of Christ be with you

And also with you.

In the hustle and bustle of life we hear a whisper.

Urging us forward, challenging how we see the world.

In response to the whisper we gather with the community of faith.

Raising our eyes to greet the light breaking over the horizon

God has called us together

Here we seek to understand how God would have us live.

As we gather for worship we turn to the members of our faith family and greet each other with words and signs of Christ's Peace.

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Psalmist writes: "Thy word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path"

As this flame shines in our gathering, so may God's Word of hope and love shine in our hearts.

Guided by God's Light, we center ourselves for worship.

GIFTS OF MUSIC: You Are the Light of the World

Jr. Choir

OPENING PRAYER

God, in the beginning you said "Let there be light!"

And there was light.

As time goes by it seems that darkness keeps trying to win.

Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

CGIT Vesper Service "Christmas... with Love"
Sunday, December 3rd at 7:30pm
with CGIT and Explorers

Labyrinth Walks

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

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 sign up 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 October 1-31 we gave out 7 food/ gas vouchers for a total of \$500.00 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

35th annual Festival of Carols! Two marvellous evenings of local choirs performing Christmas Carols. The concert is free but donations of non-perishable food items for the Salvation Army Food Bank or cash for their kettle campaign are gratefully accepted at the door. 7:30 PM December 4 & 5, at St. Josephs Catholic Church. Experience the joy of Christmas in music and song as you support the less fortunate in the community!

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

Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

- **Sat., Dec 2nd - 10:00am** - Please join us! - We will be decorating the church for the Advent Season
- **Sun., Dec 3rd**– 10:00 am– Adult Bell choir plays during the worship service
- **Sun., Dec 3rd**– 7:30 pm – Please join us for the CGIT Vesper service
- **Mon., Dec 4th** – 7:30 pm - Festival of Carols – St Joseph Catholic Church - St Paul's Bell choir is performing
- **Sun., Dec 10** – 9:50 am – Beginner bells plays prior to the worship service
- **Mon., Dec 11^h** – 6:30 pm - UCW Christmas potluck
- **Sat., Dec 16th** – 10:00 am - Pageant Rehearsal and Hot Dog Boil
- **Sun., Dec 17th** – 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 17th** – 3:00 pm Blue Christmas Service – in the Friendship Room
- **Mon., Dec 18th** – 7:00 pm Adult bell choir will be playing at McKenzie Place
- **Sun., Dec 24th** – 8:00pm Christmas Eve Service – All Welcome
- **Sun., Dec 24th** – 8:00 pm Adult bell choir plays during the worship service

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

**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

But your light shines in the darkness and the darkness can not overcome it.
As we gather here to worship, to celebrate the Love which binds us together as your family,
shine in our lives, enlighten our hearts, brighten our world.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who called himself the light of the world, who challenged us to share the light with others, and who taught us to pray saying...

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn: Joy Comes with the Dawn

#166 Voices United

WE SHARE AS GOD'S CHILDREN THE BIBLE'S STORY IN WORD AND IN SONG: SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome through Baptism
Grayson Matthew Palubiski
Son of Nicole and Matthew

PRAYER FOR AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God, you call us to live as people of the Light.

But the shadows grow long and we feel darkness overtaking us.

You call us to be people of hope.

But we listen to the latest news and despair seems so much more realistic.

You call us to pass the light on to from one neighbour to another.

But sometimes in the shadows it is difficult to see if one is a neighbour or an enemy.

God of Grace, God of Hope, God of light,

help us overcome our fear, remind us that the darkness can not overcome your light.

...time of silent prayer...

"The people that walked in darkness have seen a brilliant light; on those who dwelt in a land of gloom light has dawned." Dawn is breaking. In its light God calls us to be renewed, to live as people of the Light.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 9:1-7

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 *Dawn*

Hymn People of the Light (insert)

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

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute
The Invitation:
Dedication Offering Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts vs. 1 #12 More Voices

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns
Prayers of the People

Hymn: I Am the Light of the World #87 Voices United

COMMISSIONING:

Dawn is breaking, the darkness fades.

The Light is coming into the world.

Though we may walk in darkness, real or symbolic.

The Light is coming into the world.

We go out to celebrate that God's Kingdom, the Reign of Peace and Hope, is coming.

We go out to share the Light.

We go with God, who was in the beginning, who is in the present, who will be in the future.

The Light that no darkness can overcome. Amen.

Sung Benediction: May God's Sheltering Wings (2X) #214 More Voices
POSTLUDE

Stewards help to create a new heaven and a new earth by living as though they are already here.



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!

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

Enabling Minister: Rev. Gord Waldie Church Office: Carla Johnson
Telephone: (780-532-2415) Email: secretary@stpaulsuc.ca
Sunday School: Holly Loughead
Youth Ministry: Janis Schau-Steinke
Music Director: Alison White.

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.

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.

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.

Committee chairs, please empty your mail boxes. They are getting pretty full again.

Announcements

Ministry by: The Congregation

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.

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) with your new details so we can keep our records up to date! Thank you!