



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**December 3, 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

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

ADVENT CANDLES

*Responsive Litany*

During Advent, God's promise illuminates our hope.

**On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

In times of fear, we place our hope in the One who brings peace.

**On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

In times of grief, we place our hope in the One who offers comfort.

**On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

In times of wondering, we place our hope in the One who speaks truth.

**On those living in the land of darkness, a light has dawned.**

*Candle Lighting*

This morning we light the **first candle** which reminds us that our hope is the everlasting God who pierces the darkness of this world and reaches into the brokenness of our lives, granting the promise of a new tomorrow.

*Sung response*

Lift Up Your Eyes

*See insert*

*Prayer*

**Gracious Lord, as we move from darkness to light throughout our Advent journey, open our eyes to see your unveiled glory. Guide us, we pray, as we join the refrain of faith. Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.**

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**Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)**

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**CGIT Vesper Service “Christmas... with Love”**  
**Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 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 13 food/ gas vouchers for a total of \$1150.00 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

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## Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

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- **Sun., Dec 3rd**– 7:30 pm – Please join us for the CGIT Vesper service
- **Mon., Dec 4<sup>th</sup>** – 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<sup>h</sup>** – 6:30 pm - UCW Christmas potluck
- **Sat., Dec 16<sup>th</sup>** – 10:00 am - Pageant Rehearsal and Hot Dog Boil
- **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

**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!

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

### 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!!

### 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!

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn: Come, O Come Emmanuel Vs.1, 3, 5, 7 #1 Voices United

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART – 12 days of Christmas *Jr. Choir*

PRAYER FOR AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE from an Orthodox prayer from Ethiopia:

**What an unheard thing for the potter to clothe himself in a clay vessel. What humility beyond words for the Creature to clothe himself in the body of a human creature.**

**And now I cry unto you, saying:**

**You who desired to live among earthly rather than heavenly beings, let me share the secret of your perfect being.**

**You adorned me with priceless gifts but I cast them away in favour of unrighteousness.**

**O Lord, you know the balm to heal my wounds, the help to strengthen my weakness, the path to prosper my progress.**

**O Lord, renew your vessel with the power of the Holy Spirit. Make the work of your hands lovely and unbroken.**

**And now we lift ourselves to praise you, saying, glory to you, glory to the one you sent, and glory to the Holy Spirit who speaks to us still. Amen.**

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 64: 1-9 O, if only God would come to be among us

1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 God calls us to come to him

Mark 13: 24-37 Soon

### 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 Room in the Inn

Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

# 2 Voices United

*In tune of #333 VU*

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

#### THE OFFERING

Mission Minute

The Invitation:

Dedication Offering Hymn: Winchester Old

*In tune of 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.**

Offering Prayer:

**God of many blessings, thank you for this time to share what you have given us. Help us to believe we can make a difference, and inspire us to make it in the manner you intended. Amen**

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn: Hope is a Star

# 7 Voices United

COMMISSIONING: A blessing of the Samburu people, Kenya:

**May God raise you up above everything. Spread out like water of a lake. Be abundance that never ends, that never changes.  
Be like a mountain. Be like a camel. Be like a cloud – a cloud that brings rain always. And God promised that it would be so. Amen**

Sung Benediction: You Shall Go Out With Joy      2X      # 884 Voices United  
POSTLUDE

*Let us remember the gifts we have received from God, and in our turn become God's giving hands in this world.*

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*This week the Advent Candles are being lit by the Bible Study Group. They have been meeting on Wednesday nights to look at some of the Scriptures often used as we prepare for Christmas. In 2018 there will be a group looking at the discipleship resource **Immersion: Investing in God's World**. Ask Gord for more information.*

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**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**

# 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.**

*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.

**Thank you to our Bell Choir for their gift of music this morning!**

**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.

**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.

### **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.