



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

November 25, 2018

*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: Prepare the Way of the Lord (3x) # 10 Voices United

LIFE & WORK OF THE CONGREGATION

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come into the season of preparation.

A time when we open our hearts, where we get ready for a baby.

As we prepare for Christmas God calls us to reflect

reflect on the world around us and our place in it.

God has called us to this place to worship, to reflect on our world, to get ready for the birth of Christ.

Come, let us worship together.

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

White Family

God we need some hope in our lives. Help us trust in your promise this Christmas.

Remind us that things can get better, that the world can change, that we can change.

Even when things seem terrible help us see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Help us live as people of hope. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathering Hymn: When the Wind of Winter Blows #71 More Voices

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

SONG:

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

PRAYER FOR AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God, you send us many messengers as we try to understand what it means to be your people.

You remind us that our choices have consequences, that sometimes we do indeed reap what we sow.

Will we listen?

Will we take advantage of the choices you offer?

In grace and mercy you give us the opportunity to change how we are living.

Will we heed the warning? Will we be open to being changed?

...time of silent prayer...

The God we meet in Christ is Gracious and Merciful. God allows us the freedom to choose a path, but in Grace God allows us to change course when we chose a less helpful path. We are forgiven and led to wisdom.

Thanks be to God who helps us sow things we actually want to reap. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Galatians 6:7

Luke 16:19-31

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 *Marley or Lazarus?*

Hymn: Spirit, Open My Heart

79 More Voices

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

THE OFFERING

Mission Minute

The Invitation:

Dedication Offering Hymn: Oh What a Wonderful Gift Linnea Good

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

Hymn: Flowers Shall Bloom in the Desert

(See insert)

COMMISSIONING:

We go out to continue living and working and serving.

We go out to continue to prepare for God's breaking into the world.

As we go we remember that choices matter

and so we commit to make good choices.

Go with God: known as Creator, as Christ, as Spirit at work in the world.

Amen.

Sung Benediction: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star

#220 More Voices

POSTLUDE

Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

Advent Study Group

All are invited to a 4 session Study Group called "The Redemption of Scrooge" as we prepare for Christmas. This study uses Charles Dickens' classic "A Christmas Carol" as a launching off point to talk about faith and Christmas. The study will be Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 starting on November 21st. We will meet in the Friendship Room.

Voice Enhancement Choir

Tuesday's @ 10:30 am – Tuesday, November 27th The choir will be performing at the Pioneer Lodge. The main goal of this choir is singing to maintain and improve vocal health. As we age, we need to work to keep our voices strong. We just happen to have a lot of fun singing together while we do it. Free to join and Everyone Welcome!

Notice the Ability – at Teresa Sargent Hall, in the Montrose Cultural Centre Sat., December 1st – 12:00 noon – 4:00 pm

In honor of International Day of Persons with Disabilities which is officially on Monday, December 3rd the Spinal Cord Injury Association of Alberta are sponsoring this event. You are invited to join in an Awards Event, which will NOTICE the ABILITY of members of our community. A display of art will be provided by participants of the Healing Arts Program Initiative from the Centre of Creative Arts, as well as a skit and a key note speaker.

Please join us on December 1, from 12:00 – 1:00 for tasty treats, comfortable companionship and an awesome afternoon!

United Church Women's Christmas Potluck – Monday, December 10th @ 6:00 pm All women of the church and sister churches are invited. Please bring a dish to share as well as a plate, cup and cutlery for your own use.

Mon., December 3rd and Tue., December 4th - Festival of Carols – 7:30 pm
@ St Joseph's Catholic Church

Featuring a wealth of community choirs all supporting the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle campaign!

The Bells of St Paul's will be playing at the Festival on Monday evening.

Announcements

Ministry by: The Congregation

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

Telephone: (780-532-2415) Email: secretary@stpaulsuc.ca

Sunday School: Holly Loughhead

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"

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.

Church Office Hours!

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

*the Office is closed during the lunch hour.

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!

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.

2019 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!

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.

Rooms Booked With Carla In The Office Will Have First Priority. - We are very fortunate at St Paul's 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. We don't want to disappoint anyone if possible.

St. Paul's Council is seeking a Treasurer and a Member at Large. The current secretary would be happy to step aside too. So if you are interested and would be willing to join us in any one of these roles on council please contact Karen Scott or Rev. Gord

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 indicate your envelope # on your givings so it can be accorded to the correct person.



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.

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

The Communications Committee is always looking for photographs! If you have any photos of recent St. Paul's events, please forward them to Carla for use in newsletters, narrative reports etc. Please let us know how we are doing with our messaging on the LED sign; in the Newsletter; on Facebook; and/or on the St. Paul's website.

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 or bottles/cans you dropped off.

*** \$544.70 has been brought in since January 1, 2018***

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/>

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

The 102 Street Stitchers.....

Quilters and Crafters are meeting again **December 14th** bring a project, work together on a project, do a community or outreach project, whatever you choose! The Friendship Room is booked 10-3. Bring your lunch or coffee and goodies to share. Conversation and advice is free! If you want more info call Gail Schau or Sherry Alstad.

Labyrinth Walks

Please join us for meditation

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

December 16th

A poster for a Christmas Vesper Service. At the top, there is a green decorative flourish. Below it is a circular logo with the letters 'CT'. The text reads: 'Christmas Vesper Service Sunday, December 2nd 7:30 p.m.'. In the center is a framed illustration of three children in winter hats and scarves, one holding a book. To the right of the illustration, the text says: 'St. Paul's United Church 10206-100 Ave Grande Prairie, AB Refreshments following the service Everyone Welcome!'. At the bottom, there is another green decorative flourish.