



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
December 2, 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

The God of our Past, our Present, and our Future

invites us to worship as we prepare for Christmas.

Here we come to be reminded who we are and whose we are.

Here we open ourselves to God's presence and listen for God's voice

As we sing and pray and remember,

may God be with us, may God fill us with the peace that passes understanding.

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Steinke Family

God you promise us that some day there will be peace throughout the world.

Peace between countries, peace within families, peace in our troubled hearts.

We haven't learned how to do that yet. Help all of us be people who bring peace into our lives.

Help us change the world around us as we wait for Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

Hymn: Put Peace into Each Other's Hands #173 More Voices

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Celebration of Communion

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 40:1-2

Revelation 21:3-5

Luke 4:17-19

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 *Carry Forward the Past*

Hymn : O Come O Come Emmanuel (odd vss.) #1 Voices United
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

BLUE CHRISTMAS RITUAL

GIFT OF MUSIC: What Child Is This? Bell Choir

BLUE CHRISTMAS PRAYER

God of Christmas promise and possibility,

we know that sometimes Christmas is less than joyful.

We remember the pain of the past and of the present,

we acknowledge that this pain is a part of our Christmas, is a part of who we are.

God who walks with us in joy and in sorrow, when the way is easy and when it is hard,

as we remember our past be with us we pray. Strengthen us as we go forward.

God who is always present, we lift up our memories, the happy and the sad,

And we are thankful that we are not alone.

We pray in the name of Jesus, whose birth we await. **Amen**

Hymn: In You There Is A Refuge #84 More Voices

COMMISSIONING:

We have gathered, we have sung, we have prayed.

We have remembered the joys and sorrows of the past that has shaped us.

We go out to continue to get ready for the birth of a baby

a child who will lead us in the way of peace and love.

We go out trusting that the God who offers us the peace that passes understanding

is with us wherever life may lead. Thanks be to God.

Sung Benediction: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star #220 More Voices

POSTLUDE

Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

Advent / Christmas Gatherings with St Paul's United Church Family

Sun., December 2nd – 3:30 pm Downtown Christmas Parade
St Paul's will be handing out Hot Chocolate

Mon., Dec. 3rd & Tue., Dec 4th – *Festival of Carols*
7:30 pm @St Joseph's Catholic Church
The Bells of St Paul's will be playing Monday.

Sun., December 9th @ 10:00 am – Advent 3 – *JOY*
See the World Today

Fri., December 14th @ 7:00 pm – Caroling at Heritage Lodge

Sun., December 16th @ 10:00 am – Advent 3a - *Pageant*
Practice Christmas

Sun., December 16th @ 4:00 pm in Friendship Room
Blue Christmas Service

Mon., December 17th – 6:30 pm @ McKenzie Place
The Bells of St Paul's are playing

Sun., December 23rd @ 10:00 am – Advent 4 - *LOVE*
Shadows that Can be Changed
The Bells of St Paul's will be playing

Sun., December 23rd @ 6:00 pm –Worship at Wild Rose Manor
Followed by Caroling @ 7:00 pm

Mon., December 24th – @ 8:00 pm
Christmas Eve Service
The Bells of St Paul's will be playing



Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

Voice Enhancement Choir

Tuesday's @ 10:30 am - Grande Prairie Care Centre 9705 94 Ave
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!

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.

Christmas Caroling At Senior's Lodges. Bring your voice and Christmas spirit

Heritage Lodge- Friday, December 14, 7:00 PM
Social time afterward at Proudfoot's (beware of kitten!).

Wild Rose Lodge- Sunday, December 23, 7:00 PM
(following Gord's Sunday service at 6:00 PM)
Social time afterward at Lodge party room hosted by Sharon and Alice

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.

Stories Wanted.

For the month of February we need stories about why the church is important to you or what the church means to you. These will be read either by you or by Gord (your choice) during the sermon. Gord will add in some Theological Reflection to go with the story (so he will need to know what you are going to say beforehand). If you want to share your story talk to Gord. Otherwise he will be hunting for people to share their stories.

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

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/>

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***

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.

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!

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.

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