



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**December 23, 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.**

As we pause to listen, to reflect, to pray,  
**we open our hearts to the promise of a child.**

God is about to break into the world  
**God is continuing to transform our future.**

As we gather to prepare for the birth of the Prince of Peace we greet each other with  
worlds and signs of His peace...

WE GREET EACH OTHER WITH THE PEACE OF CHRIST

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

**God we remember the song "what the world needs now is love sweet love" and  
we know it is true.**

**Sometimes we find it hard to love the people around us. Sometimes we are hard  
to love.**

**But you love all of us. All of the time. And then you give us a chance to change  
the future by changing the present. Thank you for that.**

**Help us to be like Scrooge and promise to do better, to love better, in the future.  
Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: Dream a Dream # 158 More Voices

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

A TIME FOR THE YOUNG AT HEART

GIFT OF MUSIC: Go Tell It *Beginner Bells*

**St Paul's Mailboxes...are now in place.**

Communications has made a file folder for all the names in the Photo Directory, and a few others from the Birthday lists. If you don't have a file, our apologies please leave your name in the "Communications Team" file folder, and we'll get one made for next week!

We hope you'll find them useful for communicating with your fellow St Paul's family and ministry teams.

**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.



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.

**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!

**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

**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.

**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.

to tell of the Hope that is being born among us the Christmas, to share the Love of the season with the world, to be agents of Peace in times of trouble, to sing songs of deep and abiding Joy.

As you go, may God go with you. Challenging us to respond God's Call in ways that are new, unexpected and a little unsettling.

And as Tiny Tim said so very well...

**God Bless Us Every One. Amen.**

Sung Benediction: Hope Shines as the Solitary Star  
POSTLUDE

#220 More Voices

## 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 Loughhead**

**Youth Ministry: Janis Schau-Steinke Music Director: Alison White.**

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*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.

**Please note the office will be closed December 24 -26 , January 1<sup>st</sup> and opened from 9 am – noon December 27,28,31<sup>st</sup> and January 2-4<sup>th</sup> .**

**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!

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## Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

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

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

Social time afterward at Lodge party room hosted by Sharon and Alice

Mon., December 24<sup>th</sup> – @ 8:00 pm

*Christmas Eve Service*

*The Bells of St Paul's will be playing*



### **The 102 Street Stitchers.....**

Quilters and Crafters are meeting again **January 11<sup>th</sup>** 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.

### **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.

\*\*\* **671.15** has been brought in since January 1, 2018\*\*

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## Looking Ahead – Save the Date(s)

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**If you're not able to get in to make your yearend donation** *Interac* e-Transfer is a simple, convenient, and secure way to send and receive money directly from one bank account to another. All you need is access to online or mobile banking through a participating financial institution, and you can send money to St. Paul's United Church — without sharing any personal financial information. It's a great alternative to cheques and cash.

To give using Interac e-Transfer please use this email address to send your donation to St. Paul's United Church - [secretary@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca)

In the note field of your transaction request, please indicate your envelope number (if you have one, if not contact the Church office to get one) and what fund(s) you are wanting your donation to go to. You can split your donation between funds if you so desire. (Example: If your donations is \$100 your note could say - \$25 GF, \$50 MS, \$25 OU or any other combination of amounts and funds you would like to support).

Fund: (Code)

- General Fund (GF)
- Mission and Service (MS)
- Capital Fund (CA)
- Outreach (OU)

Any donations made without a fund code will be considered a "General Funds" donation.

After you have selected the amount and the fund, please email the answer to your security question to [secretary@stpaulsuc.ca](mailto:secretary@stpaulsuc.ca) so that we can accept your donation.

### **CONGRATULATIONS and THANK YOU from your Council and Stewardship**

**Team!** In six short months you have donated over half of the funds needed to replenish the Capital fund for the cost of the new roof. We have received \$10,355.08 as of December 16th. We know the approximately \$8400.00 (112 bundles) remaining will come in next year. A BIG THANK YOU also for the generous support coming in this month for the General Fund (to avoid a deficit) and for our neighbours by way of The Christmas Angel drive!

### PRAYER FOR AND ASSURANCE OF GRACE

God, sometimes we feel trapped.

**Caught in the consequences of our actions, unable to change the path ahead of us.**

We know that we are the result of our past, that it shapes who we are now and will one day be.

**But we also know that we can learn from that past, and we pray that this learning can bring change.**

God of grace and mercy, you promise new life and new hope,

**help us change the path we are on, help us change the future**

In love and Grace God offers us new chances. In love and grace God shows us that the shadows can be changed. As Christ has proclaimed, we are forgiven, redeemed, renewed.

**Thanks be to God! Amen**

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Isaiah 2:2-5

Isaiah 7:10-16

GIFT OF MUSIC: Is There Room for Me at the Manger?

Mary Kay Beall

SERMON *Shadows that Can Be Changed*

Hymn: A Light is Gleaming

# 82 Voiced 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

Sharing of Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

LORD'S PRAYER - Sung to Away in a Manger

see screen for words

Hymn: Joy to the World

# 59 Voiced United

#### COMMISSIONING:

The time is near, soon that labour pains will be felt!

**A young maiden will bear a child, and she will call him Jesus.**

But that is the beginning of the story, a story that has not yet ended.

**A story that includes us, a story of which we are a part.**

So we go out to live the story,

**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.

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

**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 12 food/ gas vouchers for a total of \$1025.00 from** our local outreach fund. Please consider donating "in good used condition" warm clothing such as mitts, gloves, socks, toques and bath towels for the Saint Lawrence Center. Thank you for your continued support.

#### **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!