



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
December 24, 2018

*Through Faith, we walk on the path Jesus set for us.
The people of St. Paul's Belong... Believe... Listen... Love... Lead.*

WE GATHER TO SEEK THE LIGHT

PRELUDE (Bells)

CALL TO WORSHIP

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined."

The people who walk in darkness. That's us! We have seen deep darkness in the world around us.

So we have come to search for the light. We want the light to shine on us!

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given"

A child is born for US! A son is given to ALL of US!

We come to see the child that has been born,

we come to gather in the glow of the stable, we come to sing with angels and wonder with shepherds.

Come and worship, come and worship. Worship the one who is born for us this day...

PROCESSIONAL CAROL: O Come All Ye Faithful # 60 Voices United

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.

OPENING PRAYER

God of Christmas, as we gather on this night of nights,

as we listen for the Good News which shall be for all people,

open our eyes and ears

so that we will see the baby and hear the angel song.

Fill our hearts with hope and peace, Love and Joy,

and lead us out to share that Good News of Christ's birth with the world.

Jesus is born! The world is changed tonight!

Jesus is born! Glory in Excelsis Deo! Amen.

CAROL: Silent Night # 67 Voiced United

LIGHT OF HOPE

Candle lighting
I Am Walking a Path of Hope # 221 More Voices

John 1:1-5 read by Norm George

CAROL: O Little Town of Bethlehem # 64 Voiced United

LIGHT OF PEACE

Candle lighting
I Am Walking a Path of Peace # 221 More Voices

There is No Silent Night by Richard Bott read by Sharon Adams

CAROL: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear # 44 Voices United

LIGHT OF JOY

Candle lighting
I Am Walking a Path of Joy # 221 More Voices

Luke 1:46-55 read by Pat Larter

Gift of Music: Cradle Carol Victor C. Johnson

LIGHT OF LOVE

Candle lighting
I Am Walking a Path of Love # 221 More Voices

Gift of Music: Can I Peek at the Baby? A. White

No Longer Alone by Miriam Therese Winter read by Susan McKenzie

CAROL: What Child is This? # 74 Voices United

LIGHT OF CHRIST

Luke 2:1-20 read by Devyn Waldie

Candle lighting

Gift of Music: Mary Did You Know? M. Lowry
Soloist: Madison White

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION: *The Revolution Starts Tonight...Again*

CAROL: Hark the Herald Angels Sing

48 Voiced United

WE RESPOND TO THE LIGHT

THE OFFERING

The Invitation:

Dedication Offering: In the Bleak Midwinter verse 4 # 55 Voices United

A CHRISTMAS PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Sung to Away in a Manger – see screen for words

WE GO OUT TO SHARE THE LIGHT

COMMISSIONING:

The child is born, the labour pains start to fade.

The shepherds and the angels have sung their songs.

We go out into the night of a world being changed.

We go out to be midwives in the birth of a new world.

Birth is a scary and exciting time,

a time of wonder and hope about what will come next.

As we go out into the world that is being born we carry with us the hope we find in the child who lies in the manger. We carry with us the songs of peace, goodwill towards all. We carry with us the promise of God to be active in the world.

May we share the hope, promise, and joy of Christmas with all we meet! Christ is born! Alleluia!

CAROL: Joy to the World

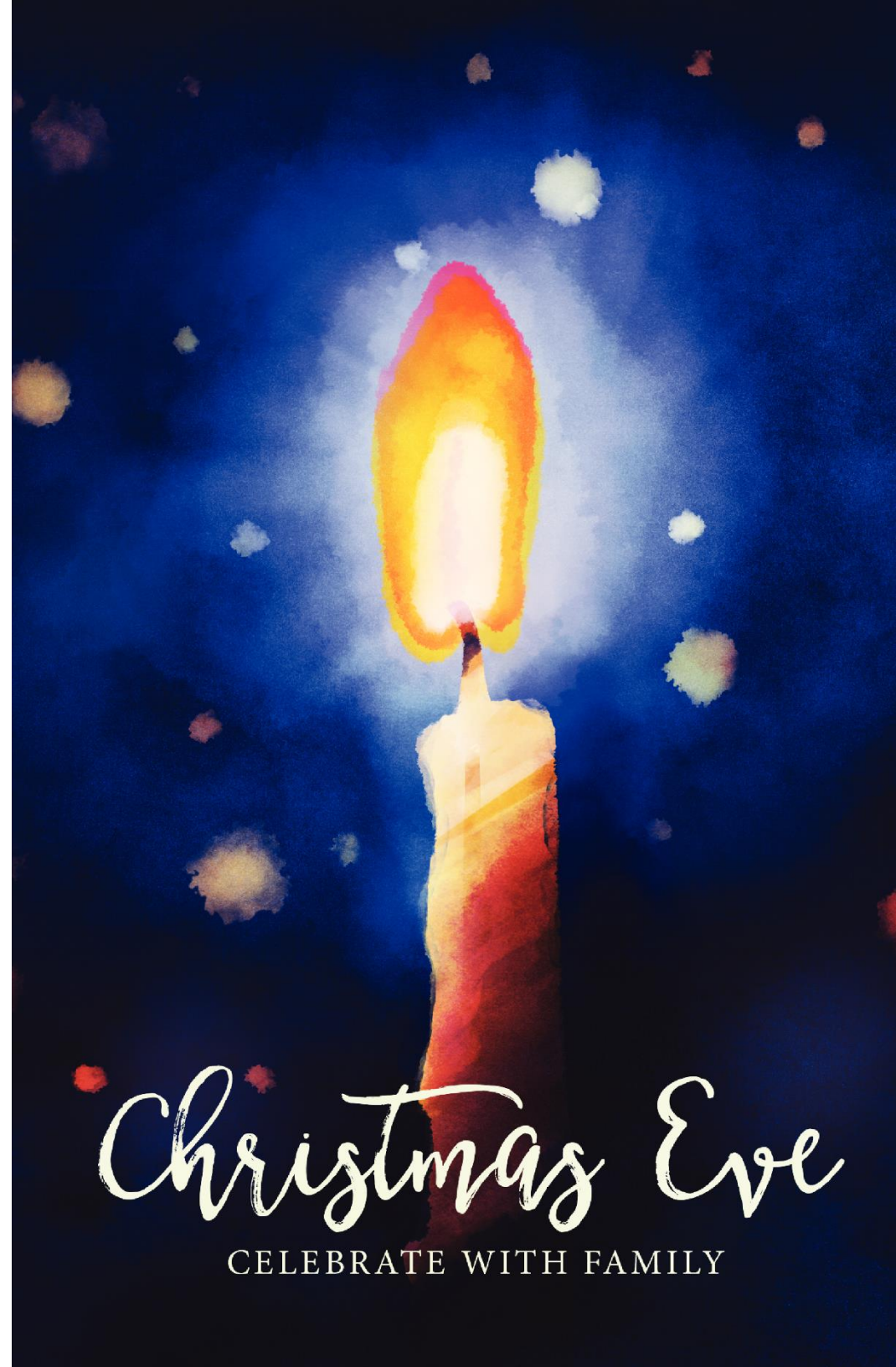
59 Voiced United

POSTLUDE

You are invited to take a candle home on your way out to share the light of Christ this Christmas Eve.

Thank you to our musicians for sharing their gifts with us this evening!

Merry Christmas



Christmas Eve

CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY