

# *St. Paul's United Church*

*Back to Basics: Christ our Center*

10:30 a.m. January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

\* Please stand as you are able, sit as you prefer \*

**Prelude**

Prelude in G Major

Buxtehude

## **We Gather in Community**

**\*Greeting**

**\*Introit:**

Let Us Build A House

MV 1 (vs 5)

**Let us build a house where all are named,  
their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed  
as words within the Word.**

**Built of tears and cries and laughter,  
prayers of faith and songs of grace,  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.**

**\*Call to Worship (Responsive):**

Arise; shine, for your light has come!

**We are called out of our darkness into light.**

Lift up your eyes and look around.

**We rejoice in the gift of light.**

Come let us worship the God of light and joy and peace.

**Not long ago, we knelt at the cradle of the babe, the light incarnate. Now we  
wade into the waters of the river Jordan to bear witness as light calls to light.**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer**

**\*Hymn of Praise:**

Morning Has Broken

VU 409

**Time for the Young at Heart**

### **Prayer of Confession (Unison):**

**We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires. Help us to desire you, Lord. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light. We ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.**

### **Assurance of God's Love**

#### **We Listen for the Voice of the Spirit**

**Scripture:** Matthew 3:13-17 Dow Johnston

**One:** This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

**All: Praise be to you, O Christ.**

**Anthem** Christmas Grace Schram

**Reflecting on our Faith:** Article XII Of the Lord Jesus Christ

#### **Message**

**\*Hymn of Praise:** Praise to the Lord VU 220

#### **We Respond to the Spirit**

#### **Invitation to Offering**

**Offertory** Be Thou my Vision arr. Hopson

**\*Dedication Verse:** Christ Has No Body MV 171 (vs 4)

#### **Refrain:**

**Christ has no body now but yours, No hands, but yours  
Here on this earth yours is the work, To serve with the joy of compassion.**

**Through every gift, give back to those in need;  
As Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,  
With every gift a benediction be  
To the people of God. [Refrain]**

**\*Dedication Prayer (Unison):**

**God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in a dark world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves. Let them shine for all to see, and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness. AMEN**

**Prayers of the People**

**\*Hymn of Praise:** I have Called You by Your Name MV 161

**\*Blessing and Sending Forth (Responsive):**

Arise, and go forth to shine for all the world to see.

**We go to spread the good news of light and love, righteousness and justice.**  
Go now and follow the star that will guide you on your journey this week, this year, and forever.

**We go forth in trust and excitement, transformed in the presence of the holy one of light.**

May the blessing of the God of light rest upon you and fill you with light.

**Amen.**

**\*Choral Closing:** May God's Sheltering Wings MV 214

**May God's sheltering wings,  
God's gathering wings protect you.  
May God's nurturing arms,  
God's cradling arms sustain you,  
and hold you in God's love, and hold you in God's love.**

Postlude

Toccata

Reger

*We invite you to stay and enjoy the postlude*

# *Announcements*

**Greeters:** January 8:  
**Ushers:** Left Side: Dow Johnston & John Gaskin  
Middle: Roger Miller  
Right Side: Lois Walker & Betty Fitzpatrick  
Upstairs: Katie & Eric Lakes  
**Coffee Hour:** January 15:

## **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** Today, January 8, 2017

This meeting is to consider a candidate being brought forward by the Joint Search Committee.

**Back to Basics!** For the next 8 weeks, we will be exploring our core as a people of faith. Our Scriptures, prayers and messages will reflect a theme, a focus as we remind ourselves of God's call for us. Join us as we rediscover who we are as members of the Body of Christ!

January 8th: **Christ, Our Center, Our Beginning**  
January 15th: **God, Creator, Mother and Father**  
January 22nd: **Holy Spirit, Holy Wisdom, Wholly God**  
January 29th: **Reading Scripture, Embracing the Word**  
February 5th: **Prayer: Private, Public, Powerful**  
February 12th: **Fellowship: Who we are together, matters**  
February 19th: **Tithing: Giving Our Very Selves**  
February 26th: **Sacraments: Symbols of Grace Eternal**

**OBSERVER** subscriptions are ready for renewal. If you wish to continue your subscription or would like to start one please contact Cathy Simpson at 458-1183. Cost is \$25/year

**2017 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Narthex, if you are interested in donating to the church and are not on PAR or using weekly offering envelopes please contact Cathy Simpson in the office at 458-1183.

**Brown bag needs:** (flip top lids for cans please)

Proteins	flaked chicken, ham or turkey beans, soups, ravioli,
Juice Boxes	small please (tetra boxes)
Snacks	cheese/crackers, individually packed cookies small chocolate bars. granola bars
Puddings	vanilla, chocolate, tapioca, fudge.....
Fruit Cups/sauce	apple, mixed berry, fruit cocktail .....

*Thank You for thinking of others.....*