

St. Paul's United Church

11:00 p.m. December 24th, 2015

Christmas Eve Communion

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

Prelude Chorale Prelude on In Dulci Jubilo Bach, arr. Ryan

Introit Lord Prepare Me (X2) MV 18

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living,
Sanctuary for you.**

*Greeting

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all,
and also with you.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Let us go, just as we are, to see what has happened. Let us go with the shepherds:

let us go and find the One of whom the angels sang.

Let us go with those who are wise:

let us go and find the One who brings God's truth to us.

Let us go with the poor in spirit, and in flesh; let us go with those who are humbled by life:

let us find the Glory of God born in a stable, and placed in a feeding trough.

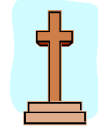
Let us go with our friends and family, let us go with our neighbours and with strangers, let us go with all the children of God:

let us go to find the One who comes to lead us home to God's kingdom. AMEN

Sharing the Good News: Luke 2:1-14

Prayer of the Journey

***Hymn** O Come All Ye Faithful (vs 1, 3, 5) VU 60



Christmas Memorials

A donation has been made to the Organ/Memorial Chimes Fund in memory of Marion Blackmer by son, John and family.

A donation has been made to St. Paul's Operating Fund in memory of Merle Cull by his wife Jean & daughters Heather, Barbara & Joanne.

A donation has been made to St. Paul's Operating Fund in memory of our parents, Frank and Mary Hallett by daughters Roberta Watson and June Hallett.

A donation has been made to the Operating Fund in memory of my parents, Marven and Diana Palmer by Alanna Palmer.

A donation has been made to St. Paul's Operating Fund in memory of Donald MacFarlane by George & Lesslie Noble.

Flowers in the sanctuary have been placed in loving memory of Ralph Dingee, by daughter, Mary, and grandchildren, Melinda and Michael Jacobs.

Bulletins for this evening's services are donated in loving memory of Dr. E.H. and Shirley Sutherland by their grandchildren Claire and Kate Green.

2016 Offering Envelopes

Please pick up your 2016 envelopes—they can be found in the Narthex. If anyone wishes to begin on the PAR program or receive envelopes please contact Cathy Simpson at 458-1183—thank you. cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

2015 Donations—please ensure that all donations reach the church office by 10 a.m. on Dec. 31st if you wish to have them included in your 2015 tax receipt.

For the week of December 28th to January 3rd, **Rev. Richard Bowley** will be on vacation. For emergency pastoral care, please contact Cathy in the office at 458-1183.

Greeters: Left: Larry Buick and Tammy Coughlin
Right: Colleen Hanna & Bob Miller
Middle: Roger Miller

***Prayer of Blessing (Unison)**

Christ enters our lives once again this night and calls us to continue his healing mission. Send your Spirit upon these gifts and on us, O God, and hear us as we pray and celebrate this night. AMEN

Greeting the Christ Child: Luke 2:15-20

Sacrament of Holy Communion (see insert)

Anthem Peace, Peace Powell, arr. Bolks

Message

***Lighting of the Candles** *Go Tell it on the mountain* VU 43

***Commissioning**

May the God of the stable help us to see the wonder of Christmas:

***the wonder of children who can hardly wait,
the wonder of Mary and Joseph who feel
the power of God's love,
the wonder of the shepherds who hear the Good News,
the wonder of Magi who kneel and offer their gifts,
the wonder of the ages
that God would come in such a simple birth. AMEN***

***Benediction**

***Closing** *Silent Night* VU 67

Postlude On Christmas Night arr. Paxton

Ringing of the Bells
Merry Christmas

Prayer of the Four Candles

Wonder. Whisper. Wait. Wake.

Wonder. Whisper. Wait. Wake.

(one candle is lit) With the wise ones... **we wonder.**
(one candle is lit) With the shepherds... **we whisper.**
(one candle is lit) With Mary and Joseph... **we wait.**
(one candle is lit) With the Christ child... **we wake!**

Prayer of the Christ Light & Lord's Prayer

With all who come to the stable, no matter who we are, no matter where we come from, no matter where we're heading,

we celebrate Christ's light, born again into the world!

Glory to God in the Highest!

***Glory to God! Blessed is the Christ child! Alleluia!
Alleluia! ALLELUIA!***

(Christ candle is lit)

And in the presence of that most blessed child, in our hearts and in our lives, we offer our deepest prayers together in the one he taught us saying:

Our Father...

Candle Lighting Verse: *Christ Shines as a Solitary Star* MV 220

***Christ shines as a solitary star, faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the light of lights,
and illumine the pathway home.***

Bringing of Gifts: *Matthew 2:10-12* Roger Miller

***Hymn** *What Child is This?* VU 74

Invitation to Offering

Offertory O Jesulein Suss arr. Paxton

***Dedication Verse** VU 55(vs 4)

***What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him – give my heart.***

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