St. Paul's United Church

7:00 p.m. December 24th, 2015 Christmas Eve Family Service

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

Prelude Introit Still, Still, Still

arr. Edwards *MV 18*

Lord Prepare Me (X2)

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)

A light shining in the darkness...
The sound of angels' wings...
A baby born in a stable...

what could it be? what could it mean? who could it be?

Come to Bethlehem and see.

The Promise: Isaiah 9:2–7

Prayer of Hope

God of wonderful possibilities, we come to you in this time with Hope. We look to the future and see what can be, a world where all people are fed, sheltered, and cared for. A world that is not only worth hoping for, but worth striving for. Walk with us through this season, help us to turn our hope to action. We ask this in the name of Christ who moves through us. AMEN.

*Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful (vs 1, 3, 5)

VU 60

Advent Candle Lighting

The Simpson Family

We know that God is always with us.

We are not alone: we live in God's world.

This is our Hope, our light for the darkness.

This is our peace, one unlike any the world has seen, but one that Christ offers freely.

Anthem

Peace, Peace

Powell, arr. Bolks

Message

*Lighting of the Candles

Go Tell It On The Mountain

n VU 43

*Commissioning & Benediction

Go now in wonder. Go to bring light to those in darkness, joy to those who can find no joy, and comfort to a world that is greatly in need.

We go with the songs of angels in our ears, and the love of God in our hearts. We go to spread the word—the babe of Bethlehem is born for all.

Closing

Silent Night

VU 67

Postlude

Joy to The World

arr. Ritter

Greeters:

Upstairs: Hope Brewer & Darrell Bruce

Downstairs: Left: Murray Simpson & Blaine Irving

Right: Tammy Coughlin & Dean Jones

Middle: Isabel Green

Dec. 27 Coffee Hour: UCW

For the week of Dec. 28th to January 3rd, **Rev. Richard Bowley** will be on vacation. For emergency pastoral care, please contact Cathy in the office at 458-1183. The church office will be closed until December 29th.

Merry Christmas

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.

Prayer of Joy

In Joy, we come before you again O God of the dance that is creation. Born to us each year is a reminder of not only our hope for the future, of a world living in peace, but also a call to not live in fear, to celebrate both the life we are given in creation and the new life afforded by the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice this day as we await the coming of your son in our lives. AMEN.

The Discovery: Luke 2:15-20

Prayer of Love

God of Eternal Love, the love we learn about at Advent is a true, strong, selfless, heartfelt love which shows itself by giving to others with no expectation of anything in return. We need guidance to be able to express this kind of love to others all through the year. Open the flood gates of our hearts that we might offer to all the fullness of our love, as Christ did for us. Let this be so through this season and beyond. AMEN

The Gift: Matthew 2:10-12

*Hymn Hark the Herald Angels Sing VU 48

Invitation to Offering

Offertory

Violin Solo Angels We Have Heard on High Kirsten Simpson Organ On Christmas Night 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.

*Dedication Prayer (Unison)

For all the gifts we give and receive, for all the blessings which are abundant in our lives, we give thanks. Bless what we offer this night, whether it is money, care, time or even ourselves as we work for the body of Christ in this place. Bless us as well as we bring the light of Christ's birth to the dark places of this world. In his name we pray. AMEN

This is our joy, overflowing within us, overwhelming despair and overshadowing darkness.

This is our love, offered by God who reaches for us, even as we long for that divine embrace.

(Four Advent Candles Lit)

Now comes the moment we've been searching for.

Led by God's light within us, we once again find Christ born anew in our hearts.

(Christ Candle Lit)

God calls to us now. Christ walks beside us as always. The Holy Spirit guides us on the way.

God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

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.

Profession of Faith

We come together this night for light, though not the twinkling kind. We come together to receive a gift, but not one we find under a tree or in Santa's sled. We come together with family, but it is one that goes beyond these walls, beyond our country, and across the whole world. Here, tonight a light is born anew in each of us, the gift of salvation is offered without requirement, and we join hands with our neighbours to welcome the Christ child, our hope, our peace, our joy, and our eternal love. Welcome Jesus our brother into our lives.

*Hymn Away in a Manger VU 69
The Birth: Luke 2:1–7 Mary Dingee Jacobs

Prayer of Peace

We pray, O Prince of Peace, for a world that truly lives out your kingdom. In the birth of a single child, you offer us a glimpse of the trust you have in your people. The trust to live out the dream you have for this world where all people join hands in love, not hate, peace and not war. Guide our hands and feet to make that dream a reality. AMEN.

The News: Luke 2:8-14

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