

# St. Paul's United Church

Dec. 31, 2017

Portions of the service printed in **bold** are spoken by the whole congregation.

At the points marked \* - those who are able are invited to stand.

*Psalm 32:1-2 Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Organ Prelude:** Sussex Carol Tucker

**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.**

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Introit:** Take, O Take Me As I Am MV 85

## Welcome & Announcements

\* **Gathering Hymn:** Angels From the Realms of Glory VU 69

## \*Call to Worship:

Not long ago we were called to the manger by angels overhead.

**We came to marvel at the way God drew near.**

Not long ago the sound of a baby crying rang out in the night.

**Now a different voice calls out in the wilderness.**

But both voices beacon us to God breaking in to the world to something new.

**In the joy of God's presence we come to worship.**

## Prayer of the Day

**Duet:** I Saw Three Ships Kirsten Simpson & Muriel Falkenstein

## Story Time for the Young and Young at Heart

**Children's verse:** Joy Is With Us In Every Place VU45

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## LISTENING FOR TRUTH

**Today's Scripture:** John 1:19-34 Alanna Palmer

Herein is wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:** Christ The Lord is Born Smith

**Message:** Grabbing Our Attention

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\* **Hymn:** In the Bleak Midwinter VU 55

## Invitation to the Offering:

**Offertory Music** We Three Kings Piano/Organ Duet

**Dedication Verse:** All Poor Ones and Humble (vs 1) VU 68

**All poor ones and humble and all those who stumble**

**come hastening and be not afraid,**

**For Jesus, our treasure, with love past all measure,**

**in lowly poor manger was laid.**

**Though wise men who found him laid rich gifts around him,**

**yet oxen they gave him there hay,**

**and Jesus in Beauty accepted their duty,**

**contented in manger he lay.**

## \* Prayer of Dedication

## Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

## SENDING FORTH

\* **Closing Hymn:** Good Christian Friends Rejoice VU35

## \* Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):

The baby has grown,

**Christ is coming,**

To show in words and actions what it means,

**to live a holy life.**

So prepare the way, make straight the path

**that leads to Jesus**

Watch the man, see the truth,

**and follow where he leads.**

**Choral Closing:** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (vs6) VU 75

**All glory be to God on high,**

**and to the earth be peace;**

**good will to all from highest heaven**

**begin, and never cease**

**Ministry of Music:** I Saw Three Ships Payne  
*We invite you to stay and enjoy the Ministry of Music*

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**Greeters:** Florence Bartlett  
**Ushers:** Left Side: John Gaskin and Roger Miller  
Center: Isabel Green  
Right Side: Tammy Coughlan & Dean Jones  
Upstairs: Katie & Eric Lakes

**Spirit Sisters:** First meeting of the New Year is January 8th @7pm in the Ladies Parlor.

**Men's Conversation Group:** Will be resuming our meetings on January 10th

**Next week is Pantry Sunday.** You are invited to help us restock the shelves after a busy Christmas season. The most needed items right now are laundry detergent, Kleenex, toilet paper, cheese whiz, canned fruit, granola bars, relish, mustard, mayonnaise, coffee mate, juice and white sugar. Thank you for helping us keep this vital ministry of feeding others open.

**Youth Group** (middle school and older) will be joining at the church for a games night on January 12 at the church.

We want to take this opportunity to say **thank you** to the worship committee for all of their hard and dedicated work, the work they did to make sure our Christmas Services were amazing was much appreciated, thanks as well to **everyone** who volunteered to read, sing, play music, collect offering and greet.

***St. Paul's Contact Information***

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***Office Hours***

	<b><i>Rev. Richard</i></b>	<b><i>Rev. Michelle</i></b>
<b><i>Sunday:</i></b>	By Appointment	By Appointment
<b><i>Monday:</i></b>	8:30—12	9:00-11
<b><i>Tuesday:</i></b>	8:30—12	9:30-1
<b><i>Wednesday:</i></b>	By Appointment	9-12:30, 1:30-4
<b><i>Thursday:</i></b>	8:30—12	By appointment