

# St. Paul's United Church

Christmas Eve 3:00 PM - Dec. 24th, 2018

This service is our family friendly service, and we are glad you have chosen to join us this year. While following some of our regular liturgy, this afternoons service will involve lots of singing as we share together the story of Jesus' birth. Portions of the service in **Bold** are for everyone together. While this is a Holy Night, we do not expect it to be a silent night nor for all to be still. If your child needs to move around, we just ask that you stay with them as the heat registers around the sanctuary can get very hot and we don't want anyone to get hurt. Today's service is based on Godly Play, a Christian Education method that focuses on storytelling and our response and of course there is lots of music. If you need bathrooms they are through the door to the left of the pulpit and up the stairs and to the left. Our nursery while not staffed this afternoon is open, it is located on the upper floor of our hall, you can access through the door to the left of the pulpit and then going through the double doors to the stairs in our Sunday school classroom ring. We hope that this service will be a blessing as you celebrate Christmas this year.

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Gathering Music:** Basque 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**

### Welcome & Announcements

#### Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy:

A mother and father seek rest for the night after a long journey  
**their hope is not in vain, but a barn is the best they can find.**

The night is quiet now, like the whole world is waiting  
**because God - Christ - is so close, we can feel the Holy Presence just on the edge of our next breath.**

But in the distance we hear the faint songs of angels growing in intensity as the moment approaches,  
**and in their songs we hear of such Joy as the world has never known.**

## St. Paul's Contact Information

stpaulsunitedchurch@nb.aibn.com www.stpaulsunited.ca

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**Ministers:** Rev. Michelle Armstrong michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com  
Rev. Richard Bowley rev.bowley@outlook.com  
Pastor Sarah Magie sarah.magie@gmail.com  
**Music Director:** Dr. Sharon Pond spond@bellaliant.net  
**Choir Director:** Alexis Ervin aervin17@gmail.com  
**Custodian:** Eric Hotte  
**Office Admin:** Cathy Simpson cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

### \*New\* Office Hours

|                | <b>Rev. Richard</b> | <b>Rev. Michelle</b> | <b>Pastor Sarah</b> |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Cell:</b>   | (506)262-2150       | (306)858-7602        | (613)329-6315       |
| <b>Sun.:</b>   | By Appointment      | By Appointment       | By Appointment      |
| <b>Mon.:</b>   | 9am - noon          | 10 am - noon         | 8:30 am - noon      |
| <b>Tues.:</b>  | By Appointment      | By Appointment       | 1-3 pm              |
| <b>Wed:</b>    | 12-2 pm             | 10:30-12:30 pm       | Day off             |
| <b>Thurs.:</b> | 12-2 pm             | 12-2 pm              | 8:30-12             |
| <b>Friday:</b> | Day off             | Day off              | By Appointment      |

*These hours are subject to change due to Emergency Pastoral Care, meetings and other church business elsewhere.*

Donations have been made in memory of loved ones this Christmas by the following people:

### Operating Fund

- ◆ Audrey & Don McGuire by Connie, Bob Johnson and family
- ◆ Harold Forbes, James & Edith Cameron, Janice Cameron-Gionet by Barbara Forbes
- ◆ Ann Gale by husband Frank

### Memorial Chimes Fund

- ◆ The Blackmer family; Ed, Marian, Lilly and John by Dolores.

### Music Fund

- ◆ Bill McNamara by Maude and family

Merry Christmas

The world - not ready, yet long waiting - stands at the cradle. Kings wait with shepherds, the rich alongside the poor.

**all stand equal in a Love that is poured out on the world, over all and given freely to each**

*(light HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE candles)*

And now the moment has come. Born in us and in the world is a light that cannot go out.

**Born in us and in the world is a light to push back the darkness.** *(light CHRIST candle)*

**Call to Worship:**

The time is now! Tonight is the night!

**We come excited for what tonight will bring.**

Familiar songs are playing, telling of a star and angels on high.

**The angels call us. A star leads us. To the manger we come.**

With awe and joy let us worship

**\*Gathering Hymn:** O Come All Ye Faithful vs 1 VU 60

**Opening prayer:** God, we are eager to hear this story again, to be among those who come and see what is happening and wonder about what it all means. Help us to hear the story tonight and remember what Christmas is all about. This we pray in the name of the baby in the manger. Amen

**LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

Watching for the Story Part 1

**Sing:** O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64 VS 1

Watching for the Story Part 2

**Sing:** Once in Royal David's City VU 62 VS 1

Watching for the Story Part 3

**Sing:** Away in a Manger VU 69 VS 1

Watching for the Story Part 4

**Sing:** The First Nowell VU 91 VS 1,2

Watching for the Story Part 5

**Sing:** We Three Kings (not in hymn book) vs 1

Watching for the story Part 6

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Invitation to the Offering:**

**Offertory Music:** Away in a Manger Jones

**\*Dedication Verse:** What Child is This? 74 Vs 3

**So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,**

**Come peasant, king to own Him.**

**The King of kings salvation brings,**

**Let loving hearts enthrone Him.**

**Raise, raise, the song on high,**

**The virgin sings her lullaby,**

**Joy, joy, for Christ is born,**

**The Babe, the Son of Mary!**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

**\*Lighting of Candles:** Silent Night VU 67

**SENDING FORTH**

**\*Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):**

What an amazing story we have heard this afternoon.

**Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds, wise men and a bright star shining.**

Did you know that the baby came, from God and gave us the gift from which all blessings flow?

**And now we are called to go and share the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love with all we meet.**

For this Birth and his blessings are not just for us but for the whole world.

**Jesus' birth really is good news of great joy for all.**

Go knowing that God's love is with you, for Emmanuel, God with us, is born tonight!

**\*Choral Closing:** Go Tell it on the Mountain VU 43 refrainX2

Go, tell it on the mountain,

over the hills and everywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain

that Jesus Christ is born.

**Postlude** Echo Noel D'Acquin

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