



St. Paul's United Church

December 24th, 2018

Christmas Eve (7pm)

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.

Mission Statement: To glorify God through Worship, proclaiming the Gospel of Christ and serving others in Christ's name.

Prelude Busque 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.

* **Introit:** O Come All Ye Faithful (vs 1, 3, & 5) VU 60

The Words of the Prophet: Isaiah 7:13-14 Rev. Richard

Words of Welcome

Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy (Responsive):

Chris, Jill, Sage & Eve Walker

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 that Holy Presence just on the edge of our next breath.

But in the distance we can 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.

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 that 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]*

* **Opening Hymn:** Hope is a Star VU 7

St. Paul's Contact Information

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New Office Hours

Rev. Richard **Rev. Michelle** **Pastor Sarah**

Cell: (506)262-2150 (306)858-7602 (613)329-6315

Sun.: By Appointment By Appointment By Appointment

Mon.: 9am - noon 10 am - noon 8:30 am - noon

Tues.: By Appointment By Appointment 1-3 pm

Wed: 12-2 pm 10:30-12:30 pm Day off

Thurs.: 12-2 pm 12-2 pm 8:30-12

Fri.: 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

Offertory In Dulci Jubilo Bach VU 55

***Dedication Verse:** In the Bleak Midwinter (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):**

Transforming God, you broke into our world and our lives in the child named Jesus. Enter our lives once again this night and call us to continue your healing mission. Send your Spirit, O God, upon these gifts and on us, and hear us as we pray and celebrate this night.

AMEN

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

***Hymn:** Angels We Have Heard on High (vs 1,2, & 4) VU 38

Proclamation to the Shepherds: Luke 2:8-15 Debbie West

Lighting the Candles: O Holy Night Muriel Falkenstein

Words of Mary

***Hymn :** Silent Night VU 67

***Commissioning (Responsive):**

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,

that God would come in such a simple birth.

***Benediction**

***Closing:** Go Tell it on the Mountain (vs 1 & 3) VU 43

Ministry of Music: Toccata on Mendelssohn Long

Greeters: Katie & Eric Lake

Ushers:

Left Side: Linda & Alastair Lamont

Center: Isabel Green

Right Side: Florence Bartlett & Bob Miller

Upstairs: Katie & Eric Lakes, Allison Gorrill

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

We come to this place, just as we are, to see and hear what has happened. we come with the shepherds

seeking the One of whom the angels sang.

We come with the poor in spirit, and in flesh; with those who are humbled by life:

to find the Glory of God born in a stable, and placed in a manger.

We come with our friends and family, with our neighbours and with strangers, with all the children of God:

to find the One who comes to lead us on the way to God's kingdom.

Prayer of Approach

***Hymn:** O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 1,2 & 4) VU 64

The Miracle: Luke 1:26-38 Linda Lamont

Matthew 1:18b-23 Alastair Lamont

Words of Mary

***Hymn:** Once in Royal David's City (vs 1, 2, &4) VU 62

The Birth: Luke 2:1-7 Colleen Hanna

Words of Mary

***Hymn:** Joy To The World VU 59

Prayer of Confession (Unison):

You came in weakness, Mighty God: forgive our grasping for power. You came in humility, Prince of Peace: forgive us for wanting more than others. You came in poverty,

Everlasting One: forgive us when we do not see your

family sleeping in our streets. You came in gentleness,

Wonderful Counselor: forgive us for the anger we speak

and the pain we cause.

(silence)

Child of Bethlehem, be born in us today:

forgive us, heal us, make us new;

then we will join the angels in singing your praises this

Christmas Day and all the days to come.

Assurance of God's Love

Ladies' Chorus: Baby in a Manger DeFord

Message

***Hymn:** Hark the Herald Angels Sing VU 48