

# St. Paul's United Church

December 20th, 2020 – 4th Sunday of Advent

Love Sunday

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

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

**Centering Passage:** *Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high, who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? He raises the poor from the dust, and lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes, with the princes of his people. He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!*

-Psalm 113:5-9

## GATHERING TOGETHER

### Prelude

#### 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

#### Call to Worship (Responsive):

We come today to continue on the road.

**It is a journey of faith, of preparation, of love.**

We enter into this time to be transformed.

**We enter into this time to ready our hearts.**

Let us open ourselves to a Love that God shows us through Jesus Christ.

**Let us worship our God together.**

### Opening Prayer

**Hymn:** Come thou long expected Jesus VU 2

### Wreath Lighting Liturgy:

We are open to your light, God, in the journey of life. We are aware that the shadows do not hold the final answer, that despair is not the final emotion, and that disappointment is not the final destination when we open ourselves to your light to your promise, and to your love. Be near to us as we approach the birth of the holy Christ child, and be reborn in our hearts this day, we pray

### Silent confession

Even within the deepening shadows of this season, the light of God abounds. Let us be eager to sing "Gloria" and to shout "Amen" as we give thanks for the birth of the Bethlehem baby anticipated so

long ago and still today. Through the birth of Jesus, God reminded us that we are never lost or abandoned. for God is with us every step of the way.

**Let us not be discouraged.**

**Let us embrace courage and strength for the journey.**

**Let us give thanks to God, now and always. Amen.**

**Today's Scripture:** Luke 1:26-45

This is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

### Message

Here I am

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

### Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

**Here we are, O God. You have called us and blessed us with the mission of bringing your son into the world, and so we offer all that we are for that work. Receive our time, talent, and treasure, receive us, we pray. Bless all of it as we strive.**

### Welcome of New Members

#### Statement of Purpose

#### Presentation of Candidates for Baptism & New Members

Jane Banks, Eric Hotte, Tammy Landry, Ron Yateman, Linda Burton, and Rob Burton

#### Commitment of New Members

#### Congregational Commitment (Responsive)

Dear friends in Christ, let us pledge to these persons our support and care.

**As your kindred in Christ, we rejoice in the gifts you bring to us. We pledge to you our love and our support. With God's help, we will together live out the mission and ministry of Christ's church.**

### Profession of Faith (Unison)

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

**We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Act of Baptism**

#### **Welcome (Responsive)**

Let us offer a heart-felt welcome to our siblings in faith:

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome you to the  
privileges and responsibilities of membership in this  
community of faith. We give thanks to God for your  
witness among us.**

#### **Blessing (Responsive)**

The grace of Christ attend you,  
**the love of God surround you,**  
the Holy Spirit keep you.

**AMEN**

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

#### **Hymn:**

Hark the glad sound  
Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,  
the Saviour promised long;  
let every heart prepare a throne,  
and every voice a song.  
  
He comes, the prisoners to release  
in Satan's bondage held;  
the gates of brass before him burst,  
the iron fetters yield.  
  
He comes, the broken heart to bind,  
the bleeding soul to cure,  
and with the treasures of his grace  
to bless the humble poor.

VU 29

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,  
your welcome shall proclaim;  
and heaven's eternal arches ring  
with your beloved Name.

### **SENDING FORTH**

#### **Commissioning (Responsive):**

Go now and bring the Love of God to a world that needs the embrace.

**With the Word we have been given we will go. We will  
remind those we meet of just how precious they are to us  
and to God.**

Be a mirror that reflects God's Love on the lives around you.

**With the Love we see in the in-breaking of Christ, we  
embrace the world.**

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

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

**Eric Hotte Church Manager** is in the church Sunday through Thursday. The office would love to hear from you!

**Church Office phone** number is 458-1183

**Email** is stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

**Reverend Richard** email rev.bowley@outlook.com cell phone 262-2150 call anytime.

**Etransfer** is an easy way of giving wherever you are physically from your phone or computer, this helps to support the work and ministry of the church. **Etransfer Email** is stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

**God is Good**