

St. Paul's United Church

December 24th, 2020 – Christmas Eve

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.

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

Call to Worship & Wreath Lighting Liturgy (Responsive):

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.

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.

Prayer for Illumination

Reading: Luke 1:26-37

Music:

It came upon a Midnight Clear
It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold,
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven's all-gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

For, lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendours fling,
and the whole world send back the song
which now the angels sing.

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Lighting of the Christ Candle (Responsive):

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.

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.

Music:

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

Gentle Mary laid her child

lowly in a manger;

there he lay, the undefiled,

to the world a stranger.

Such a Babe in such a place,

can he be the Saviour?

Ask the saved of all the race

who have found his favour.

Angels sang about his birth,

wise Men sought and found him;

heaven's star shone brightly forth,

glory all around him.

Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,

heard the angels singing;

all the plains were lit that night,

all the hills were ringing.

Reading: Luke 2:8-15

Music: -

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven and nature sing,

and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the earth with truth and grace,

and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness

and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love,

and wonders, wonders of his love.

Message:

A Christmas Unlike Any Other

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Musical Reflection - Sheep May safely graze

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

For all the gifts we give and receive, for all the blessings which are abundant in our lives, even in the midst of times like these, we give thanks. Bless what we give in time, talent, and treasure. Bless our hands and feet as we share the love of God with all. 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

Standing in the Light of Christ & Lord's Prayer

SENDING FORTH

Music:

Silent Night
Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,
Christ the Saviour is born,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Blessings (Responsive):

Go now in wonder. Go to bring light to those in darkness, peace to those whose lives are filled with chaos, joy to those who struggle with despair, and love 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—Christ is born anew in our hearts and in our lives.

Closing Music: Go Tell It On The Mountain
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

Postlude

St. Paul's United Contact Information

Church Office phone number is 458-1183

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

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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

