

St. Paul's United Church

December 27th, 2020 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

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 & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (Responsive):

We call to one another. We call to God.

We seek wholeness as a people.

We wait for one another. We wait for God.

We find love in this holy longing for the other.

We come, to seek, to find, to be made whole.

We come to worship together.

Prayer of the Day

Hymn: Will you come and see the light VU 96

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?

It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.

It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.

Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, alight in a young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?

When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?

In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Baptism

Statement of Purpose

Presentation of Candidates: Ella Grace Armstrong.

Promises

Congregational Commitment

As the United Church in this place, do you commit yourselves to support and nurture these persons within a community which worships God, loves and serves others, seeks justice, and resists evil?

We do, by the grace of God.

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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

The Act of Baptism

Today's Scripture: Psalm 130

This is the Word of our God.

Praise be to you, O Creator.

Message

Longing for Morning

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

We long for you, O God, and so we offer all that we are to you. We give our time, our talent, our treasure. We give our very selves over to you, longing for unity with the Holy. Bless what we give and who we are as we strive to build your kingdom of love and peace in this world. We ask this and all things in the strong name of Christ our companion on the way. **AMEN**

Ending a Covenant

Returning Elements To the Congregation

Bible

I return your Bible confident that you will continue to share the Good News with one another.

We will continue to carry the Word to the world.

Water

I return this water, as I will no longer be the one among you who will baptize and serve.

We will encourage those exploring their faith, and call them our kindred.

Cup and Loaf

I return these communion elements, blessed by the meals we have shared.

Bread for the journey. The Cup of Blessing. We will share the feast.

Mug

I return this coffee cup knowing that, as I go, you will continue to minister to one another.

We will find strength in one another. We will find strength in God.

Hymnbooks

While I did not receive these in my covenanting service, we have made great use of them together. I return these hymn books, thankful for the song that we have shared, knowing that our songs - while separate - will continue.

With the Spirit, we move, we act, we dance.

Phone

For my extended family at Wilmot, especially my clergy kin, this phone represents the connection that we had as colleagues and that you will continue to share as I go. We have been there for each other in partnership and in prayer. May you, St. Paul's and Wilmot, continue to call on one another and grow closer.

We will continue to share the work and the joy of living God's call for us.

Gifts of Parting

To the Congregation

To Rev. Michelle

From St. Paul's to Rev. Richard

Parting of Ways

Release from Covenant

Prayer for Ministry Together and Apart

Hymn:

My Love Colours Outside the Lines

MV 138

My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

Chorus:

We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where
I've never been before, throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

Chorus

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Responsive):

We go, from this time of ending.

eager to find new beginnings.

We remember that, with God, every destination

is an opportunity to start again.

Now let us go from worship to service,

into the world where God is already at work.

Benediction:

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 here from you!

Church Office Email 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

Goodbye



MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY