

St. Paul's United Church

January 3rd, 2021-Season after Epiphany

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

Call to Worship (Responsive):

Glory to God in the highest, and unearth, peace and goodwill toward all.

For out of Gods own being, Jesus has come to bring light and love to all people.

Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us, come to gather our tears and laughter, our work and our play, into God's loving embrace.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill toward all.

Prayer of the Day (Responsive)

God of sultry stable air, God of frosty wind and snow, we come to you this wintry day, yearning to be swaddled against the raw chill of separation, loneliness, and lovelessness. Thaw within us whatever keeps us from echoing the angels' praise. Warm our moaning with the shine of your glory, as you fill the empty stable in our hearts with your outpouring of home and love. Amen

Hymn:

Let us build a House
Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

MV 1

Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.

Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter.
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Lighting the Wreath & Christ Candle (Responsive)

Today we light the Christ candle.

Where is the one born King? We have seen his star rising and we have come to worship him.

The people who have walked in darkness have seen a great light.

We were walking in the land of the shadow of death, but now the light shines on us.

Arise, shine! For your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

The sun is no more our light by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord is our everlasting Glory and God is our light.

Assurance of God's love

Today's Scripture: Luke 2:41-52 Psalm 2

This is the Word of our God.

Praise be to you, O Creator.

Message

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

O'God you birth abundant life! We thank you for the birth we celebrate today. In response to your great labour of love, we offer you, our gifts. As we open ourselves to you, may your love be born in us this Christmastide

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: O Radiant Christ VU 84

O radiant Christ, incarnate Word, eternal love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.

Our bartered, busy lives burn dim, too tired to care, too numb to feel.
Come, shine upon our shadowed world:
your radiance bathes with power to heal.

Your glory shone at Jordan's stream, the font where we were born anew.
Attune your church to know you near;
illumine all we say and do.

O Light of Nations, fill the earth; our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,
as stars once led the way to you."

SENDING FORTH

Commissioning (Unison):

Thank you scandalous God, for giving yourself to the world, not in the powerful and extraordinary, but in weakness and the familiar, in a baby, in bread and wine. We thank you for offering, at journey's end, a new beginning. Amen

Benediction

Postlude

Food For Thought

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirits of all Three shall strive within me." Ebenezer Scrooge-A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens

St. Paul's United Contact Information

Church Office phone number is 458-1183 **Email** is stpaulsoffice224@gmail.com

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

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

