

ST PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
FREDERICTON, N.B.

December 24, 2021 3 PM Christmas Service

GATHERING

PRELUDE

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

And also with you

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING:

We have been waiting and waiting and WAITING!

We have been waiting, but for what?

For hope that shines in the night to lead us on until morning is bright
(*light purple hope candle*)

Look there is the flame of hope!

We have also been waiting for peace to circle the earth, peace with its promise of safety and worth. (*Light the purple peace candle*)

Look there is the flame of peace!

Then there is joy that comes with the dawn, telling the world that a Savior is born. (*Light the pink Joy candle*)

Wow, look at the joy flame dance.

Last but not least we have been waiting for love, love that abides within our own heart, love that God has promised will never depart
(*Light the purple love candle*)

And a flame for love, we sure have been waiting for a lot!

O but tonight, tonight is the night! Down at the manger we see a new light! (*light the white Christ Candle*)

Christ is the light we have been waiting for

Come to the stable and look in the door.

When God is a child there is joy in our song,

The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong

And none shall be afraid.

CALL TO WORSHIP: (responsive)

The time is now! Tonight, is the night!

We come excited for what tonight brings.

We travel back in time, to a land far from this one

Yet familiar songs play, and the story told is known by heart.

The angels call us

A star leads us.

To the manger we come.

To meet the little one with awe and joy.

OPENING PRAYER

HEARING THE WORD

THE OLD OLD STORY

HYMN: *O Come, All You Faithful*

VU 60

STARTING THE STORY

HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

VU 64 1

SHELTER IN THE NIGHT

HYMN: *Away In A Manger*

VU 69 v1-2

SHEPHERDS IN THE HILLS

HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard On High*

VU 38 1-3

FINDING THE BABY

HYMN: *We Three Kings of Orient Are*

**We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,**

**Field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

O Star of wonder, star of light

Star with royal beauty bright

Westward leading, still proceeding

Guides us to thy perfect light.

RESPONDING TO CHRIST

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING: (in unison)

HYMN: *In The Bleak Mid-Winter*

VU 55 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

BURSTING FORTH OF LIGHT

HYMN: *Silent Night*

VU 67

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

HYMN: *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

VU 43

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

POSTLUDE

GREETER

Front Door – Cathy Davis



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good afternoon and welcome to EVERYONE. May this worship service be a blessing in your day as we continue to worship together each week in-church or by Zoom.

Upcoming December Services:

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services at 7pm, 11pm

December 26 – Downtown United Worship at Wilmot at 11am

January 2 – St. Paul's United at 10:30am

Sunday School will resume in January. During the fall it was a small group but they raised over \$400 for animals through World Vision.

Not ready for in-person worship, try our **Ukulele Church Sundays at 12:30pm**, led by Regional Children and Youth Minister, Rev. Catherine Stuart and Linnea Good. For the Zoom link contact Catherine at CStuart@united-church.ca

If your family has Pastoral Care needs, please contact Rev. Michelle at 506-259-7602 or michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com

A friendly reminder that **the office will be closed** from December 25th to January 3rd but will be **open December 30th from 10am-2pm for end of year donations** to be dropped off.

St. Paul's Contact Information

Office Hours: Monday - Friday; 8:00 – 3p.m.

224 York St., Fredericton, N.B. E3; Tel: 458-1183.

Web-site: www.stpaulsunited.ca; email: stpaulsunited224@gmail.com

Minister

Rev. Michelle Armstrong

Organist

Dr. Sharon Pond

Church Administrator

Meghan Roebuck

Church Custodian

Rusty Blakely

Land Acknowledgement :

We remember that St. Paul's sanctuary and our worship here is on the unceded territory of the Wolastoqey peoples. Long before this building was here, the land was considered sacred and tended to with respect and care. May our faith drive us to seek to be in right relationship with the first peoples of this land.

HYMN WORDS

HYMN: *O Come, All You Faithful*

VU 60

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

VU 64 1

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

HYMN: *Away In A Manger*

VU 69 v1-2

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is night.

HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard On High*

VU 38 1-3

Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? R

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R

HYMN: *in The Bleak Mid-Winter*

VU 55 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.

HYMN: *Silent Night*

VU 67

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.