

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

December 24, 2021 7 PM Christmas Eve Service

GATHERING

PRELUDE

GREETING

I greet you in the name of the One born this night:
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
May the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

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)
Candles are lit. Christmas music is being played.
Excitement is in the air?

The awe of this holy eve is upon us.
We gather seeking the Christ child.
May his birth be mystery and delight.
We tenderly approach this place of wonder and majesty.
We come to bend our knee at his manger and pray.
Come let us adore him!

HYMN: *O Come, All Ye Faithful* VU 60

OPENING PRAYER

TIME FOR ALL AGES

HYMN: *Away In A Manger* VU 69

HEARING THE WORD

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE: *Luke 2:1-15*

HYMN: *Angels We Have Heard On High* VU 38 1-3

REFLECTION: This is just the start

HYMN: *Once in Royal David's City* VU 62

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERING: (in 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 our gifts.
As we open ourselves to you,
may your love be born in us this Christ and reside with us forever
more.
Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: *Silent Night*

VU 67

COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

This night we have gathered on the edge of expectation.

This night God has offered us a gift wrapped in a manger and sealed with a cross.

Dare we accept such a gift? The gift is given.

We receive it with open hearts.

The gift is given.

We share it that all the world may celebrate God's love.

Go into this holy night and may God's spirit fill you with joy and confidence.

Amen

POSTLUDE

SCRIPTURE READERS

Narrator – Ann Krause
Angel – Andrew Steeves

GREETERS

Front Door - Tammy Coughlan
Front Door – Linda Burton



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 11pm

December 26 – Downtown United Worship at Wilmot at 11am

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

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 on 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.

God of God, light of light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten, not created: R

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: R

See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; R

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R

HYMN: *Away In A Manger*

VU 69

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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask you to stay
close by me for ever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

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: *Once in Royal David's City*

VU 62

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattleshed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven
who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

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.