

**Sunday December 8, 2019**

**11:00am**

**Welcome to St. Paul's United Church**

*and to our services today - we are happy that you have come!*



**Sunday Morning Nursery**

Toys and other nursery items are available during the service

**Sunday School children** start with their parents and leave partway through the Annex or combined services for Sunday School

**Washrooms** are located off the atrium

**Pew Cushions** are available to the left of the front platform in the sanctuary

**Two accessible entrances to St Paul's.** One is on Main Street via the atrium, with the elevator located just inside the entrance. Best parking to use for this entrance is the town lot west of the church, with two handicapped parking spots. The second accessible entrance is via the ramp off our parking lot, with two handicapped parking spots in the parking lot.

We invite you to pick up informational brochures in the atrium. Please introduce yourself to one of the hosts; we would be most happy to help you. **Visitors and guests are encouraged to sign the Guest Book located in the atrium.** We hope you will come to fellowship time following our services for conversation and refreshments!

**Participating this morning**

**Worship Leadership:** Rev. Dale Skinner

**Music Director:** Don Cassano **Piano:** Dawn Brodie

**Greeting:** Caroline Brodie, Shelley Doucet, Valrie Ewan

**Offering:** Shelley Doucet, Valrie Ewan, Peter Anderson & Wendy Hodgkins

**Sound Team:** Sandra Shore **Scripture Reader:** Linda Edgar

**Count Team:** Wayne Heath, Graham & Anne Troake

**Fellowship Time:** Betty Tonelli & Jo McDuffe

**Bakers Dozen:** Betty Ann Wolder & Joanne Dundass

A warm welcome is extended to all this morning. Your presence both enriches us and this time of worship together. In the midst of the busy-ness of life, we have been gifted with this time and place to reconnect with God and with one another. We seek to discern a life beyond life and behold the larger reality Jesus revealed in his own life, death and resurrection. Our aim is spiritual growth, a deeper faith and a loving community.

The land upon which we live and work is a gift from the Creator. We acknowledge the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishnaabeg, and Haudenosaunee peoples. This territory is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is within the lands of the "Dish With One Spoon" wampum agreement.

\*Please stand if able

Congregational responses in **bold**

**We Gather As God's People**

**Carol Sing** *As we gather for worship through December, we will be singing a few carols before we begin. Requests are welcome.*

**Call To Worship - Lighting The Advent Candle of Peace**

One: Come into this place. Come into this season of Advent. Come and make room to receive the gift of Christmas. Come and see how God prepares a place for Peace to be born anew.

**All: Let us prepare a place for the Peace of Christ.**

One: We dream God's dream, of a world at peace. Where enemies are reconciled, and children play in safety; Where the poor and powerless find justice.

**All: Let us prepare a place for the Peace of Christ.**

One: The prophet Isaiah foretold of God's promise of a Ruler of Peace, "filled with the Spirit of God, of wisdom and understanding, of counsel and might, of justice and faithfulness. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord."

**All: Let us prepare a place for the Peace of Christ.**

**Large print bulletins available -  
please ask one of our ushers**

One: When there is no peace...it is easy to feel threatened. When there is no peace...reconciliation is far away. When there is no peace...there is fear and suspicion. As days grow shorter and darkness lengthens, we light the second candle. May this flame rise up with a prayer of peace for the people. May we be drawn to its light.

*Second candle is lit. Choir sings: "Light A Single Candle"*

One: Each candle we light reminds us that the Light of the World will soon come to us as one of us –as "Emmanuel," which means "God with us." The Kingdom of God is drawing near. May we prepare our hearts for the day of the Lord.

**All: Let us prepare a place for the Peace of Christ.**

**\*VU 1** "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" verses 1, 2, 7

**Welcome**

**The Life and Work of Our Community**

**Opening Prayer**

Everlasting and Loving God, gathered in this place today, we acknowledge that you are at work in our lives and in this world. In this time and space we ask for the grace to take a break from our busy thoughts and a busy world. We have come in search of Jesus and his way. We have come gather at his table and be fed by his Spirit. We pray that we might find our sense of peace restored. We know that we have done things and have had things done to us that have disrupted peace in ourselves and peace in others. With these things in mind, we ask for your mercy and grace. As we gather, as we worship and as we are fed, may we seek the peace you desire for us. The peace that helps us to rise above our circumstances and frees us to love and serve others. This is the peace you give us in Christ, the one in whose name we pray. Amen.

**Choir Anthem** He Will Come

**Prayer of Illumination**

**Scripture:** Philippians 4:1-7

*Linda Edgar*

**Word For Today:** Christmas Letters

### **We Respond In Faith**

**Invitation to the Offering**

*We of St. Paul's are committed to the work of the Church. Weekly offerings, pre-authorized remittance (PAR), sharing of our time and talents and reaching out to friend and stranger are but some of the ways that we give.*

*"God loves it when the giver delights in the giving." 2 Corinthians 9:7*

**Presentation Of Our Offerings**

**\*Offertory Response**

VU 55

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.

**Celebrating the Sacrament of Communion** (see insert)

**\*VU 2** "Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

**\*Words of Blessing**

**\*Choral Response**

**\*Exchange of the Peace**

*Before we depart, we are invited to exchange "the Peace of Christ" with the ones around us.*

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**