

Sunday December 15, 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: Marlene Grimwood & Jo McDuffe

Offering: Marlene Grimwood, Jo McDuffe & Wendy Hodgkins

Sound Team: Theo Wolder

Count Team: Jim Hawkins, Theo & Betty Ann Wolder

Fellowship Time: Carol Kerr & Diane Dickie

Bakers Dozen: Judy Rye & Marlene Grimwood

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 Haudenosauonee 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**

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 Joy

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 Joy to be born anew.

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

One: We dream God's dream, of a world where Joy is expected, even in the darkness. Where new days and new years are anticipated, laughter comes easy, and thanksgiving rolls of everyone's lips; Where the lowly are lifted up and the captives are set free.

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

One: The prophet Isaiah said, "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the nations; proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth. Shout aloud and sing for joy."

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

Large print bulletins available - please ask one of our ushers

One: May God grant us the courage to experience joy. Joy in the face of apathy. Joy in the face of sorrow. Joy in the face of guilt. Joy in the face of uncertainty. Joy in the face of rejection. In the height of our Advent walk, we light the pink candle of Joy. May this flame dance with a prayer of joy for the people. May we be drawn to its light.

(Second candle is lit).

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 Joy of Christ.

Welcome

The Life and Work of Our Community

***VU 7** “Hope Is A Star”

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 to gather at his table and be fed by his Spirit. We pray that we might find our joy complete. We know that we have done things and have had things done to us that have caused us to be less joyful than we could be. 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 and speak the joy you desire for us. The joy that helps us to rise above our circumstances and frees us to love and serve others. This is the joy you give us in Christ, the one in whose name we pray. Amen.

Advent Reflection “For The Joy of It”

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.

Christmas Pageant “The Toy’s Christmas”

“Do You Hear What I Hear?” *see insert*

“Away In A Manger” VU 69

“Angels We Have Heard On High” VU38

“We Wish You A Merry Christmas” *see insert*

Pastoral Prayers

*Words of Blessing

Can you be a voice of hope, peace and joy in this world?
Can you proclaim that God is with us?

We sing with angels,

setting the roadways and the buildings humming

As people who are being changed,
we go into a world that is being changed.

Ready to share the Good News

that the long expected Jesus is coming,

**that we are being freed from whatever binds us by
a God who seeks to be with us and born among us**

Glory be to God!

Who walks with us, sings with us, and struggles with us,

**and does it for the joy of it
each and every day. Amen**

*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.

