

Sunday December 22, 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: Peter Anderson, Karen Tyrer & Judy Swainson

Offering: Peter Anderson, Brian Swainson, Karen Tyrer & Wendy Hodgkins

Sound Team: Brent Tyrer

Count Team: Diane Dickie, Brent & Karen Tyrer

Fellowship Time: Mary McDuffe, Mary Ellen Lee & Hélène Ellison

Bakers Dozen: Marilyn Elsley & Sue Paul

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**

We Gather As God's People

Prelude

Welcome

The Life and Work of Our Community

Call To Worship - Lighting The Advent Candle of Love

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 Love to be born anew.

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

One: We dream God's dream, of a world where Love is expected, even when hatred is busy building walls and creating division. Even when fear causes people to hold back and hide away. Love is still possible, reaching out building new relationships, new life and new possibilities.

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

One: Mary sang of God's love for her, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

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

One: Like Mary, may God grant us the grace of faith to receive this love in our lives. Love in the face of fear. Love when others choose to vilify. Love that is given without condition. A Love that never gives up on people. A Love that lays down life for the sake of another. A Love that is stronger than death. A Love that never ends.

Fourth candle is lit. Choir sings "Light A Single Candle"

One: May this flame burn with the Love God has for all people. May we be drawn to its light knowing 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 Love of Christ.

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 pray that we might know how much you love us.

We know that we have done things and have had things done to us that have caused us to shy away or feel undeserving of this love. With these things in mind, we ask for your mercy and grace. As we gather, as we worship, as we sing and pray together may we seek and speak the Love you desire for us. The Love that helps us to rise above our circumstances and frees us to love and serve others. This is the Love you give us in Christ, the one in whose name we pray. Amen.

Reflection "Old Good News"

Choir Cantata "A New Birth: A New Beginning" by John Purifoy

Reader- Erin Esch

Duet- Sherry Cameron and Lorne Greenwood

Flute- Roseann Warren

Violin- Lucy Warren

Cello- Judy Hunter

Piano- Dawn Brodie

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 544

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.

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

***VU 29** "Hark the Glad Sound"

***Sending Forth**

Let the love that shaped earth and heaven dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that created humanity dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that overcomes suffering and hatred dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that causes us to rejoice with loved ones dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that forgives and renews dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that brings reconciliation dwell within us this Christmas.
Let the love that brings good news dwell within us this Christmas.
And may we share this news with all people near and far.

***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.

