

# St. Paul's United Church

Christmas Eve 3:00 PM - Dec. 24th, 2017

Welcome to our family friendly service, we are glad you have chosen to join us this year. While following some of our regular liturgy, this afternoons service will involve participation, and singing as we share together the story of Jesus birth. Portions printed in **Bold** are for everyone, the\* marks parts where we stand. While this is a Holy Night, we do not expect it to be a silent night nor for all to be still. If your child needs to move around, we just ask that you stay with them as the heat registers around the sanctuary can get very hot and we don't want anyone to get hurt. Your active participation is encouraged this afternoon as we journey together to Bethlehem. If you need bathrooms they are through the door to the left of the pulpit and up the stairs and to the left. Our nursery while not staffed this afternoon is open, it is located on the upper floor of our hall, you can gain access through the door to the left of the pulpit going through the double doors at the top of the stairs and ascending one more flight to our Sunday school classroom ring. We hope that this service will be a blessing as you celebrate Christmas this year.

## THE PEOPLE GATHER

**Gathering Music:** Joy: Music from the St. Paul's Organ CD

### Greeting:

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

**And also with you.**

### Welcome & Announcements

#### Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy:

Ann and Roland Krause, granddaughters Lily and Emma Wood  
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**

## St. Paul's Contact Information

stpaulsunitedchurch@nb.aibn.com      www.stpaulsunited.ca  
Tel. 458-1183      Fax: 458-1944

**Keep up to date on upcoming activities  
and stay in touch in-between Sundays!**

**<http://www.facebook.com/stpaulsunitedfredericton> and  
call the office to be added to the Weekly E-News.**

**Ministers:**                      Rev. Richard Bowley      rev.bowley@outlook.com  
    Rev. Michelle Armstrong      michellenarmstrong@hotmail.com  
    Pastor Sarah Magie *is on maternity leave*

**Organist:**                      Dr. Sharon Pond              spond@bellaliant.net

**Choir Director:**              Alexis Ervin                      aervin17@gmail.com

**Sexton:**                              Sam Zakaria

**Office Admin:**                  Cathy Simpson                  cathysimpson@nb.aibn.com

## Holiday Office Hours

Our office will be closed December 25-26th and January 1st. We will also be closing early at 12pm on Dec 29th. Please be reminded that donations for the 2017 tax season need to be in the office by 11 a.m. on December 31.

The Rev. Richard will be on holidays from Dec 25-Jan 1 and the Rev Michelle will be on holidays from Jan 1-7, please be aware of these dates in the case of pastoral emergencies and concerns.

**Greeters:**                      Rev. Richard, Natalie, Aimee and Jacob Bowley  
**Scripture Reader:**          Mary Dingee Jacobs

Youth group, middle school and older will resume on January 12th 6:30pm @ St. Paul's United Church.

Then there is joy that comes with the dawn, telling the world that a Saviour 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:**

The time is now! Tonight is the night!

**We come excited for what tonight will bring.**

Familiar songs are playing, telling of a star and angels on high.

**The angels call us. A star leads us. To the manger we come.**

With awe and joy let us worship

**\*Gathering Hymn:** O Come All Ye Faithful VU 60 (vs 1)

**Opening prayer:**

**Sacrament of Baptism:** (See green insert)

**LISTENING FOR TRUTH**

**Children's Choir:** Friendly Beasts

**Scripture:** Luke 2:1-5 Mary Dingee Jacobs

**A box unwrapped:**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:6-7

**A box unwrapped:**

**\*Hymn:** Joy to the World VS 1 VU 59

**A box unwrapped:**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-15

**A box unwrapped:**

**Scripture:** Luke 2:15-18

**\*Hymn:** Away in a Manger VU 38

**A box unwrapped:**

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory Music** Joy: Music from the Organ of St. Paul's CD

**Dedication Verse:** In the bleak midwinter 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.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer**

**SENDING FORTH**

**\*Lighting of Candles:** Silent Night VU 67

**\*Commissioning & Benediction (Responsive):**

What amazing things we have seen this afternoon

**Mary and Joseph, angels and shepherds and a bright star shining**

The baby come again, Jesus came to bring light and love

**And now we are called to go and share hope, love, peace and Joy**

**with all we meet in him this night**

For this Birthday is for the whole world

**Let us all Go celebrate!**

**\*Choral Closing:** Go Tell it on the Mountain VU 43

**Postlude:** Joy: Music from St. Paul's Organ CD

*We wish you a very Merry Christmas. Don't forget to come and get your slice of Birthday Cake in the hall!*

The Bulletin covers for the Christmas Eve services have been donated in loving memory of Shirley and Dr. E.H. Sutherland by their granddaughters Claire and Kate Green.

A donation has been made to the Memorial Chimes Fund in loving memory of the Blackmer family, Ed, Marion, Lily and John by Dolores Blackmer.

A donation has been made to the Music Fund in memory of Ron Fletcher by the Senior Choir.

A donation to the Operating Fund has been made in loving memory of Harold Forbes, James & Edith Cameron and Janice Cameron-Gionet by Barbara Forbes.

Donations to the Foundation have been made by Mary Dingee Jacobs in loving memory of Don McGuire & Ken Dauphinee.

A floral donation has been made in loving memory of Gerald Sutherland by his wife Catherine.

A donation has been made to St. Paul's Music Fund in loving memory of Hilda and Harry Sproul by daughter Betty Fitzpatrick.



*Merry Christmas*