



St. Paul's United Church

Christmas Eve Family Service

*The people of St. Paul's United Church welcome you.
May there be a blessing for you in this house tonight.*

Prelude Carols of the Stable Broughton
O Little Town of Bethlehem Livingstone

Introit O Come, O Come Emmanuel VU 1 (vs 1)
**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

Scripture Reading John 1: 1-5

Christmas Welcome and Invitation

Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful VU 60

Call to Worship Alyshea and T.J. Turner

L: We light the candles hope, peace, love, and joy this Christmas Eve to remind us of God's gifts to us through Jesus Christ - the light of the world.

P: **Jesus is the son of Mary and the son of God,
one with us, our Lord, our Saviour, our brother
and our friend.**

L: The Son of Mary brings us the hope of God.

P: **He calls us to share this hope with others.**

Dedication Verse Hark the Herald VU 48 (vs 1)
**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King, peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled! Joyful all ye nations rise,
join the triumph of the skies, with the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is Born in Bethlehem" Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born King!"**

Offertory Prayer

We Spread the Light of Christmas

Hymn: Silent Night VU 67

Benediction

Minister: The light that enlivens all the world,
the light that darkness cannot overcome,
love's pure light in Jesus Christ,
shine on you and in our world this night.

All: **Amen**

Postlude In Excelsis Deo - Ellis



Gratitudes

A floral arrangement has been placed in the Sanctuary in loving memory of Ralph Dingee by his daughter Mary and grandchildren Melinda and Michael Jacobs.

A donation has been made to the Restoration Fund in memory of Ralph Dingee and Betty Stafford by Kaye Dingee.

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

A donation has been made to the Operating Fund in memory of Harold Forbes and James Cameron by Barbara Forbes.

A donation has been made to the Operating Fund by the St. Paul's Quilters.

Merry Christmas

CHRISTMAS PRAYER:

All: Dearest Lord, we thank You for this gift which we celebrate, the birth of Your Son, the Babe of Bethlehem. As we see the Christmas tree decorated with symbols of this celebration, help us to decorate our lives with the same joy and wonder as the shepherds felt on that first Christmas night. We ask You to bring peace and love and joy to all the nations, as we join the world in the celebration of Jesus' birth. And now we join in the prayer which He taught us.

The Lord's Prayer

All: Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Luke 2: 1-20 Kelly Watson

Anthem Were You There on That Christmas Night Sleeth

Message The Meaning of Christmas

Hymn In the Bleak Midwinter VU 55

The Presentation of the Offering
Offertory On Christmas Night Paxton

L: The Son of God brings us the peace of God.

P: He calls us to share this love with others.

L: Christ our Saviour brings us the joy of God.

P: He calls us to share this joy with others. He calls us to share this peace with others.

L: Jesus our Lord brings us the love of God.

We light the candles of hope, of peace, of joy, and of love to remind us of the gifts that the light of the world has brought us.

Hymn God's Gift of Light (vs 5) Written by Catherine Stuart 2010

Christ candle's light which burns in our presence, spark of our Saviour, candle we tend. Light in our darkness, God's holy promise with us, within us, Christ's light never ends.

Prayer (in unison)

Thank You, God, for sending Jesus into our midst, the greatest gift of all. May Christ's spirit which gives us direction in our lives and hope to the world be with us as we gather to remember His birth tonight. Amen.

Anthem Unto Us a Child is Born Carter

Presentation by the Sunday School Children

Duet Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer
Violinist Kirsten Simpson
accompanied by Murray Simpson on guitar