



St. Paul's United Church

Christmas Eve Family Service

- 4 -

*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

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.**

Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Holy people, beloved of God, come. Come to follow the way prepared for you.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on Earth!

Once again the earth is surprised at a manger, as the glory of God transforms the commonplace.

Let us go to Bethlehem to see what God has made known to us.

Experience the wonder of God's ways. Kneel in awe before life newly borne. Let us bring glory and praise to God

for all that we have seen and heard!

Christmas Welcome

Message The Waiting is Over
Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64
Offertory Still, Still, Still arr. Edwards

The Presentation of the Offering

Dedication Verse Once in Royal David's City VU 62 (vs 1)

Offertory Prayer (in unison)

All that we have and all that we are come from you, God of life. Bless these gifts that they may bring messages of love in the most unlikely and unexpected places . And in the giving may we find again the simple gift of your presence, born in our lives, in Jesus' name, Amen.



We Spread the Light of Christmas

"Jesus Christ, the Light of the world."

Hymn: Silent Night VU 67

Benediction

One: God's joy is yours!

All: We will enjoy our Christmas.

One: God's friendship is clear!

All: We will deepen our friendships.

One: God's peace is without limits!

All: We will let go our fear.

One: God's love is sure!

All: We will grow in love for one another.

The flowers in the sanctuary are placed in loving memory of Ralph Dingee, by his daughter Mary and grandchildren Melinda and Michael Jacobs.

A donation has been made to St. Paul's in loving memory of our parents; Robert & Marjorie Davis and Emery & Viola (Logan) Walker by Robert & Etta Davis.

A donation has been made to St. Paul's Foundation in loving memory of our parents; Frank & Mary Hallett from daughters, June Hallett and Roberta Watson.

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

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

Merry Christmas

Scripture Luke 2:1-20 Kelly Watson

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Anthem Mary's Song Cook & Page

Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful VU 60

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Scrymgeour Family
Karen, Kennedy and Nathan

We have come now to the night for which we have all been waiting and preparing.

Our Advent journey has taken us through hopeful anticipation, peaceful acceptance, joyful celebration and loving action. Now we celebrate with full hearts the arrival of the Promised One, the Prince of Peace, the Light of the World.

As we light this Christ candle, look around this sacred place and see all the lights that are burning. See the light that shines in each one of us.

From the Light of the World comes light for everyone of us.

Take this light with you tonight and remember who you are and who has made it so.

Christmas Prayer

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.

Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing VU 48

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Hymn: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing VU 48