

# St. Paul's United Church

7:00 p.m. December 24th, 2014

Christmas Eve Family Service

*The people of St. Paul's United Church welcome you.*

*May there be a blessing for you in this house today.*

*\* Please stand as you are able, sit as you prefer \**

**Greeters: Simpson Family**

**Prelude**                      Coventry Carol                      arr. Livingstone  
   Love Came Down    Brown

## \*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.***

**The Words of the Prophet**                      Isaiah 7:13–14

**Introit**                      "O Come All Ye Faithful"                      VU 60(vs 1)

***O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem,  
Come and behold him, born the king of angels,  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the lord!***

## Call to Worship

Let us go, just as we are, to see what has happened. Let us go with the shepherds

***let us go and find the One of whom the angels sang.***

Let us go with those who are wise:

***let us go and find the One who brings God's truth to us.***

Let us go with the poor in spirit, and in flesh; let us go with those who are humbled by life:

***let us find the Glory of God born in a stable, and placed in a feeding trough.***

Let us go with our friends and family, let us go with our neighbours and with strangers, let us go with all the children of God:

***let us go to find the One who comes to lead us home to God's kingdom. AMEN***

## Words of Mary

\*Hymn                      "Silent Night"                      VU 67

\*Commissioning & Benediction

- 4 -

***May the God of the stable  
help us to see the wonder of Christmas:  
the wonder of children who can hardly wait,  
the wonder of Mary and Joseph who feel  
the power of God's love,  
the wonder of the shepherds who hear the Good News,  
the wonder of Magi who kneel and offer their gifts,  
the wonder of the ages  
that God would come in such a simple birth. AMEN***

\*Choral Closing                      "Go Tell it on the Mountain"                      VU 43(vs 3)

***Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

***Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.***

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go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!***

**Postlude**                      In Excelsis Deo                      Ellis  
**Merry Christmas**

The bulletins for this service have been donated in loving memory of Dr. E.H. and Shirley Sutherland by their granddaughters Claire and Kate Green.

Donations have been made in loving memory of the following:

Memorial Chimes Fund in memory of Marion Blackmer by her son John and family.

Operating Fund in memory of our parents, Frank and Mary Hallett by daughters, June & Roberta.

Foundation and the Pantry in loving memory of Ralph Dingee by his daughter, Mary Dingee Jacobs.

**Advent Candle Lighting Liturgy**

Simpson Family

Wonder. Whisper. Wait. Waken.

**Wonder. Whisper. Wait. Waken.**

*(one candle is lit)* With the wise ones...

**we wonder.**

*(one candle is lit)* With the shepherds...

**we whisper.**

*(one candle is lit)* With Mary and Joseph...

**we wait.**

*(one candle is lit)* With the Christ child...

**We waken!**

With all who come to the stable,  
no matter who we are,  
no matter where we come from,  
no matter where we're heading...

**we celebrate Christ's light, born again into the world!**

Glory to God in the Highest!

**Glory to God! Blessed is the Christ child!**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! ALLELUIA!**

*(Christ candle is lit)*

**Opening Hymn** "Hope is a Star"

VU 7

**Prayer of Reconciliation:**

**You came in weakness, Mighty God: forgive our grasping for power. You came in humility, Prince of Peace: forgive us for wanting more than others. You came in poverty, Everlasting One: forgive us when we do not see your family sleeping in our streets. You came in gentleness, Wonderful Counselor: forgive us for the anger we speak and the pain we cause.**

*(silence)*

**Child of Bethlehem,  
be born in us today:  
forgive us,  
heal us,  
make us new;**

**then we will join the angels in singing your praises this Christmas Day and all the days to come.**

**Assurance of God's Love & Lord's Prayer**

**Gift of Music** What Child Is This Kirsten Simpson - Violin  
Murray Simpson - Guitar

**Offertory** On Christmas Night Paxton

**\*Dedication Verse** 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.***

**\*Dedication Prayer (Unison)**

***Christ enters our lives once again this night and calls us to continue his healing mission. Send your Spirit upon these gifts and on us, O God, and hear us as we pray and celebrate this night. AMEN***

**The Miracle:** Luke 1:26-38, Matthew 18b-23

**Words of Mary**  
**\*Hymn** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" VU 64

**The Birth:** Luke 2:1-7

**Words of Mary**  
**\*Hymn** "Joy To The World" VU 59

**Message**

**\*Hymn** "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" VU 48  
**Proclamation to the Shepherds:** Luke 8-15

**Anthem** Still Is The Night Williams/Martin  
**The Visit of the Wise Men:** Matthew 2:7-12

**Lighting of the Candles** "A Candle is Burning" VU 6

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*(silence)*

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