

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MIDLAND
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – 7:00 P.M.
Sunday, December 24, 2017**

**Ministers: The Reverend Bev Irwin and The Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Scripture Reader: John McCullough**



Gathering & Slide Show of St. Paul's 2017

(*please stand if you are able)

***Processional Carol:** VU #60 "O Come all Ye Faithful" (vs. 1,3,4)

Welcome and Call to the Gathered

Opening Prayer

Lighting the Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and the Christ Candle

Sung Response: VU #6 "A Candle is Burning:"

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

(please remain seated for the carols in this part)

JESUS IS BORN

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Carol: VU #69 "Away in a Manger" (vs.1,2)

Reflection

Choir Anthem: "Celebrate the Child"

ANGELS TELL GOOD NEWS TO SHEPHERDS

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Carol: VU #36 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" (vs. 1,2)

Reflection

Solo: "O Holy Night" – Hannah Black

WISE ONES COME SEEKING JESUS

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Carol: We Three Kings of Orient Are

We three kings of Orient are
bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain
following yonder star.
O Star of wonder, star of night.
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding.
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Reflection

*Carol: VU #67 "Silent Night"

OUR RESPONSE TO THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Offering Our Gifts: (Our Christmas Eve offering goes to St. Paul's Benevolent Fund, Help us help those in need throughout the year. Envelopes are in the pews.)

Offertory Music: "The Canticle of Peace"

*Offertory: VU #55 (last verse – Sung by all)

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise one, I would do my part,
Yet what I can, I give him – give Christ my heart.

Offertory Prayer

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

WE GO FORTH IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*Carol: VU #59 "Joy to the World" (vs 1,2,4)

*Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude



Thank you to all who participated in the service this evening. You have helped us share the good news of the birth of Jesus and the love of God.

The congregation of St. Paul's United Church wish you a Merry Christmas and New Year. May the babe in the Manger dwell as Christ in your heart and lives.

A New Year's service of New Beginnings is Sunday, December 31st at 10:00 a.m. Come celebrate the old and the new!

Epiphany Sunday service is on January 7th at 10:00 a.m. Please feel free to join us.



Welcome Friends!

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, You are welcome here!
Whether you are a child, youth, adult or elder,
You are welcome here!

Whatever your ethnic origin or language;
sexual orientation or gender identity;
religious tradition or theological position;
whatever your economic status or political persuasion You are welcome here!

If you are differently abled, you are welcome here!

If you are spiritually weary and in need of rest,

If you are mourning a deep loss in your life,

If you are skeptical;

if you have been hurt by religion, If you have questions,

If you come full of doubts or confidence, joy or sorrow,

You are welcome here because you are God's creation, and WIDE is God's Welcome!!

Friends! You are Welcome in this Place – Just as you are.

