



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Choir Cantata – Winter's Grace
St. Paul's United Church, Midland
Sunday, December 17, 2017

Ministers: Rev. Bev Irwin & Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director–Victoria Warwick

CAROL: VU#62 Once in Royal David's City

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED:

One: In winter and this season of Advent, we come in the stillness and wonder of God's grace.

All: We ponder the presence of God in our lives and in our world.

One: We open our hearts to the hope, peace and joy of Christ.

All: We come together to live in the spirit of Christ, God incarnate.

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY

Today we light the candle of hope, the candle of peace and the pink candle of joy as we await the birth of Christ, source of joy for all.

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #6 (vs 1,2,3)

OPENING PRAYER: (Unison)

Holy One, as we celebrate with joy this Advent season, may we know deep within us that you are the light and the grace of the world. May we seek to find room for you in our hearts and in our lives so that the Christmas message of God incarnate, love incarnate is shared throughout the year and touches us deeply. Amen

(For children who wish to stay for the Cantata, please do so, otherwise Discovery Kids is available).

WINTER'S GRACE
A Cantata for Christmas
By Joseph M. Martin



Prologue
A Winter's Song
Celebration of Advent
Hope, Peace, Joy and Love
Carols of Adoration
Carols of Promise and Praise
Let the Earth Resound with Praise!
What Strangers are These?
Canticle of Peace
A Silent, Holy Night

Narrator : John McCullough

Our Cantata Singers and Musicians:

SOPRANOS

Marlis Dupuis *
Debbie Just
Wilma Plews *
Judy Hazell *
Gail Wilcox *
Lorelei Blane-Smith *
Lois McQuirter *
Sheila Payne
Sharon Penrose *
Sharon Foster *
Heather Tilson-
Sutherland *
Judy McConnell
Jackie Hopkins *
Katy Pakulak*
Victoria Tovell*
Diane Bryce*

ALTO

Jacqueline Hebert *
Elizabeth Asmann *
Sharon Whiteside *
Donna Earl *
Pat Cowden *
Fran Hill

TENORS

Keith Stam *
Rick Gerritsen *
Kathryn Battrick
Don Penrose*

BASS

Ewing Rae *
Desmond Williams *
Wayne Morrison *
Jeff Brown *
Jamie Beagle
Ken MacDonald

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Bill Sutherland (violin)
Lynda Newton (Cello)
Erika Rice (flute)
Kelly Duguay
(flugelhorn)
Sadie Bridgeman
(cornet)
Dave Taylor (cornet)
Paul Rayment
(trombone)
Dan Donaldson
(bass trombone)
Choya Fraser
(percussion)
Jolene Ens (piano)

**member of St Paul's choir*

THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY CAROL: VU #91 The First Nowell (1,3,4,5)
(Please remain seated for this carol)

*DOXOLOGY: 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 one, I would do my part,
Yet what can I give him – give my heart.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

CAROL: VU #59 Joy to the World

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE



ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 17th, 2017 www.stpaulsmidland.org

Advent Services 10 am

Advent 3 – Dec 17th, Choir Cantata

Advent 4 – Dec. 24

Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve Service -

7 pm. Come join us with your friends

Dec 31st – Celebrate the New Year with 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.

Our Christmas luncheon with carols and special guest **is today** after the service. There will be a freewill offering to cover expenses. Everyone is welcome!

Operating budget results as of November 30th:

Contributions - \$184,115 (Budget \$210,663 - shortfall \$26,548)

Expenses - \$267,678 (Budget \$279,436 - positive difference \$11,757).

Thank you to all committees for keeping expenses below budget and for excellent fundraising efforts.

The net deficit budget over actual year to date has increased substantially to \$11,590. This has been caused by a contributions shortfall. Your Stewardship Committee is making a special appeal to you to help St Paul's eliminate this deficit. **Special Gift envelopes** will be available until the end of the month for this *SPECIAL YEAR END APPEAL*.

Pledge card reminder - If you have not completed and handed in your pledge card, it's not too late. We are working on the 2018 budget and your pledge card to the church is a very important part of that budget.

UCW Church Calendars:

U.C.W have a limited number of 2018 calendars for sale at \$6.00 each. Please contact Helen French at 705-526-8293 if you are interested.

The Williams family invite us to wish a **very Happy Birthday to Iris Williams**, who celebrates her 90th birthday on December 19th.

Northern Waters Presbytery Reps are needed to represent St. Paul's. Please contact Karen or the church office if interested.

Sunday December 17th, Midland Cultural Centre presents "Songs from around the Bay" at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$25.00.

***The beautiful poinsettias in the Sanctuary have been placed
in memory of loved ones:***

In loving memory of **Marian Wilcox** placed by Gail, Bruce, Linda & family.

In loving memory of **Jim Shaw**, from Vivian Shaw.

In loving memory of our parents **Ken & Bessie Cowan**, from Liz Ron Rogers & Carol Jamieson & families.

In loving memory of our son, **Greg Rogers and our son/stepson Tom Rogers**, from Liz and Ron Rogers.

In loving memory of son **Jim**, from Phyllis and John McCullough.

In memory of parents, family & friends from Ken & Doreen Gunson.

In memory of **Edwin & Isabel, Phillip & Rose**, from David and Susan Walker.

In memory of **husband Nick & daughter Donna**, from Louise Rachey.

In memory of loved ones from Don & Joy Edwards.

In memory of loved ones from Anne & Joe Faragher & family and Lenore & Ivan Price & family.

In loving memory of **Gary Price** from Marilyn, the Prices & the Broomes.

In memory of **Bob Broome**, from Marilyn & family.

In memory of **Norm Ellis and family members**, from Joyce & family.

In memory of loved ones from Lori & Gerry Payne.

In memory of **Kay Lapere** (Rawson), from Cathie and Doug Rawson.

