

## Sunday December 31, 2017

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MIDLAND

Ministers: The Reverend Bev Irwin and The Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Music Director: Victoria Warwick

Scripture reader: Max Wagg



(\*Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN VU #639 One More Step

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED:

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE: Sung response:

"I am the Light of the World!  
you people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery  
of what you were meant to do and be."

OPENING PRAYER

HYMN MEDLEY:

Open our hearts MV #21 (2x)  
Open our hearts, open our minds.  
open our lives to you, O loving God.

Bless our God MV #46

Refrain

Bless our God, O my soul, Bless God's holy name.  
Bless our God, O my soul, Bless God's holy name

1. Remember the kindness of our God,  
who showers us with blessings all our days.

Refrain

2. Remember the justice of our God,  
who stands with those forgotten and confused.

Refrain

3. Remember the healing love of God,  
who calls us to be whole and to be free.

Refrain

God of the Bible MV #28 (vs. 1,3,4)

1. God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Refrain (2x)

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

3. Those without status, those who are nothing,  
You have made royal, gifted with rights.  
Chosen as partners, midwives of justice,  
birthing new systems, lighting new lights

Refrain (2x)

4. Not by your finger, not by your anger,  
will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Refrain (2x)

THEME CONVERSATION/Lord's Prayer

(Discovery Kids continues upstairs)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: [Genesis 1:1-5, John 1:1-5](#)

SERMON:

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

\*OFFERTORY: VU #55 (last verse)

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

\*HYMN: VU #647 Travel On, Travel On

\* COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

\*SUNG BENEDICTION: Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot and days of Auld Lang Syne.  
For Auld Lang Syne, my dear, For Auld Lang Syne,  
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet For Auld Lang Syne.

POSTLUDE



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
**December 31, 2017** [www.stpaulsmidland.org](http://www.stpaulsmidland.org)

A BLESSING AS YOU JOURNEY INTO THE NEW YEAR

May your eyes be opened to the wonder of the daily miracles around you  
and your sense of mystery be deepened.

May you be aware of the light that shines in the darkness,  
and that the darkness can never be put out.

May you be blessed with companions on the journey,  
friends who will listen to you and encourage you with their presence.

May you learn to live with what is unsolved in your hearts,  
daring to face the questions

and holding them until, one day, they find their answers.

May you find the still, quiet place inside yourself  
where you can know and experience the peace that passes understanding.

May love flow in you and through you to those who need your care.

May you continue to dream dreams and to reach out  
into the future with deeper understanding of God's way for you. Amen

*(from Hay & Stardust edited by Ruth Burgess)*



The church office is closed and will re-open on Tuesday January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Any last-minute donations can be made when the office re-opens, but must be dated in 2017. For any pastoral emergencies please contact Bev at 705 549-9896.

Special Year End Appeal - You can help ensure that St. Paul's financial year ends in the black. Our budget deficit at the end of November was \$11,590. Please use the "Special Gift" envelopes to make your contribution to help us eliminate this deficit. Thank you for your continued generosity to St Paul's United Church.

If you haven't yet dropped off your Pledge cards, 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. For those of you who have not yet picked up your 2018 givings envelopes, they are available in the church office.

St. Paul's Choir practice resumes on Thursday January 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Observer Reflections starts up again on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming meetings:

The next HUB meeting is on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees also meets on Jan 15<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

2017 Annual Report: Its that time of year again, so we ask that you please have your reports in to the church office by e-mail, no later than Monday January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The date for the annual meeting will be announced soon.

St Paul's budget time: Every year at this time we ask each committee to tell us their goals for expenses and fundraising for the next 12 months. Budget forms have been sent to all committees. Once you have had a discussion with your members, please complete the form and return it to the church office by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

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

