

Order of **Service**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
and Communion Sunday
St. Paul's United Church, Midland**

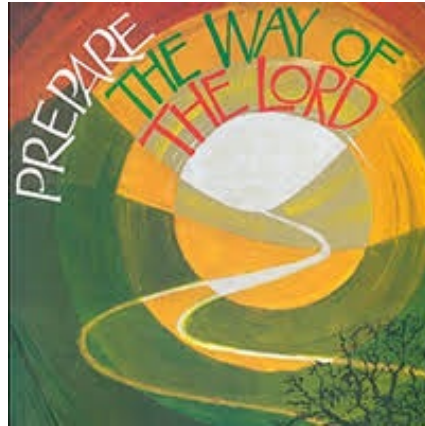
Announcements

Sunday, December 02, 2018

Ministers: Rev. Bev Irwin & Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Music Director–Victoria Warwick

Discovery Kids: Colleen Gareau



*Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

CAROL: VU #1 O Come, O come Emmanuel (verses 1,2,5)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED:

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

One: Today we kindle the Advent candle of hope to welcome the light that pierces the shadows, the light that affirms God's presence, the light that enables us to move forward in faith.

Sung Response: All

**Light a candle, a symbol of hope.
Light a candle, and warm in its glow.
Light a candle to shine in the dark,
Light a candle, open your heart.
Light a candle, and open your heart.**

OPENING PRAYER:

CAROL: VU #5 All the Earth is Waiting

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS VU #932(sung)

**Holy, holy, holy are you, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory, Hosanna in the Highest!
Blessed is the one who comes in your name.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION (SUNG TWICE) VU #933

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come, come again.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND WINE

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ALL: **In this Advent time of preparing, O God, we come knowing that you
offer hope to all. May the bread and wine remind us that you are our
hope in the midst of darkness and fear. Be with us as we await your
promised one. Amen**

(Discovery Kids continues upstairs)

PRAYER FOR ENLIGHTENMENT (unison) **May these words be a source of
wisdom, courage and strength. Amen**

SCRIPTURE: [John 3:1-6](#)

SERMON: Preparing the Way of the Lord
THE GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY: Who on Earth Could Know

*DOXOLOGY: MV #182

**Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of love.
Grateful for the birth of Jesus, thankful for Emmanuel,
Jesus born in Bethlehem and in our hearts as well.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN: VU #18 There's a Voice in the Wilderness Calling

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE





Announcements

Sunday December 2nd, 2018

www.stpaulsmidland.org

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.

Advent Services 10 am

Advent 2- Dec. 9th – Children's Community Choir

Advent 3 – Dec 16th - Children's Musical (A Play in a Manger) and
Pot Luck Luncheon.

Advent 4 – Dec. 23rd - Choir Cantata

Dec. 24th, Christmas Eve Service -

7 pm. Come join us with your friends



Upcoming concerts at St. Paul's

Children's Community Choir: December 2, 7:00 p.m.

VOX: December 8, 7:30 p.m.

Serenata and St. Paul's Choir: December 9, 7:30 p.m.

(a joint fundraiser for The Guest House Shelter)



YOUTH GROUP (ages 12 – 17) meets on **Sunday December 9, 2018** from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We will be assembling and decorating Gingerbread Houses to donate to the Monday morning Drop-In group. Come out and have some creative and messy fun!

St. Paul's Annual Christmas pot luck lunch is on Sunday, December 16, 2018 immediately following the service. Everyone is invited to stay and enjoy food and fellowship, a carol sing-along and perhaps a special guest! Please bring your favourite entrée, salad or dessert to share.

Coming soon - **St. Paul's 2019 calendar!** Lovely photos of our beautiful building and wonderful congregation. These would make a nice Christmas gift!

Supporting our church

Still looking for gifts for your coffee-loving friends? Consider a bag of coffee from St. Paul's Café. Orders can be placed on Sunday after the service, or at the church office.



Bakers Wanted! The UCW is looking for volunteers to provide some baking when there is a need, primarily for funeral teas. If interested, please call Sharon Foster at 705-322-1305.

Christmas Food Drive

Christmas is a time of love, joy, peace and happiness. For some, this time of year can be quite different with not having the pleasure of enough food to eat, let alone a joyous feast. St. Paul's annual Christmas Food Drive starts today through to December 16, 2018. Please share because you do care.

Monday Morning Drop In

We would ask that the congregation help us provide gift bags for the clients of the Monday Morning Drop-In, by choosing a gift from our display poster in the atrium. See the poster for more details. Thank you for your generosity.



We have a system for hearing support.
Please speak to an usher for assistance.