

[Order of Service](#) SUNDAY DECEMBER 30TH, 2018 [Announcements](#)

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MIDLAND

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

Music Director: Victoria Warwick



(*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

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

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

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: Colossians 3:5-17

SERMON: New Beginnings, Changed Lives in Christ

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

*OFFERTORY MUSIC

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 #647 Travel On, Travel On

*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

A BLESSING AS YOU JOURNEY INTO THE NEW YEAR

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

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

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

All: 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.

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

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

One: 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)

*SUNG BENEDICTION: Auld Langsyne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind,
should auld acquaintance be forgot and auld langsyne
For auld langsyne, my dear for auld langsyne
we'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet for auld langsyne.

POSTLUDE



Announcements
Sunday December 30, 2018
www.stpaulsmidland.org

All are invited to join us in the Great Hall for coffee after the service today.

The church is closed and will re-open on Wednesday January 2, 2019. Any last-minute donations for 2018 can be made when the office re-opens. Deadline for 2018 donations is Jan 7, 2019. For any pastoral emergencies, please contact Karen.

Observer Reflections starts up again on Monday January 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Bible Study starts up as well on Monday January 14, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.

Official Board meets on January 22, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlour.

Pledge card reminder - If you have not completed and handed in your pledge card, it's not too late. We are working on the 2019 budget and your pledge card to the church is a very important part of that budget.

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 15th.

2018 Annual Report: Its that time of year again, so we ask that all committees please have your reports in to the church office by e-mail, no later than Monday January 21, 2019. The date for the annual meeting will be announced soon.

St. Paul's 2019 calendars are still available at the church office at a cost of \$15 each. Proceeds go to St. Paul's United Church.



You can order coffee again this week and pick up previously ordered coffee in the Great Hall after the service. Coffee orders can be placed at the office during the week, with delivery one week later.

OUR CORE VALUES

A LOVING AND ENGAGING COMMUNITY WITH DIVERSE AND OPEN SPIRITUALITY
AND WITH A RESPECT FOR ALL CREATION

OUR MISSION

TO BE AN OPEN, CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY
SEEKING SPIRITUALITY AND LOVING RELATIONSHIPS



WE HAVE A SYSTEM FOR HEARING SUPPORT.
PLEASE SPEAK TO AN USHER FOR ASSISTANCE.

St Paul's United Church, 308 King St, Midland, Ontario L4R 3M6, Canada