

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



*Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE

*HYMN VU #115 Jesus Tempted

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO THE GATHERED

One: Lent is a time in which we begin the journey toward the cross.

All: Lent is a time when we stop to ponder the suffering of Jesus for us and our world.

One: Lent is a time when we are reminded again to allow God to create a new heart within us.

All: Lent is a time when we are reminded to open our new hearts to God, each other and those in need.

One: Lent is here. The journey has begun.

All: Lent is here. Let us worship our God.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

As we light this Christ candle, may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

SUNG RESPONSE: VU #186 vs. 4

**When our hearts are wintry, grieving or in pain,
your touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
love is come again, like wheat arising green.**

OPENING PRAYER

Gentle spirit, we have come through the growing excitement and light of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Now we turn ourselves inward, now we shine the light we've found in our hearts to see what is there. Bless this time of reflection and guide our steps as we walk the Lenten road that leads through death to life. Amen

(Nora Veress, Gathering L/E/P 2008)

HYMN MEDLEY

VU #113 To the Desert Jesus Came

1. To the desert Jesus came, to wrestle and to seek God's way.
Sun and moon rose high above to watch him as he'd fast and pray.
Together through the valley, the tempter led him around.
Together through the valley, so Jesus answers found.
2. Like the Hebrews long ago who ventured through the desert sand,
did he find a rock of faith, where streams of living waters ran?
Together through the valley, so shall we make our way.
Together through the valley, we'll walk for forty days.
3. In the desert we may find the mystery of who we are,
following a faithful God, so very close and yet so far.
Together through the valley, we'll gather our dreams in prayer,
together through the valley, and find God's presence there.
4. From the ashes to the hill, we'll travel on our Lenten road.
Hand in hand we'll cross this sand, and share each other's heavy load.
Together through the valley, we'll watch the changing sky.
Together through the valley, as Easter's dawn draws nigh.

THEME CONVERSATION:
LORD'S PRAYER

(Children leave for Discovery Kids)

PRAYER FOR ENLIGHTENMENT:

SCRIPTURE: [Mark 1:9-15](#)

ANTHEM: Be Thou My Vision

SERMON

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC: We Are Children of Our God

OFFERTORY SONG RESPONSE

**All that we have, all that we are, we offer here today.
To bring good news of hope & joy to cherish on the way.
To feed the hungry, heal the sick, and set the captive free.
To build a world where love is lived, proclaiming liberty.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*HYMN: VU #108 Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights (vs. 1,3,4)

*COMMISSIONING & BENEDICTION

* A LENTEN RESPONSE MV #20 (vs.1)

**God of still waiting, God of deep longing,
God of the heart's true rest:
Hold us in fathomless peace,
Guard us with unwaning love.**

POSTLUDE





ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 18th, 2017 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.

There will be a **HUB meeting** this Tuesday evening, February 20th at 8:00 p.m.

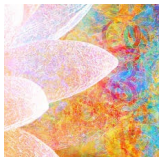
Theological Studies starts up again this coming Wednesday February 21st.

St. Paul's Family bowling night is on Friday February 23, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Bayshore Lanes in Midland. Let St. Paul's treat you to an evening of fun and fellowship. All ages are welcome as well as friends! See Sheila or Colleen to sign up.

St. Paul's Annual Congregational Meeting is on Sunday February 25th, immediately following the church service. Please note that at this meeting we will be addressing the resignation of Norm Grieves and will be putting forward some nominations for election to the Board of Trustees.

World Day of Prayer is on Friday March 2nd. Please join us here at St. Paul's at 2:00 p.m. Refreshments will follow.

ST. PAUL'S YOUTH GROUP will meet Sunday, March 4th at the Galaxy Theatre for a movie evening. More details to follow!



Art and Spirituality starts up again on March 3rd, for 8 weeks, from 10:00 to 1:00. Everyone is welcome as we explore spirituality through the process of making art! All supplies are provided, and the cost is \$80. To sign up, contact Joan Neville at 705-526-3276.

Observer Magazine: If you **do not** wish to renew, please contact the church immediately. For continued subscriptions, please make your cheque payable to St. Paul's in the amount of \$25.00 and drop off at the church office **by March 9th**.

Auction of Talent and Beautiful Things (Talent Auction) will be on Saturday April 28th in the Great Hall. This is one of our larger annual fundraisers and the proceeds go toward church expenses. Stay tuned for more information!



Parents and Tots: - Interested in forming a weekly group to play, sing songs, do crafts, read stories and interact with others? Please email Colleen at: cgareau02@gmail.com



Volunteer opportunities

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

Faith Formation needs adult volunteers to assist the Discovery Kids and Youth Group programs. Please sign up on the bulletin board at the bottom of the steps after the service today.

Volunteer pastoral care visitors are needed. Please contact Bev at (705)526-6077 or Sheila Thompson at (705) 526-2186 for more details.

Call for volunteers - 2018 Toronto Conference of the United Church

This year's event is May 25th and 26th - with set up day on Thursday May 24th.

Please consider volunteering if you are able and help us make this another successful event! Volunteers have helped generate over \$45,000 in the first two years for St. Paul's! If you helped last year and can help again, please let Zena know. If you are new, applications are available on the website under Get Involved or the back window in the Sanctuary. You can contact Zena at:

zenapendlebury@hotmail.com or call 705 527-6789.



2017 Tax Receipts are ready and available for pick up in the Atrium. Please help us keep mailing costs down by picking them up.

The **Tuesday VON exercise** class is cancelled until further notice but Classes continue as usual on Monday and Thursday.