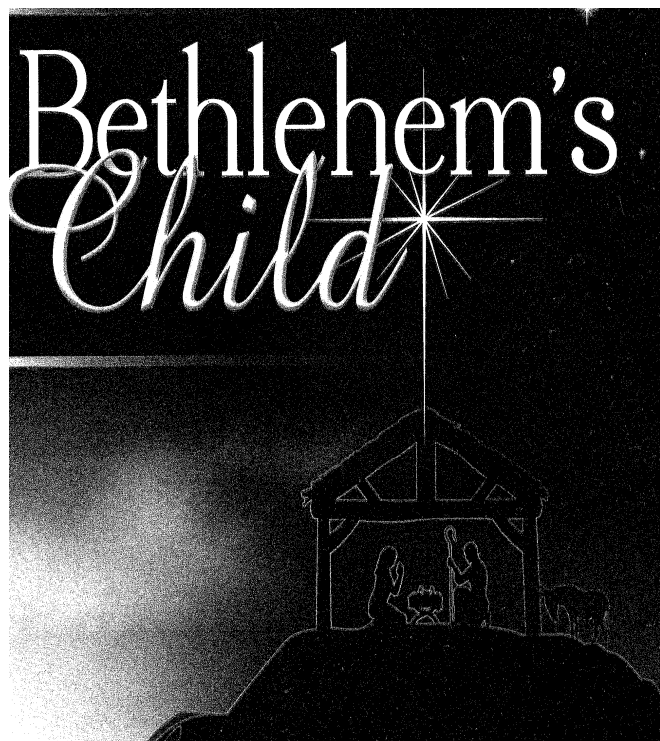


ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH  
308 KING ST  
MIDLAND, ON L4R 3M6  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
LOVE  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 2013



REV. KAREN PTOLEMY-STAM  
308 KING ST, MIDLAND, ON L4R 3M6  
OFFICE HOURS MON-FRI 9-12 & 1-4PM  
PHONE 526-6077, FAX 526-4020  
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ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

**Sunday December 22, 2013  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
CHRISTMAS CHORAL SERVICE**

With the Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam  
Director of Music: Paul Sloan

\*When you see this sign, please stand as you are able.

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: This Christmas Lord, take a corner of our lives and steal in....

**All: invade the busyness of our doing with the quiet of your coming**

One: This Christmas, Lord, take a corner of our minds and steal in...

**All: illuminate the darkness of our thinking with the brightness of your seeing.**

One: This Christmas, Lord take a corner of our hearts and steal in...

**All: infuse the coldness of our loving with the warmth of your Being.**

One: This Christmas, Lord, as at Bethlehem's stable, come and steal in....

**All: take the unprepared places of our lives and make them fit for your dwelling.**

\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #60 O Come All Ye Faithful vs: (1,2,4,3,5)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE (read by child)

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus,

Your gift of love to the world.

Help us to work with him to bring love to those whose hearts are broken or filled with anger and pain.

Let this candle remind us that the light of

Christ is shining in our hearts and can spread from us to others. When we live in love. Amen

*(Sue Browning, Grace U.C., Sarnia, Ont).*

RESPONSE VU#6 – A CANDLE IS BURNING – VS. 4

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,**

**a candle to point us to heaven above.**

**A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,**

**For Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

OPENING PRAYER (responsive)

One: Cradle us God; fold us into your tears and laughter,  
wrap us deep in love.

**All: Cradle us God; weave us into joy and justice,  
hem us round with hope.**

One: Cradle us God; tumble us into questions and stories,  
toss us up into joy.

**All: Cradle us God; rock us into rest and dreaming, cuddle us into your peace.** (Ruth Burgess, from Hay & Stardust)  
to Sunday school now)

(children may go up

**THE CHOIR CANTATA**  
**“BETHLEHEM’S CHILD”**

A CANTATA BY VICTOR C. JOHNSON/ LLOYD LARSON

Narrators: Lorna Bywater, John McCullough

Accompanist: Victoria Warwick

***The Musical Movements***

***Come and Worship***

***Our Hope Is in Emmanuel***

***Waiting and Longing***

***My Soul Does Magnify the Lord***

*Soloists Sheila Payne, & D.J. Thorpe*

***Christ is Born in Bethlehem – soloist Hannah Black***

***Run, Shepherds!***

***Cradle Carol***

***Bethlehem’s Child***

*\*HYMN # 59 Joy to the World (choir only on vs 2 & 3)*

**We Respond to God’s Word**

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

*HYMN # 76 See Amid the Winter’s Snow*

*\*DOXOLOGY: #VU 541*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures high and low; give thanks to God in love made known: Creator,  
Word and Spirit, One.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**We Go Forth to Serve**

*\* HYMN: #91 The First Nowell (vs 3 & 5 choir only)*

COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE (please allow the choir to recess fully before leaving the sanctuary)

***Season Greetings and Welcome!*** **Are you new to St. Paul’s?** Whether you’re just visiting or looking to stay, it is great to have you with us. Please make yourself known to our greeters, and pick up a welcome package. Please join us after the service for refreshments in our Great Hall, and find out more info about St. Paul’s and get connected into the community. **What to expect** - The only thing we ask you to do is to relax. You are with people just like you. Whether you have been here many times or never been to Church before, you can anticipate an encouraging and enlightening experience. **Coffee will be served in the Great Hall compliments of the Communication Committee.**

308 King St, Midland, Ontario

L4R 3M6 (705)526-6077

*stpaulsmidland.org*

Karen’s Email: [minspucmidland@gmail.com](mailto:minspucmidland@gmail.com)

Website: [stpaulsmidland.org](http://stpaulsmidland.org) *Like us on facebook!*

Minister – All of the Congregation

Pre-Service Music  
Administrator  
Custodian

Rick Taylor  
Judy McConnell  
Mary Ellen Petticrew  
Captain of the Greeters for December is Joan Lavin  
Joan Lavin will be delivering DVD's.  
Captain of the Counters for December is Heather Wilson



**Conductor:**  
Paul Sloan

**Narrators:**



**Pianist:**  
Anna Warwick

John McCullough

**Instrumentalists:**

Baritone: Paul Rayment

Cymbals: Noah Leis

Flugelhorn: Aaron Bell

Timpani: D.J. Thorpe

Trumpet: Amanda Clarke, Lindsay Hoover. Robin Watson,  
Dave Taylor

Trombone: Vince Evenden

Tuba: Brian Lewis

**A special thank you to all our guest vocalists and instrumentalists for their contribution to our service today!**

**We would also like to thank Paul Sloan and St. Paul's choir  
and our piano accompanist for all her hard work  
on this wonderful Cantata.**

**We are truly blessed to have so much talent at  
St. Paul's!**

**ST. PAUL'S CANTATA CHOIR**

**Sopranos**

Lorelei Blane-Smith  
Mary Edwards  
Dah Dah Eh  
Nancy Engstrom  
Sharon Foster

**Altos**

Cayley Black  
Hannah Black  
Amanda Clarke  
Pat Cowden  
Donna Earl

**Tenors**

Sharon Beeler  
Glenn Campbell  
Ken Macdonald  
Debbie McGrory  
Keith Stam

Judy Hazell  
Marjorie Hornsby  
Debbie Just  
Lois McQuirter  
Sheila Payne  
Heather Tilson  
Gail Wilcox

Sharlene Hayward  
Jacque' Hebert  
Phyllis McCullough  
Doris Sloan  
Victoria Warwick  
Sharon Whiteside

D.J.Thorpe  
**Bass**  
Aaron Bell  
Art Campbell  
Steve Hayward  
Wayne Morrison  
Gary Price  
Roger Priddle

**Christmas Services at St. Paul's.**

**Monday Dec 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve service 7pm**  
**Sunday December 29<sup>th</sup> service at 10am**

**Church hours during holidays:** The church will be closed from Wednesday December 25<sup>th</sup> thru to January 2, 2014. If you have an emergency Karen will be available. You can reach her at home at 705-355-0224 or at her email [minspuccmidland@gmail.com](mailto:minspuccmidland@gmail.com).

*From the staff at St. Paul's we wish everyone a Merry Christmas!*

In memory of loved ones from Joyce & Norm Ellis.

In memory of **Ron White** from Joyce & family.

In loving memory of **Rev. George Leck & Ginger** from the Leck family.

In loving memory of **Ralph & Eva Gowan** from the Leck family.

In loving memory of **George & Marjorie Burton** from Sharon & Don Penrose.

In loving memory of **Mark Belfry** much loved son and devoted brother.

In loving memory of **Bryson McQuirter** from Lois & family.

In loving memory of **Wayne Ashton & Alan Craig** from Jean & Don Craig.

In memory of loved ones from Ken & Doreen Gunson.

In loving memory of **Marilyn James** from Allan James.



The beautiful Poinsettia's have been placed in the church in memory of the following people.

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

In memory of loved ones from Jean Stainton.

In loving memory of **Nick Rachey and Donna Lee** from Louise.

In loving memory of **Cora & Len Wiles & husband Bun** from Marjorie Hornsby.

In loving memory of parents from Anne & Joe Faragher & family and Lenore & Ivan Price & family.

In loving memory of **Ken and Bessie Cowan** from daughters Carol Jamieson & Liz Rogers & families.

In loving memory of **Greg & Tom Rogers**, from parents Ron and Liz Rogers.

In memory of loved ones from Echo & Dick Godsmark.

In loving memory of **Charlie Walton** from June & family.

In loving memory of **Walter McMann** from Kay & Bob & family.

In loving memory of **Bert & Fran Megaw** from Kay, Bob & family.

In loving memory of **Ron Bertling** from Marilyn Pennington and Kathy & Neal Foot.

In loving memory of loved ones from Lori & Gerry Payne.

In loving memory of **Edwin & Isabel Walker** from David & Susan.

In memory of loved ones from Christel Edwards-Bilbao & Don & Joy Edwards.

*You may take your Poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve service.*

**St. Paul's United Church – Givings till the end of November/2013**

<b>Monthly Contributions</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>2013/Budget</b>	<b>Over/(short)</b>
<b>General Funds</b>	<b>\$171,900</b>	<b>\$ 191,881</b>	<b>\$ (19,981)</b>
<b>Loose Offerings</b>	<b>\$ 3221</b>	<b>\$ 4196</b>	<b>\$ (975)</b>
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$ 175,122</b>	<b>\$ 196,077</b>	<b>\$ (20,956)</b>
<b>Mission &amp; Service-Givings</b>			
<b>M&amp;S World Dev.</b>	<b>\$ 600</b>	<b>\$ 1,375</b>	<b>\$ (775)</b>
<b>Mission &amp; Service Cong</b>	<b>\$ 25,930</b>	<b>\$ 23,612</b>	<b>\$ 2,318</b>
<b>Total M&amp;S Givings</b>	<b>\$ 26,530</b>	<b>\$ 24,987</b>	<b>\$ 1,543</b>

A few weeks ago we advised you that St. Paul's United was facing a deficit of approximately \$22,000, expenses over income. A small number of you responded to our request raising approximately \$8,500 towards deficit reduction. We are grateful for your help. We also asked for people to consider using the PAR system for contributions if you were not already on this excellent system. Ten people responded to this request. Finally we cautioned all church committees to refrain from any unnecessary expenditures and they complied.

Despite all of these initiatives we have had a further loss due to our ongoing costs of operating the church. The current shortfall is \$26,764 at the end of November. **If you can see your way to contribute to the financial health of the church before the end of the year we will be most grateful. Thank you to everyone who responded last week! The 2013 year is coming to a close, with the church office being closed during the holidays any donations you wish in the 2013 year should be into the church over the next 2 Sundays, today and Dec 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank You!**

**Christmas Eve luncheon December 24 at 1pm**

**Setup – at 9am**

**Food into the kitchen by 10am**

**Kitchen help at 10am**

**Servers – at 12:30pm**

**Clean up – at 1:30pm Thank you to everyone for their help!!!**

The UCW have a limited number of **2014 Church calendars** at \$5.00 each. Please call Helen French at 705-526-8293 if you would like a calendar.

**Pledge Cards** - work on our 2014 budget starts next week, please get you pledge cards into the church office as soon as possible! Thank You!