

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH  
308 KING ST  
MIDLAND, ON L4R 3M6  
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT  
HOPE  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 1, 2013**



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**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**

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Minister – All of the Congregation

With the Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Director of Music: Paul Sloan

**Sunday December 1, 2013**

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT**

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

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

*\*PROCESSIONAL HYMN VU# 1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vs 1-5)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP (unison)

**God is coming in Christ to push back the shadows of this world.**

**God is coming in Christ to announce the dawning of a new day.**

**God is coming in Christ to bring life where there is no life, hope where there is no hope, love where there is no love. During the long nights of December, we dance in Advent Light because we know our God is coming.**

*(Nora Vedress, Birch Hills-Crystal Springs-Kinistino P.C., Birch Hills, Sask.)*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF HOPE

Thank you, God, for sending Jesus,  
your gift of hope to the world.

Help us to work with him to bring hope to places  
where people are lonely or afraid

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 hope. Amen

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

RESPONSE: VU # 6 vs 1

**A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,**

**A candle of hope in December's dark night.**

**While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,**

**Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**God of Advent surprises, awaken us to our full potential beyond our imaginations. Like Mary, may your spirit overcome us so that we become more than observers and celebrants of the birth – we become participants in Christ's coming today and tomorrow in the life we share with others and the love we offer. Amen** (Micol I. Cottrell, St. Paul's U.C., Temiskaming Shores, Ont.)

\*HYMN: VU#469 *We Gather Here (Come, Share the Lord)*

## 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 THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (said by all)

**God of those who await the light, you have fed us with holy food, nourished us with holy drink, and prepared our hearts for the birth of the Holy One. Let the light of your coming Messiah child illuminate the darkness within and around us. Hear now our joyful song of longing and hope and send through us your healing touch anew. In the name of Jesus, the Advent Christ, our Lord. Amen**

## We Hear the Wisdom of the Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (SAID BY ALL)

**In this Advent season, O God, may we open our hearts and minds to engage the scriptures as we wait for the arrival of God-Incarnate-Jesus Christ. Amen**

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Romans 13: 11-14, Matthew 24: 36-44

ANTHEM *Dona Nobis Pacem* Emily Lund

SERMON

## We Respond to God's Word

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

HYMN Tune of VU# 20 (Winchester New)

**Here in these northern lands we bear  
the ice, the snow, the frosty air;  
but we renew our Christian year  
in Advent's call that God is near.**

**Through Sundays four, each year we trace  
the movement of God's giving grace.  
Hope – like a diamond in a ring –  
is promise of all love can bring.**

**Hope is the farmer in the field,  
sowing the seeds with unknown yield;  
planting with heart and faith so stout  
'gainst insects, hail, frost, flood, and drought.**

When we have hope, we pray for peace;  
from strife and conflict, a release.  
Instead of spending on war tools,  
for girls and boys, we build some schools.

In stable small, rough, calloused hands  
enwrap a babe in swathing bands;  
then fear and anguish turn to joy  
as now the parents hold their boy.

This babe is God's own gift of love-  
the angels sing in sky above;  
while in the heav'ns, a shining sphere  
announces God in Christ is here.

(Text Donald Milne)

\*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

\*COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION

\* *RECESSIONAL HYMN #2 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

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

### **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. **Thank you to the Outreach committee for hosting coffee today in the Great Hall! Everyone is welcome!**

Lay Reader

Pre-Service Music

Administrator

Custodian

Eleanor Hunter

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

Bea Nayduk is in the nursery this week.

(next Sunday Dec 8<sup>th</sup> there will be no nursery)

Communion Preparers – Sharon & Colin Whiteside

**\*\*Congregational Meeting:** On Sunday, Dec. 15, 2013, immediately following the worship service, there will be a Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on a proposal

### **Canadian Foodgrains Bank**

The Outreach Committee would like to sincerely thank the congregation for their outstanding support for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank again this year. The congregation has generously donated a total of \$7356, including a significant donation from an anonymous donor. Due to the 1:1 matching from St. Paul's Special Project Account (max. of \$5000) and 4:1 matching from the federal government, this represents over \$61,000 worth of food to help feed the hungry in the world. What a wonderful gift from St. Paul's at this time of year! Thank you everyone for helping others.

### **MUSICAL CONCERTS FOR CHRISTMAS 2013**

#### **Sunday Dec.1st**

Children's Community Choir – 7:00PM

#### **Sunday Dec 8<sup>th</sup>**

Victoria Thompson – Concert – 7:00PM

#### **Thursday Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>**

Brookside Music – *tickets can be purchased at the Cultural Centre*

A Baroque Christmas Around the World- 7:30PM

#### **Saturday Dec.14th**

VOX Huronia Chamber Choir– 7:30PM

#### **Sunday Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 2PM**

Vox Choir – Carol service and fundraising for an ill young girl in our community.

Price of tickets varies for most of these concerts are available at Johnstone's Musicland and at the door.

(Brookside at the Cultural Centre).

### **COME OUT AND ENJOY THE MUSIC OF THE SEASON!**

Tonight is the **Children's Community Choir** concert at 7pm, tickets can be purchased at the door.



**Salvation Army - Angel Cards are here:** Again this year we have angel cards which are on the bulletin board by the Easy Street entrance. Each card lists a child and their age and gender. If you take a card please return your **unwrapped gift to the church by December 13<sup>th</sup>**. The cards have suggestions but you are free to buy an age appropriate gift of your own choosing.  
Thank You!

**Candlelight Memorial Service** – Carson funeral home invites you and your family to our Candlelight Memorial service on Sunday afternoon Dec 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in their chapel. See poster or more info.  
(children may go up to Sunday school now)

**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!



**SERVICES FOR THE  
CHRISTMAS SEASON 2013**

*December 8<sup>th</sup> – 10am*

**Second Sunday in Advent &  
Sunday school Christmas Pageant**  
Following the service our  
**Christmas Pot Luck Luncheon**  
Everyone Welcome!

*December 15<sup>th</sup> - 10am*

**Third Sunday in Advent**

*December 22<sup>nd</sup> – 10am*

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**  
*Choir Sunday*  
*Cantata by our choir*

*December 24<sup>TH</sup> – 7PM*

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**Thank you** to Tom Barber, Colin Whiteside and Bruce Wilcox for putting up the manger scene on the front lawn!  
Mary Ellen and Naw Doh for doing the decorations on the door. Also a thank you to Cathy & Byron Metzgar, Jean & Milne Dick, and Sharon & Colin Whiteside for decorating our sanctuary so beautifully.

**Memorial Poinsettias:** Once again this Christmas we will be putting memorial poinsettias in the church. Each year we purchase them from the Children's Community choir and it is a fundraiser for the choir. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one, or just purchase one for yourself, please contact the church office at 705-526-6077 or [stpaulsunited@rogers.com](mailto:stpaulsunited@rogers.com). 6" Poinsettias are \$8.00 8" are \$16.00 & 10" for \$25.00. **All orders for poinsettias need to be in the office no later than Thursday Dec 5<sup>th</sup>. The colours offered are pink, white and red.**

**Next Sunday Dec 8th – Will be our Christmas Pageant Service** Followed by our annual Christmas **pot luck luncheon** - The luncheon is being hosted by the Circle on Sunday, December 8, after the morning service. We hope everyone will be able to join us for fellowship and lunch. We have made a call for a very special visitor to attend! So we all have to be good until then. See you there, everyone is welcome!

**Choir** - Practices have begun for the choir Cantata to be presented on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Start time for those wishing to join the choir for this amazing Sunday worship service is 8:00pm, Thursday evenings. Practice Schedule: 7pm –Dec 5, **and Tuesday Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** Dec 19<sup>th</sup> **Saturday Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30am** extra practice and Sunday Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> presentation of the Cantata at 10am.



**Christmas Season Food Drive** last Sunday is December 8<sup>th</sup>. The shelves need to be filled to provide through the winter months. Please count your many blessings and give to those in need. All donations of food will go to the Salvation Army food bank. Your donations of Non-perishable items are greatly appreciated.

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

**Christmas Eve luncheon December 24 at 1pm** – Once again this year at St. Paul's we are offering a Christmas dinner for people who may not have a Christmas meal. Please see the list of needs enclosed in the bulletin and call the church office if you would like to donate food or your time. 705-526-6077