

St. Paul's United Church
First Sunday after Epiphany

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2012

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

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

**Processional Hymn #232 Joyful, Joyful We Adore You*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is Holy Mystery, beyond knowledge,
above perfect description.

Yet, in love, the one eternal God seeks relationship.

So God creates the universe
and with it the possibility of being and relating.

**God tends the universe,
mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.**

God enlivens the universe,
guiding all things toward harmony with their Source.

**Grateful for God's loving action,
We cannot keep from singing and so we worship 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.

INTROIT: **Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place,**

I can feel His mighty power and His Grace.

I can feel the brush of angels' wings

I see glory on each face,

surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

OPENING PRAYER (SAID IN UNISON)

God you are creative and self-giving,

**generously moving in all the near and distant corners of the universe. We know nothing exists that does not find its source
in You. In response to your providence we offer our gratitude and sing thanksgiving. Be with us as we worship this day.**

Amen

**Hymn #248 When Long Before Time*

THEME CONVERSATION

PRAYER WITH CHILDREN/LORD'S PRAYER

(children may go up to Sunday school now)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (SAID IN UNISON)

We know O God, that we don't always direct our lives toward right relationship with each other and with You.

Forgive us and help us to discover our place as one strand in the web of life. To grow in wisdom and compassion.

To recognize all people as kin. To accept challenges to make our lives and choices matter. Guide us Oh God we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

WE HEAR THE WISDOM OF THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION (SAID BY ALL)

May we hear these ancient scriptures with trusting faith and gentle hope, with creative enthusiasm and honest doubt, rooted in the teachings of Jesus and grounded in your love. May we hear your call in scripture today. Amen

Psalm 104 Part 1: 1-9 VU #826

Insert - Holy Mystery – God of Creation (you may follow along with
the insert in the bulletin)

Anthem I Will Lift Up My Eyes David Waggoner

SERMON- "Song of Faith – Holy Mystery, God of Creation"

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

GIVING OF OUR GOOD AND GIFTS

Hymn # 238 O Lord My God (How Great Thou Art)

**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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

- *Hymn VU#313 God, Whose Almighty Word*

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*COMMISSIONING/BENEDICTION

* SUNG BLESSING

**Go in love; have no fear.
God will guide you, He is always near.
Go in Love; take His hand.
God will hear you, He will understand.
May His light forever shine upon you.
May His peace be always in your heart.
Go in love; face each day.
God will lead you, He will show the way.
Go in love and live in faith. Amen.**

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Postlude Please allow the choir to recess before leaving the Sanctuary.

Ministers: All the People of God with the
Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam

Lay Reader
Director of Music
Pre-Service Music
Administrator
Custodian

Marlis Dupuis
Paul Sloan
Rick Taylor
Judy McConnell
Mary Ellen Petticrew

Phone 526-6077 Fax 526-4020

Email: STPAULSUNITED@ROGERS.COM,

Website: stpaulsmidland.org

Office hours Monday thru Friday 9-12, 1-4pm

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A special welcome to all new friends as we gather to celebrate God's presence in our lives. If you are a guest, visitor or newcomer, please make yourself known to us. If you have any questions, our greeters would be delighted to help you. Please put your name, mailing address and email address in our guest book so we may have a record of your visit. **Please join us for coffee in the Great Hall compliments of The Circle.**

Sermon Series:

Today we start a 6 week study of the "Song of Faith" (2006) you will find an insert of the first week in today's bulletin. The statement of faith seeks to provide a verbal picture of what The United Church of Canada understands its faith to be in its current historical, political, social, and theological context at the beginning of the 21st century. It is also a means of ongoing reflection and an invitation for the church to live out its convictions in relation to the world in which we live.

The church's faith is grounded in truths that are timeless. These truths, however, must be embraced anew by Christians of each generation and stated "in terms of the thoughts of their own age and with the emphasis their age needs" (Statement of Faith, 1940).

This is not the first time the United Church has formally expressed its collective faith. In the Basis of Union (1925), in the Statement of Faith (1940), and in A New Creed (1968), the United Church stated its faith in words appropriate to its time. This current statement of faith is offered within that tradition, and in response to the request of the 37th General Council (2000) for a "timely and contextual statement of faith" that especially engages "the church in conversation on the nature of the church (ecclesiology), ministry and the sacraments."

This statement of faith attempts to reflect the spirit of The United Church of Canada and to respond to various defining elements in our social, political, and historical context, including the place of the church in society, the cultural and intellectual setting in which we find ourselves, the meaning of "truth," the impact of the market economy on our daily lives, and the growing issue of the meaning of "security." These contextual elements are further explored in the appendices to this document.

This is not a statement for all time but for *our* time. In as much as the Spirit keeps faith with us, we can express our understanding of the Holy with confidence. And in as much as the Spirit is vast and wild, we recognize that our understanding of the Holy is always partial and limited. Nonetheless we have faith, and this statement collects the meaning of our song.

The Circle the meeting scheduled for Monday January 16th has been **cancelled due to a flu outbreak at the Villa**. Next meeting will be announced in the near future.

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of **Nora Russell** a long time member of St. Paul's. Nora's funeral was held at St. Paul's on Saturday January 14th. Our condolences go out to Nora's family for their loss.

Talent Survey: The information on the surveys have been entered on the computer. We are compiling all the information and will be in touch with people soon if they indicated they are interested in a church group or committee. If you have not yet filled out a survey and wish to do so please see Judy in the church office Monday thru Friday. 705-526-6077

Prayer Requests

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Milne Dick at home, Ofelia Fullerton in GBHB, Norma Graham at home, Amara Van der Zwan, Doug Mosley at home, Frank Mustard at home, Joan Doolittle and Evelyn Banks in Hillcrest in your prayers and anyone else who may need our support by prayer at this time.

Schedule by Room - Weekly and Monthly Activities at St. Paul's

Monday	Drop In Centre	8:00 – 10.30 p.m.	Gym
Monday	Beavers	6:00 – 7:00pm	Gym/Choir Rm
Monday	Cubs	7:00 - 8:30PM	Gym/Choir Rm
Monday	Vox Huronia	7:00 – 10:00 pm	Sanctuary
Monday	Yoga	5:00 to 8:00 pm	Rm # 10 (Spring & Fall)
1 st Monday	M&P	7:00 pm	Parlour
3 rd Monday	The Circle	7:00 – 9:00	Parlour
Monday	Girl Guides Executive	7:00 – 9:00	Chapel (Oct, Dec, Feb, Apr)

Tuesday	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Tuesday(not 1 st)	Scouts	7:00 to 9:00 pm	Gym
1 st Tuesday	UCW Executive	9:30 a.m.	Parlour
1 st Tuesday	Fellowship Club	7:00 – p.m.	Gym
2 nd Tuesday	UCW	12:30-4:00pm	Parlour
2 nd Tuesday	Worship Committee	11am	Minister office
2 nd Tuesday	Communication Committee	7:00 - p.m.	Parlour
2 nd Tuesday	Property Committee	7:00 - p.m.	Chapel
2 nd Tuesday	Scout Executive	7pm	Upstairs
4 th Tuesday (Sept, Nov, Feb, June)	Official Board	7:00 – 9:00 pm	Parlour

Wednesday	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Wednesday	Bible Study	11:30- 1:00	Parlour

Thursday	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Thursday	Little Treble Makers	4-5pm	Rm #10
Thursday	Children's Comm Choir	6:30 – 8:30pm	Rm #10
Thursday	Pathfinders	6:30-8:30pm	SS Rm#1
Thursday	Venturers/Rovers	6:00 – 9:00	Log Cabin
Thursday	Church Choir	7:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Chapel
1 st Thursday	Order of Eastern Star	4:00 – 11pm	Gym
2,3 rd & ,4 th Thursday	Guides	6:30 – 8:30pm	Gym
3 rd Thursday	Outreach Committee	2:00 – 4:00pm	Parlour

Friday	Co-op Nursery School	10:30-11:30	Gym
Last Friday mth	Faith Formation Family Night	5:00 – 9:00 pm	Gym

Saturday	7 th Day Adventist	9:00 am-1pm	Chapel
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1st Sunday	Faith Formation-Education	11:30-1:00pm	Upstairs Sunday School Room
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IN CASE OF A PASTORAL EMERGENCY YOU MAY CALL KAREN AT HOME AT 705-355-0224 OTHERWISE PLEASE CALL CHURCH AT 705-526-6077. KAREN NOW HAS HER OWN EMAIL ADDRESS: MINSPUCMIDLAND@GMAIL.COM. YOU ARE INVITED TO EMAIL KAREN DIRECTLY AT THIS EMAIL ADDRESS.

If you are interested in more information on any of these Committees and groups, or see changes that need to be made, please call the church office at 705-526-6077.

2011 Annual Meeting & Report: The Annual church meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 29th. The meeting will immediately following the morning service and everyone is encouraged to attend!! Look for the Annual reports next Sunday January 22nd so you can look them over before the Sunday of the Annual meeting.

Bible Study is on Wednesday at 11:30am to 1pm in the parlour, come join us! Bring a bag lunch, coffee and tea will be provided, all are welcome! We are studying the “Song of Faith” which we start in church today.

Par & Giving Envelopes: If you have not received a set of envelopes or you would like to go on PAR (your donation deducted automatically from your bank account each month) please contact the church office at **705-526-6077**. **We encourage anyone giving on a regular basis to use envelopes or PAR so they can receive a tax receipt at the end of the year!!!**

Fellowship Club: Will not be meeting in January, but will resume on Tuesday Feb 7th with a Pot Luck Dinner! See you then!!!

Pop Cans and Boston Pizza Receipts! Don't forget to bring in your Boston Pizza receipts we get a % of each bill, the box is on the radiator near the large stairs going down to the gym. Pop cans go to help Habitat for Humanity and the container in the coat area near the minister's office.

See posters showing the line-up of talent Brookside music is bringing to the church in February and March:

Feb 8 – TorQ-Percussion Ensemble – Tickets \$20

March 7 – Jelena Milojevic – Accordion – Tickets \$20

March 24 – Carmen – Tickets \$40 – Students \$25

Tickets can be purchased from Johnstone's Musicland. See poster for more information.

Umbrellas: We have a large collection in the hall by the nursery school on the shelf above where you hang your coat, please check and see if you have left yours behind.

Holy Mystery – God of Creation – Sunday, January 15, 2012

God is Holy Mystery,
beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.

Yet, in love,
the one eternal God seeks relationship.

So God creates the universe
and with it the possibility of being and relating.

God tends the universe,
mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.

God enlivens the universe,
guiding all things toward harmony with their Source.

Grateful for God's loving action,
We cannot keep from singing.

With the Church through the ages,
we speak of God as one and triune:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We also speak of God as
 Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer
 God, Christ, and Spirit
 Mother, Friend, and Comforter
 Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,
 and in other ways that speak faithfully of
the One on whom our hearts rely,
the fully shared life at the heart of the universe.

We witness to Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.
God is creative and self-giving,
 generously moving
 in all the near and distant corners of the universe.
Nothing exists that does not find its source in God.
Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.
We sing thanksgiving.

Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery,
 of living things, diverse and interdependent,
 of complex patterns of growth and evolution,
 of subatomic particles and cosmic swirls,
we sing of God the Creator,
the Maker and Source of all that is.

Each part of creation reveals unique aspects of God the Creator,
 who is both in creation and beyond it.

All parts of creation, animate and inanimate, are related.

All creation is good.

We sing of the Creator,

 who made humans to live and move
 and have their being in God.

In and with God,

 we can direct our lives toward right relationship
 with each other and with God.

We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life.

We can grow in wisdom and compassion.

We can recognize all people as kin.

We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a curse,
 but as a challenge to make our lives and choices matter.