

**NEW YEAR'S DAY  
Sunday January 1, 2012**

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

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *HYMN: VU#315 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty*

CALL TO WORSHIP

New every morning is your love, O God.

And life is the gift you give to us.

**We gather now, at the beginning of a new year,  
to ask your blessing on the days that are ours and yours.**

Call us into a future of hope as we worship you this day.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, you who hold all of time and space within your gaze, you who know each second of our history, you are our Creator and Lord.

**Your dreams are the world's hope.**

Wish Father, loving Mother, you who hold each of us within your care, you know the gift within each one; you are our Redeemer and guide.

**Your call is our future.**

Stir our hearts.

**Awaken our vision. Guide us on the path of generosity and hope.**

May it be so. **Amen**

\**HYMN # 639 One More Step Along the World I Go*

THEME CONVERSATION/Lord's Prayer

(there is no Sunday school today, children are invited to remain for the service)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, God of heaven and earth. We come into your presence on this New Year's Day to give thanks for your great love shown to us in your child Jesus.

**We come with our regrets that the past year was not all that we hoped it would be all that is your great will for us.**

We come with our fears of what tomorrow will bring, for the world and for our own personal lives.

**We come because our hope is in you. You are the God of new beginnings, the God who brings life out of death. You are the God who in Jesus promises never to leave us or forsake us.**

So we gather to offer up our thanks for the good that has been, our tears for what has been that ought not to have been, and our prayers that your kingdom will come and your will done on earth as it is in heaven. **Amen**

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION (SAID BY ALL)

**Life-giving God, may we who share Christ's body, live his risen life; we who drink his cup, bring new life to others; we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so that we and all your children shall be free, and all creation will live to praise your name. Amen**

## WE HEAR GOD'S 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**

HEBREW SCRIPTURE: Genesis 1: 1-5

GOSPEL: John 1: 1-5

SERMON:

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

GIVING OF OUR OFFERING

*HYMN # 675 Will Your Anchor Hold*

\*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

**Star giver, Life bringer, Love sharer, bless these gifts we bring: that our Light might shine more brightly, your Life lived more abundantly, your Love shared more outrageously. Amen**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*PIANO SOLO – Phyllis McCullough*

A BLESSING AS YOU JOURNEY INTO THE NEW YEAR (responsive)

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

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

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

May you find the still, quiet place inside yourself where you can know and experience the peace that passes understanding. **May love flow in you and through you to those who need your care.**

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)

### WE GO FORTH TO SERVE

*\*HYMN: #647 Travel On, Travel On*

\* COMMISSIONING / BENEDICTION (responsive)

We stand to face the future.

**God behind us in the past,**

Christ before us, the way ahead;

**Christ beside us in this moment;**

Christ beneath us in our weakness;

**Christ above us to shield us –**

Beneath the shadow of his wings we are safe;

**Christ between us to bind us in the unity of his love;**

Christ in us, equipping us with his all-sufficient grace.

**Thus armed, guided and protected we face the new year.**

Now we arise and go forth on the journey before us,

Knowing that, where Christ leads, life is a journey home.

Therefore we travel in faith, in hope, and in love,

In the name of Creator, Son and Holy Spirit.

*\*CHORAL AMEN HALLELUJAH AMEN # 974*

POSTLUDE

## 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. **There will be no Coffee today but will resume next Sunday January 8<sup>th</sup>**

Ministers: All the People of God with the Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam  
Director of Music Paul Sloan  
Guest Pianist Phyllis McCullough  
Pre-Service Music Rick Taylor  
Administrator Judy McConnell  
Custodian Mary Ellen Petticrew

Phone 526-6077 Fax 526-4020

Email: [STPAULSUNITED@ROGERS.COM](mailto:STPAULSUNITED@ROGERS.COM),

Website: [stpaulsmidland.org](http://stpaulsmidland.org)

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

**Mission and Service** our target for the year 2011 is \$24,560 for M&S and World Development combined at present we have raised \$25,910

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Please keep the following people in your prayers:  
Milne Dick at home, Ofelia Fullerton in GBHB, Norma Graham at home, Joe Lalonde 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.

Do you like to stitch and sew? Sunday school needs you! We have a special Sunday school project in January that requires assistance during Sunday school to complete some simple sewing with the kids. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our children and young people better, share a valuable skill with them, and have fun together! Please speak to Rachel Leck if you would like to participate. We would also appreciate donations of spare fabric, yarn, buttons or other similar sewing notions.

**Pledge Cards:** Please return your pledge card to the church as soon as possible. We use the pledged amount to help us with our 2012 budget. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at 705-526-6077.

**Worship Committee:** Will meet on Tuesday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 9am in Karen's office.

**Church Office** will be closed on Monday January 2<sup>nd</sup> and re-open Tuesday January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**2011 Annual Meeting & Report:** budgets, and 5 year plans should be into the office, if you have not submitted the above information please do so asap. Committee reports are due by the first week in January, 2012. Thank You! **The Annual church meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will immediately following the morning service and everyone is encouraged to attend!!**

**Bible Study** will resume on Wednesday January 11at 11:30am to 1pm in the parlour, come join us! Bring a bag lunch, coffee and tea will be provided, all are welcome!

**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!!!**

**Christmas Dinner:** On December 24<sup>th</sup> a crew of volunteers organized by Bea Nayduk served a wonderful Christmas dinner to over 50 people in our community. This was a partnership between St. Paul's the Out of the Cold program and Knox Presbyterian. Thank you to Knox for the use of their gym and kitchen. Thank you to everyone who donated Turkeys, Hams and other food or monies to this dinner. Also a thank you to all the volunteers who came and cooked and served and cleaned up. Thank You!

**Fellowship Club:** Will not be meeting in January, but will resume on Tuesday Feb 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

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: [MINSUCMIDLAND@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MINSUCMIDLAND@GMAIL.COM). YOU ARE INVITED TO EMAIL **KAREN** DIRECTLY AT THIS EMAIL ADDRESS.