

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH, MIDLAND
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
Tuesday, December 24, 2021
Minister: The Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Singers: Rebecca Amadei, Shayla Brown,
Bob Hawkestone.**



Welcome and Announcements

Call to the Gathered

Opening Carol: VU# "O Come All Ye Faithful" vs 1, 2

Opening Prayer: read by Rick Dell

Holy One, on this Christmas Eve we come with expectant hearts into the stillness of the night to glimpse the baby Jesus. As we enter the stable may we warm to the love and joy we find there. May we be as dismayed as the shepherds hearing good news from angels. May we be humbled as wise ones who sense the presence of the Divine before them. May we, this Christmas Eve, once again find you not only in a stable but in our hearts. May we kneel before you, knowing that you will change our lives and our world. Amen

Acknowledgment of the Land

Solo: "A Midwinter Carol" arranged by Victor C. Johnson and sung by Shayla Brown.

Lighting Advent Candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and Lighting the Christ Candle:

One: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

Sung Response: "Light a Candle for Christ"

**5. Light a candle for Christ born among us, Grace of God, most fully revealed.
Advent waiting and watching is over, God with us, humanity healed.
Emmanuel, God is here. God is here.**

"Light a Candle" Words and Music: Lisa Waiters (Gathering 2021-2022 Epiphany Year C)



THE CHRISTMAS STORY

JESUS IS BORN

Luke 2:1-7a read by Judy McConnell

Tableau #1 Mary Joseph and Jesus

Reflection

Carol: Away in a Manger sung by Rebecca Amadei



ANGELS TELL GOOD NEWS

Luke 2:8-14 read by Bruce Wilcox

Tableau #2 The Angels

Reflection

Carol: "Carols of Promise and Praise" from **Winter's Grace** by Joseph M. Martin



SHEPHERDS COME TO SEE JESUS

Luke 2:15-20 read by Judy McConnell

Tableau #3 The Shepherds

Reflection

Carol: "While Shepherds Watched their Flocks" VU#75 vs 1-2



WISE ONES COME SEEKING JESUS

Matthew 2:1-12 read by Bruce Wilcox

Tableau #4 The Wise Ones

Reflection

Carol: Silent Night

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night, Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia!"
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night, Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord, at thy birth, Jesus Lord, at thy birth

Prayers of the People read by Rick and Gabriella Dell

Commissioning and Benediction

Carol: #59 "Joy to the World" (vs. 1,2)

Thank you to all who participated in the service this evening.
You have helped us share the good news of the birth of Jesus and the love of God.

The congregation of St. Paul's United Church wish you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year.

May the babe in the Manger dwell as Christ in your heart and lives.