



St. Paul's United Church
Sunday, January 01, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
Welcoming in the New Year
Minister: Rev. Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Tech Team: Gabriela and Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox
Readers: Charlie Carswell, Judy McConnell

PRELUDE, WELCOME AND CALL TO THE GATHERED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

OPENING HYMN: "A Christmas Hallelujah"

OPENING PRAYER: Charlie Carswell Written by Mary Parsons – Munn's U.C., Oakville, On from Gathering A/C/E 2022-23 pg. 39

God of stars and sages, open our senses to know your presence in the ordinary moments of our days. Lead us into the gift of a new year full of hope and promise, knowing your grace will guide us. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES OF HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE AND THE CHRIST CANDLE:

HYMN: VU#96 "Will You Come and See the Light" Written by Brian Wren, Sung by Musicians from Golden Ears United Church, Used with permission

1. Will you come and see the light from the stable door?
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.
It will be your guiding star, it will show you who you are.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
2. Will you step into the light that can free the slave?
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.
By the pyramids of greed there's a longing to be freed.
Will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
3. Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.
When the truth is cut and bruised, and the innocent abused,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
4. Will you join the hope, alight in a young girl's eyes,
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?
When the lowest and the least are the foremost at the feast,
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?
5. Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?
In the cradle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,
and the darkness all about is too dim to put it out:
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; John 1:1-14 read by Judy McConnell

SERMON:

HYMN: VU#639 One More Step Along the World I Go" Sung by Billy Doze. Used with Permission from Sofar on Dec. 12, 2022

1. One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go;
from the old things to the new, keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me traveling along with you.

2. Round the corner of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see you'll be looking at along with me:
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me traveling along with you.

3. As I travel through the bad and good, keep me traveling the way I should;
where I see no way to go you'll be telling me the way, I know:
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me traveling along with you.

4. Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough;
leap and sing in all I do, keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me traveling along with you.

5. You are older than the world can be, you are younger than the life in me;
ever old and ever new, keep me traveling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me traveling along with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER AND REMINDER ABOUT GIVING OF OUR GIFTS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER: Charlie Carswell written by Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont. Gathering A/C/E 2022-23 pg. 39

Everlasting God, your love stretches across the ages, a constant beacon of hope and promise to all those who proclaim your name. Your love burrows down inside us to the gulf of our anxiety, providing us with your unwavering acceptance and peace. Your love untangles the messy, knotty dramas of our lives, guiding us with the certainty of your forgiveness and faithfulness. When we are overwhelmed with uncertainty, remind us that all your abiding presence in our hearts. There are things that we would like to release as we move into a new year. Receive now those burdens we love to leave in your care. Amen. (Followed by Lord's Prayer).

CLOSING HYMN: Ere Zei God – A Dutch hymn that was requested by new members as part of their tradition at this time of year.

COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING Written by Sharone Winegardfen, Lion's Head Pike Bay Pastoral Charge, Lion's Head, Ont. Gathering A/C/E 2022-23 pg. 39.

As we leave this place of worship today, may we be blessed in the discovery of new opportunities, new ways to love and live and reach out.

May God send us from here with love to share
and make us open and willing to take comfort in the love of others.

May God journey with us into this new year,
as we are full of hope and ready to embrace all that God offers to fill us up.

May God grant us courage to love freely, without judgment,
and to be creative in how we serve and reach out to others.

May God bless those who we love and those we don't.

And now, may we go out in faith, trusting that God will lead us;

may we go in love, believing in God's saving grace;

and may we go in peace, recognizing God's precious gift given to each one of us. Amen

SUNG POSTLUDE: Auld Lang Syne

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot and auld langsyne.

For auld langsyne, my dear, for auld langsyne

We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet for auld langsyne