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*St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church*

<https://pccweb.ca/stpauls>

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Interim Moderator: Rev. Robert Lyle

Clerk of Session: Jan Alchorn

Music Director: Linda Giddens

Today’s speaker Rev. Susan Mattison

**Dec 1, 2024 27th 1st Sunday of Advent**

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude and Greeting

Responsive call to worship

Leader: Advent is a time for waiting.

All: We wait for God, who appears like a tender branch growing from a stump.

Leader: Advent is a time for hoping.

All: We wait for God, who comes with justice and righteousness.

Leader: Advent is a time to worship.

All: We wait for God, praising the One who comes to fulfil promises.

Worship in Music: “My Hope is Built” #154 SoG

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – see insert/bulletin

“A Candle is Burning” – verse 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.

Prayer of Approach:

God of love, you come to your people to dwell with us. You come with power to transform all things. You come with promises to make all things new. You come with signs of your deep love for the world. You come, and your truth breaks into our lives shattering lies and half-truths, setting your people free. Your coming is our hope, and so, we offer you our praise and prayers in gratitude and anticipation. Come into our lives again, O God, and show us how to hope in the face of all that is discouraging, for we gather in the name of Hope made flesh, Jesus Christ, your promise and our desire.

Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness:

Merciful God, in your gracious presence we confess our sins and the sins of this world. Forgive our sleepiness in the presence of your splendour and for when we abandon hope and expectation and look for the same old thing in the same old way. Forgive us our silence when we ought to have spoken up and our carelessness with your world and each other. Awaken us to your holy, hopeful presence, so we may watch and wait for you, Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

The One who comes with justice also comes with mercy. The God of Judgment is truly the Christ of compassion. God offers you forgiveness today, in the hope you will receive it gladly. Do not be afraid but rejoice in the God who comes to us. Amen.

Worship in Music: “Let Christian faith and hope dispel” #530 BoP

First Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16 Pg.563

Responsive Reading: Psalm 25:1-101 To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.  
2 O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.  
3 Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
    let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.  
5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

6 Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.  
7 Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

8 Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
9 He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.  
10 All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

Third Reading: Luke 21:25-36 Pg.746

Fourth Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13 Pg.836

Worship in Music: “Come Thou long-expected Jesus” #114 BoP

Prayer for Understanding:

Spirit of God, move within and among us today, to open God’s Word, read and proclaimed, for us. Guide us to your truth and help us discern and understand your Word, pointing us to Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Sermon – “Expect the Unexpected”

Offering and Offertory

The Doxology and Offertory Prayer

Prayers of God’s People and The Lord’s Prayer

Confession of Faith: Apostles Creed # 616 BoP

Worship in Music: “O come, O come Emmanuel” #116 BoP

Benediction and Choral Amen

 Upcoming Services

Dec 8 – Brad Little

Dec 15 – Maryann Skinner

Dec 22 – Susan Mattinson

Dec 24 – Bob Lyle – Christmas Eve service at 4:00 pm

Mission Moments: The difficulty of accessing much-needed health care for people in Dorica’s home village fueled her passion for becoming a doctor and serving the poor population in rural areas of Malawi. With support from Knox Presbyterian Church, St. Catharines and Presbyterians Sharing, Dorica began her studies in 2017. In March 2024, Dorica graduated from the University of Malawi College of Medicine and began the final stage of her medical training, an 18-month internship. Following her internship, Dorica will be licensed to practice medicine in Malawi. She is grateful to the Knox congregation and the PCC for their financial support and prayer.career pursuits, emphasizing the importance of gender equality in fostering harmonious relationships and eliminating discrimination.