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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 Mattinson

**Dec 22,2024 4th Sunday of Advent**

Prelude and Greeting

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: God who spoke to Mary and Elizabeth,

All: speak your Word to us now.

Leader: God who blessed them with new life,

All: bless us with great expectation.

Leader: God who gave them songs of praise to sing,

All: receive our joyful praise.

Leader: God who loves beyond all measure,

All: we are here to worship you with hearts full of love!

Worship in Music: “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed” (verses 1-4) #113 BoP

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – see insert/bulletin

“A Candle is Burning” – verse 4

A candle is burning, a candle of love,

a candle to point us to heaven above.

A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,

for Jesus is bringing God’s love to our earth.

Prayer of Approach:

O God, our Saviour, with Mary, our spirits rejoice in you this day, for you look with favour on your people. You have done great things for us. You have scattered the proud and lifted up the lowly. You have filled the hungry with good things, and kept the promises made to our ancestors. Your mercy is known from generation to generation. And so, we praise and magnify your holy name and worship you as Creator, Christ and Spirit.

Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness:

Although we have found love in Christ, we are a people divided against ourselves and against one another. We have not loved as you love us and we have too often been careless with our words, our bodies, and how we treat others and your world. We abuse your good gifts of imagination and freedom, intellect and reason, and have turned them into bonds of oppression. Lord, have mercy upon us. Heal us, forgive us and set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ. For it is in His name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Hear and believe the Good News: our sins are forgiven, and we are a new creation, the old life is gone, the new life has come. Know that you are forgiven and have the courage and love to forgive others. Amen.

Worship in Music: “O little town of Bethlehem” #130 BoP

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a Pg.658

Responsive Reading: Psalm 80:1-7 1Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock! You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth  
2 before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh.  
Stir up your might, and come to save us!

3Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

4O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people’s prayers?  
5You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.  
6You make us the scornof our neighbors; our enemies laugh among themselves.

7Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved.

Third Reading: Luke 1:39-55 Pg.724

Fourth Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Pg.807

Worship in Music: “Love divine, all loves excelling” #233 BoP

Prayer for Understanding:

Open us, O God, the Good News written in the scriptures.

Open our hearts to recognize your presence with us.

Open our minds so that we may know your direction for us. And may we say with Mary, “Let it be with me according to your Word.” Amen.

Sermon – “The Gift of Love”

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, all ye faithful” #120 BoP

Benediction and Choral Amen

**Upcoming Services**

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

Dec 29 – Bob Lyle

Jan 5 – Bob Lyle

Jan 12 – Brad Little

MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, Dec 22

Somalia has been devastated by drought for the last six years. Among the many pushed to the brink of starvation is Hawa Ahmed, a resilient mother of eight. When the lack of water and food made the situation increasingly dire, Hawa made the courageous decision to relocate her family for the chance at a better life. Her new surroundings came with a harsh reality: as a displaced person, she was stripped of her possessions and support system, leaving her feeling alone and anxious for a solution. Things changed when Hawa joined a program supported by PWS&D that provided families with emergency cash. With this financial support, Hawa was able to purchase food and ensure access to clean drinking water for her children.