. *St. Paul’s Presbyterian Church*

<https://pccweb.ca/stpauls>

Christmas Eve Service

Interim Moderator: Rev. Robert Lyle

Clerk of Session: Jan Alchorn

Music Director: Linda Giddens

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

Prelude and Greeting

Responsive Call to worship

One: In this silent night,  
All: We ponder your mystery with Mary and Joseph.  
One: On this holy night,  
All: We come with the shepherds to worship.  
One: On this night of joy for the world,  
All: We sing praises with choirs of angels.

One: In the darkness of this night,

All: We celebrate the Light of the World.

Carol # 127 While shepherds watched their flocks by night

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING – “The Christ Candle”

(Insert)

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 dark sky,

Our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh

A candle is burning, a candle of peace,

A candle to signal that conflict must cease.

For Jesus is coming to show us the way,

A message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of joy,

A candle to welcome brave Mary’s new boy,

Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow,

As joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

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.

A candle is burning reminds us to know,

That Jesus has come and in time we will go

To be with our Lord and Redeemer and friend

To heaven with not a beginning and end.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of mystery and wonder, Creator, Christ and Spirit, Glory to you, O God. On this holy night, the angels sing your praises with joy and we join their chorus. The shepherds welcome your saving love, born in a manger and join them in adoration. Mary and Joseph ponder your promise, cradled in their arms and we join in their love for you. And so we come to praise you, singing with the angels, amazed with the shepherds, cradling the Christ Child in our hearts. Glory to you, O God.

In confidence of your loving kindness, we confess to you our sins: God of grace and mercy, you give us the greatest gift of all, your Son Jesus, but we confess we get caught up in our own gift giving on this holy night. You offer us new life in the babe of Bethlehem, but we smile at the baby and forget the new direction he offers. Jesus was born in human flesh, but we fail to see the dignity in the human lives around us. Forgive us, O God, and help us cherish the meaning in your gifts of wonder in the Christ Child. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

The angels brought glad tidings that first Christmas night. Their words still echo through the ages, “Do not be afraid.” This very night, a Saviour is born for all of us in this hurting world. Accept the forgiveness that the Christ Child brings for you and rejoice with the angels.

Prayer for Understanding

God of wisdom and life, send your Holy Spirit to open our hearts to your promise of new life. Surprise us with new insights. Refresh us with deep wisdom. And wrap us with the grace of your Good News as we attend to the baby in the manger. Amen.

O.T. Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7 p. 489

Responsive Psalm Psalm 96

1Sing a new song to the Lord! Let the whole earth sing to the Lord!  
2Sing to the Lord; praise his name. Each day proclaim the good news that he saves.

3Publish his glorious deeds among the nations. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.

4Great is the Lord! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be feared above all gods.

5The gods of other nations are mere idols, but the Lord made the heavens!

6Honor and majesty surround him; strength and beauty fill his sanctuary.

7O nations of the world, recognize the Lord; recognize that the Lord is glorious and strong.

8Give to the Lord the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his courts.

9Worship the Lord in all his holy splendor. Let all the earth tremble before him.

10Tell all the nations, “The Lord reigns!” The world stands firm and cannot be shaken. He will judge all peoples fairly.

11Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise!

12Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy! Let the trees of the forest sing for joy

13before the Lord, for he is coming! He is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with justice, and the nations with his truth.

N.T. Epistle Lesson Titus 2:11-14 p. 844

N.T. Gospel Lesson Luke 2:1-20 p. 724

Sermon

“Christmas has come - hope, peace, joy and love ”

Carol # 130 O little town of Bethlehem

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given. God’s gift in the Christ child arrived in a small town, a humble stable, to a couple no one invited in – and still that gift changes lives. Our gifts to God this Christmas share in that miracle.

Offering and Offertory

Carol # 121 vs. 4

What can I bring him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,

If I were a wise man, I would do my part

Yet, what I can I give him, give my heart.

Offertory Prayer

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

Closing Carol # 122: Silent Night

Benediction and Choral Amen

Upcoming Services

Dec 29 – Bob Lyle

Jan 5 – Bob Lyle

Jan 12 – Brad Little

Jan 19 – Maryann Skinner