

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

St. Paul's Pastoral Charge
December 8, 2019 - Advent 2

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Colleen Martin

WELCOME

INTROIT: Hymn VU # 6 "A Candle is burning" (vs. 2)

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

GOD GATHERS US TOGETHER

Second Sunday in Advent - Dave & Debbie Beres

Let us pray

Voice 1: In the settle and stir of a burnt-orange sunrise, in the lilting laughter around a table full of friends, in the flash of clarity that turns on the light of insight and leads us towards wisdom, we find the peace that passes all understanding.

Voice 2: But there are things we need to understand. Help us hear you in the stories of those who struggle.

Voice 1: Peace is what the prophets foretold.

Voice 2: Peace is what is sacrificed when profit takes precedence.

All: We light a candle for peace and pray for the courage to stand up for it.

Light two purple candles.

Voice 1: In this second week of Advent, as the waiting and expectation heighten, deepen our desire for peace.

Voice 2: Like the wise called to journey in those early dawning days, may we seek, strive, search for peace. Like the prophets old and new, may we cry out for its coming.

All: We light a candle for peace. May it light the way.

OPENING HYMN: There's a Song in the Air

1. There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer
and a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!

2. There's a tumult of joy
o'er the wonderful birth,
for the virgin's sweet boy
is the Lord of the earth.
Ay! the star rains its fire
while the beautiful sing,
for the manger of Bethlehem
cradles a King!
3. In the light of that star
lie the ages impearled;
and that song from afar
has swept over the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
and the beautiful sing
in the homes of the nations
that Jesus is King!
4. We rejoice in the light,
and we echo the song
that comes down through the night
from the heavenly throng.
Ay! we shout to the lovely
evangel they bring,
and we greet in his cradle
our Savior and King!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Holy One it is your desire that we have peace with ourselves and with others.

All: Today as we seek your peace, we confess

The sins that no one knows

The sins that everyone knows

The sins that are a burden to us

The sins that do not burden us because we have gotten used to them

Hear our prayer O Lord.

Assurance of Pardon

One: Merciful Lord you alone bring the peace that settles our hearts. In your name we are forgiven.

May we be filled with your love and sent forth to be bearers of your peace, through Jesus
Christ, Your Son our Lord.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God!

WE BRING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Offertory Sentence

Offering

Dedication of Offering: VU # 539 "God of All Good, Our Gifts We Bring You" (vs. 3)

Maker, whose bounty all creation shows;
Christ, by whose willing sacrifice we live;
Spirit, from whom all life in fullness flows;
To You with grateful hearts ourselves we give

OFFERTORY PRAYER (Unison)

Lord as we bring our gifts today,
Help us to use them to usher in your peace among all people;
As you receive it, may we be reminded that you call us,
not only to be hearers but also doers of your word
spreading your love as we go. Amen.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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ADVENT STUDY

Meditation for Week 2: Luke 1:30-33 “Walking Among Highly Favored”

As we reflect on Mary’s story, we often neglect to realize that the same God who spoke to Mary through Gabriel with adoration and joy is the same God who longs to come to us in wonder.

Do we see ourselves as highly favored? We often think is something we aspire to or earn if we just do enough, give enough, work hard enough, pray enough, fast enough, or serve enough.

Today Mary’s story comes afresh reminding us that being highly favored is God’s gift to us, it can’t be earned. This favor means grace. This grace is not a present (gift) but rather a presence (God with us)

It doesn’t make life easy; we know this from Mary’s story but we God entrusting her with something great to do and to bear.

Today as we face obstacles God wants us to know that we are highly favored. God is extending his grace to us today. Rest assured his strength is available to you!

Study for Week 2

- Day 1 Re-read Luke 1:26-38. Describe Mary from what you read in this passage
- Day 2 When have you sensed that you were highly favored by God?
- Day 3 How is being highly favored by God different from being highly favored by the world’s standards?
- Day 4 How are you growing in grace?
- Day 5 Dive Deeper: Look up other expressions of grace throughout the New Testament in Luke 4:22, Eph. 4:29, and, Col. 4:6. Through these passages, how do you see yourself as highly favored?
- Day 6 Look up the words of VU # 60: “O Come All Ye Faithful” Spend time singing and reflecting on the Words.

Adapted from “Unwrap the Wonder” –
A 4-Week Advent Bible Study Devotional by Margaret Feinberg

We welcome all who join us in worship today. If you are here for the first time today, we invite you to introduce yourself to Rev. Karlene or to a member of the congregation. Please stay for refreshments in the Friendship Room after worship. Members of the Pastoral Care Committee are hosting this month.

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In our thoughts and prayers this week
Harold Kirktown, Bob Cheetam (brother of Debbie Rushton),
Ute Jurchuk, Sharon Hagell and her brother, Don and her daughter Cathy.

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Alfred Neumann invites anyone who wishes to share a time of remembering his dear wife Helga who passed away last Thursday, to join him today starting at 2.00 p.m. in the Friendship Room.

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A Memorial donation to the roof fund has been given in loving memory of my husband, Don and my children, Carol and Jim by their mother, Thelma Hadwen.

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On Friday, December 13th **Eleanor Furlong** will celebrate her *88th birthday*. We wish her a very Happy Birthday and ask God's blessing for many more in good health.

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Reader: Colleen Martin

Greeter: Dorothy Dahm

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Sharon Hagell would like to thank everyone for their cards and many prayers for her – you are a truly caring congregation.

DID YOU KNOW	...that there are 6 volunteers working in the Sunday school? We are growing and need more help, please talk to Karen or Brenda if you can help. Thank-you.
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Do a deed of simple kindness,
Though it's end you may not see;
It may reach like widening ripples
Down a long Eternity.



Many thanks to everyone that volunteered their time to help with the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign. Your efforts will put many smiles on many faces not only at Christmas, but all year long. Thank you.



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The United Church Gifts With Vision catalogue for 2020 is in the Rotunda or online at:

www.giftswithvision.ca

The 127 tickets for Roy LeBlanc's "Elvis" are the most sold for any concert we have hosted at St. Paul's. The Concert Committee thanks you so much for your support. We send an extra thank-you to the volunteer helpers, to Helen and to Larry and Jean Oliver. See you on May 2nd at 2:30 p.m. to hear Shelley in concert.

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Today is the Children's Christmas play during worship. Enjoy.



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FOOD BANK SUNDAY – December 15

Please remember to bring your items for 3rd Sunday, the kids will be coming to collect.



Needed most: Granola bars (nut free), juice and Shake & Bake breadings for chicken meals. Fresh chicken legs are being given out to families this month and coatings and or herbs would be a great addition. Thank you for your continued donations.

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The funds collected from the special Green Christmas Giving envelope totals will be divided between the Salvation Army and Sakura House.

DATE	EVENT	TIME	
Tues. Dec. 10	Property Meeting	8:30 a.m.	MR
Thurs. Dec.12	Choir/Cantata	5/7p.m.	
Fri. Dec. 13	Blue Christmas Worship	1:00 p.m.	FR
Sat. Dec. 14	Messy Church	10-12 noon	BH
Sat. Dec. 14	Community Kitchen	11:30 a.m.	MPR
GROUPS			
Dec. 9/11	Exercise	10:00 a.m.	BH
Dec. 9/11	Yoga	7:00 p.m.	BH
Dec. 10/13	Tai Chi	9:30 a.m.	MPR

Messy Church - December 14. 10 am to 12 noon.

Our theme: *You would not, could not, should not miss a birthday party such as this.* Wear some red and white and join us for a **Cat in the Hat** themed birthday party as we celebrate the birthdays of our Messy Church family members and the most important birthday of all...**the birth of the Christ Child.** Crafts, games, activities, lunch and of course...cake.



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Give a gift subscription for only \$20 (plus tax) per year for the Broadview United Church Magazine – information in the Rotunda to sign-up for this offer – this makes an inspiring year-round gift for family & friends.



Shelley Vermeersch will present "**Good News From Home**" on December 15 both at the morning service and again at 2:30 p.m. Even if you hear the Cantata in the morning, we encourage you to come in the afternoon because there will also be guest soloists: Leo Archdekin, Linda McAllister, Dave Ramer, Bobbie Williams. A freewill offering will be taken. See you then!

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Volunteer drivers are needed for delivery of poinsettias next Sunday, December 15- after church. Sign-up sheets are at the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.



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For friends or family in hospital (here in Tillsonburg or elsewhere) please contact our Church Office (519-688-0012) with Hospital name and details to let our minister know so she can follow-up with a visit or a phone-call. Hospitals no longer provide daily lists of patients wanting visits and we would not want to miss you.

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First-time Worshippers, Members and Friends!

We are glad you came today and welcome you in friendship and love. Our caring extends beyond our worship service and we would love to hear from you if you need us. Please find contact information for our support staff.

St. Paul's United Contact Information

- Church Office: 88 Bidwell St., Tillsonburg N4G 3V2
- Telephone: 519-688-0011 or 0012
- Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday to Friday
- Church email: stpaulsunited@execulink.com
- Church website: www.stpaulsunitedchurch.net
- Minister (F/T): Rev. Karlene Brown-Palmer (519 550-5120)
- Email: revkarlene@execulink.com
- VAM Ministers: Rev. Pat Cook/Rev. Maurice Francis
- Church Staff: Helen Loehndorf, Church Administration
- Karen Hodges, Sunday School
- stpsundayschoolkaren@gmail.com
- Shelley Vermeersch, Director of Music
- vermeer@explornet.com
- Desmond Palmer, Custodian

- Elected Leaders:** Mary Anne Silverthorn, Council Chairperson
- m.silverthorn@sympatico.ca or call
- home: 519 421-3241, cell: 519 788-3705
- Treasurer: Laurie Drew/Treasurer: Doreen Smith, Asst. Treas.
- Brenda Marshall, Christian Development

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Roof Fundraising Campaign	
Balance forward donations	\$20,295
Donations received Dec. 1 worship	100
Total donated	\$20,395
Fundraiser Goal	\$30,000
Amount still needed	\$ 9,605



Open House

Drop in to celebrate the joys of the season.

Join in the conversation

Share in the snacks.

Saturday, December 14, 2019

12:30 – 4:30 PM

Unit 20-450 Lakeview Dr. Woodstock

519-421-3241.

Remember if you have visitors bring them along.

There is always room for more.

Hope to see you.

Mary Anne Silverthorn



How to get ready for Christ(mas)!

Week 2 – Help to Care for Ourselves

- ❖ Have an instant dance party to your favourite song.
- ❖ Make a list of the gifts you bring to your community.
- ❖ List your hopes and goals for the upcoming year.
- ❖ What help might you need in reaching your goals? Ask a loved one to help you.
- ❖ List five things that bring you joy.

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Donations for 2019 must be received in the office by December 30 otherwise they will be considered 2020 donations.