

Words of Welcome and Instruction

For those who are at St. Paul's for the first time or who are visiting, it's good to have you with us! Welcome!

- ❖ We invite you to participate in as much of the worship as you wish and are able.
- ❖ We welcome all the children to participate in the "*Spontaneous Christmas Pageant*" during the service.
- ❖ Please do not worry about your children, as this service is for them as well as everyone else here tonight.
- ❖ During the times of prayer throughout the service, please kneel, stand or sit, whichever is most comfortable and meaningful for you.
- ❖ If you wish to receive communion, please come forward to the Altar. It is God's invitation to the table, if you feel so moved you are invited and welcomed.
- ❖ If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come to the Altar for a blessing, and to indicate so by crossing your arms over your chest.
- ❖ If you do not wish to drink the wine from the chalice, please feel comfortable to receive only the bread. Please do not dip the wafer in the chalice as studies have shown that this practice presents a health risk.
- ❖ Personal hearing systems are available—please speak with the sidespeople if this would enhance your experience of worship at St. Paul's.

May your presence in our midst be a blessing to us, even as we hope our time together is a blessing to you.

We Gather Together

Piano Music as we prepare for our worship to begin.

Welcome tonight to a celebration like no other!

This is the night of the Holy Birth!

Let the love of Jesus be born in your hearts and spirits!

Open our hearts to receive this blessed gift, Loving God.

Rejoice, good friends, the Good News is here!

Christ our Savior is Born! Hallelujah! AMEN.

Carol #118, verses 1-4 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Candle Lighting

Reader: A reading from the prophet Isaiah and the gospel of St. Luke

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, "His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

"He will establish and uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this."

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

Reflection - *The Reverend Canon Mark Kinghan*

On this night of nights the Promised One appears, full of grace and truth. For those who trust the power of God, a new way of living is made possible. Isaiah foretells it. Luke

tells what happened. We are offered an opportunity to join the celebration. to join ourselves to the zeal of the Lord of hosts; to go with the shepherds to the place where Love is born; to join the heralds of redemption in praise of God for this holy birth.

On Christmas Eve we are offered a sacred treasure. Let us come to the Light of lights. Let us be upheld in hope, peace, joy, and love. Let us bow before the manger. Let us prepare to become good news in a weary world. May Christ be born in us this night, and forevermore.

Reader: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given!
The four Advent candles are lit

All: God has brought light into every darkness.

Reader: The promises of God are fulfilled! Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God! Everlasting Father! Prince of Peace!

All: We hear, even today, a chorus of angels bringing good news of great joy to all the people.

Reader: We light the Candle of Christ -- witness to the Savior who is Christ the Lord.
The Christ Candle is lit

Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.

Song: "Gloria, Gloria, in Excelsis Deo" # 376

Blessing of the Crèche

God of Mary and Joseph, of shepherds and animals, bless us whenever we gaze on this manger scene. Through all the days of Christmas may these figures tell the story of how they found the Christ in this poor place. Fill with joy,

gentleness, and thanksgiving and help us to know your peace. This we pray through Christ our Lord, the baby born tonight in Bethlehem. **Amen.**

We Listen to the Story ... Spontaneous Pageant

Holy God, you sent your angels to tell shepherds the good news: "To you is born this day a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord." Help us hear with the shepherds this good news that we too may glorify and praise you for all that we have seen and heard. **Amen.**

Assigning of parts for the "Spontaneous Christmas Pageant" and the children go to the designated areas to get ready and in costume.

Solo: "Were You There on that Christmas Night?"
Dave Rehill - Soloist
Art Mathews - Guitar

Hymn 123 "Once in Royal David's City"
The children gather at the back of the church

A Spontaneous Christmas Pageant

❖ **The Story Begins ...**

Song: "When Long Before Time" **Hymn 307**

❖ **Mary learns she is having a baby ...**

Hymn 269 "Heavenly Message"

❖ **Joseph learns Mary is Pregnant ...**

Song: Joseph Heard the Troubling News (tune 145)

Joseph heard the troubling news: Mary was expecting!
What should he, a just man, do?
He sought God's directing.
Joseph thought to send her home —
leave her, without blaming;
Then an angel in a dream spoke of joy, proclaiming:

"Go, take Mary as your wife; Joseph, don't you fear it
God has formed a precious life by the Holy Spirit!
Mary soon will bear a son; you shall name him Jesus.
When the prophet spoke of him,
he said, "God is with us!"

❖ *Mary and Joseph Journey to Bethlehem ...*

Hymn 120 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" vs 1 & 2

❖ *Jesus is born ...*

Hymn 126 "Away in a manger" vs 1 & 2

❖ *The Shepherds & the Angels ...*

Hymn 138 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

❖ *The Shepherds go to Bethlehem ...*

Hymn 135 "Shepherds in the Field Abiding" vs 1 & 2

❖ *The Magi journey to Bethlehem ...*

Song: "We Three Kings"

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.
Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect Light.

Glorious now behold Him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night ...

❖ *The Magi & Herod ...*

Hymn 139 "The First Noel" vs 4 & 5

❖ *The story continues today ...*

Song "Mary's Boy Child"

Long time ago in Bethlehem, so the Holy Bible says,
Mary' Boy Child, Jesus Christ,
was born on Christmas Day.

Refrain: Hark, now hear the angels sing,
a King was born today,
And we will live forevermore,
because of Christmas Day.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
they saw a bright new shining star,
they heard a choir from heaven sing,
the music came from afar.

Refrain: Hark, now hear the angels sing ...

Now Joseph and his wife, Mary,
came to Bethlehem that night,
they found no place to bear her Child,
not a single room was in sight.

By and by they found a little nook, in a stable all forlorn,
and in a manger cold and dark,
Mary's little Boy Child was born.

Refrain: Hark, now hear the angels sing ...

❖ Prayer

God, we see your light shining in the darkness. We hear the Christmas Angels. We see your promise to us in the birth of this special and awesome child. May the mystery of this night become real in our lives as we continue to tell your story. **Amen.**

Group photo op!

Children stay in costumes and return to their families

We Respond to the Story

Liturgical Dance

Mariana Mangevil

We Pray

Jesus Christ, born in a stable, be with the poor and homeless this Christmas time.

Shine your everlasting light upon them.

Jesus Christ, born of Mary, be with young mothers across the world this Christmas time.

Shine your everlasting light upon them.

Jesus Christ, visited by Shepherds, be with all who have to work this Christmas, and those who long to work.

Shine your everlasting light upon them.

Jesus Christ, who became a refugee, be with those who fear for their lives, and those who have left homes and families this Christmas.

Shine your everlasting light upon them.

Jesus Christ, who healed the sick and those troubles in body, mind or spirit, be with those in need of your healing touch today.

Shine your everlasting light upon them.

Jesus Christ, you challenged the political leaders of your day, continue that in our time too where the privilege power is so often abused.

Shine your everlasting light upon them.

Jesus Christ, you call us to be your church, inspire us accept your invitation to live our faith intentionally and authentically not just tonight, but every day of our lives.

**As we pray, live and give; shine your everlasting light.
Amen.**

We Share the Peace of Christ

This night no one is a stranger. All are joined together as one family through the miracle of the birth of one small baby. Let us share our joy and excitement at being present when God reaches down to touch the earth. Let us reach out and touch each other in love incarnate.

God's peace in the Christ child of Bethlehem be always with you.

And with you as well!

We Share God's Meal Together

Tonight we come with our hopes and our dreams. We come as little children. We come because for some of us it is tradition for the whole family to go to church on Christmas Eve. Some have come out of curiosity. Some come because of loneliness. We are here in this place, waiting on tiptoes for something to happen. We come offering our lives and bringing our gifts. In the spirit of this night, let us receive our Christmas offering

Offertory Carol #128 "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"

The Prayer over the Gifts

God, you have given us your greatest gift you came to earth, to live with us and through us; you have filled us with faith and trust — sending your Son to us as the Holy

child. How can we say thank you? Receive our thanks and praise. As you have given to us, so now we share your gifts with a world in need. May our offering help bring your light and love to those who still wander in darkness. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The children gather around the Altar.

God is here.

We praise God together.

Let us say thank you to God who has done so much for us. God, you made us, and the world and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again.

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people. And so with thanks we praise you.

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them. "This is my body," he said. "Do this, and know that I am with you."

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said "This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you."

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him.

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people.

Amen. We are alive in Jesus.

Help us care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land we worship you and say:

We praise you. We thank you. We bless you. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Breaking of the Bread

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

God is here with us; God's light is shining all around us and in us too!

The Communion

God invites each of us to this holy meal.

Thank you God on this most holy night!

Carols during Communion

Carol #119 "Silent Night"

Carol # 137 "What Child is This"

Prayer after Communion

Thank you, God, for feeding us with the gift of your Son, here with us in the Bread and Wine we have shared. Make us strong and glad to carry your good tidings everywhere and to help bring your peace on the earth; we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Blessing

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth, bring joy to your hearts this day and always. May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you, fill your life with love and peace. May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations, until he brings you into his eternal kingdom. And may almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, those you love, those you serve and those you pray for, this Christmas season and always. **Amen.**

We Return Home

Recessional Carol "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Saviour's birth!

Refrain

3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

Dismissal

It has been done! The News has been shared!

**A young maiden will bear a child, and she will call him
Jesus.**

But that is the beginning of the story, a story that has not
yet ended.

A story that includes us, a story of which we are a part.

So we go out to live the story,
**to tell of the Hope that is being born among us this
Christmas, to share the Love of the season with the
world, to be agents of Peace in times of trouble, to sing
songs of deep and abiding Joy.**

As we go, may God go with us, challenging us to respond
God's Call in ways that are new, unexpected and a little
unsettling.

Go in the peace of this holy night to love and serve the
Lord

Thanks be to God

***Every family is invited to take home one Christmas
ornament from the tree at the back, made by our Sunday
School.***

Thank you to ... Dora for her ministry of music
especially during this Christmas season
... the altar guild for their decorating of
the church for Christmas
... Evelyn for her extra work in
preparing all the service leaflets for our Christmas
services

TODAY AT 12:00 p.m. the Community Christmas Dinner will
be served at the Uxbridge Seniors' Centre on Marietta Street.

SUNDAY DECEMBER 30, 2018

The First Sunday after Christmas

9:30 am – Communion with singing of favorite Christmas Carols
and prayers to mark the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019

Financial Update of Offerings to December 16, 2018

Budgeted Offerings \$ 95,600.00

Actual Offering \$ 84,552.65