



Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 24, 2017 10:00am

* Please stand if able
Congregational responses in **bold**

Sunday December 24, 2017

10:00am

**Welcome to St. Paul's United Church
and to our service today - we are happy that you have come!**

Sunday Morning Nursery
Toys and other nursery items are available during the service

Sunday School children start with their parents and leave partway
through the service for Sunday School

Washrooms are located off the atrium

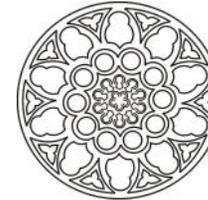
Two accessible entrances to St Paul's. One is on Main Street via the
atrium, with the elevator located just inside the entrance. Best
parking to use for this entrance is the town lot west of the church,
with two handicapped parking spots.
The second accessible entrance is via the ramp off our parking lot,
with two handicapped parking spots in the parking lot.

We invite you to pick up informational brochures in the atrium.
Please introduce yourself to one of the hosts; we would be most
happy to help you. **Visitors and guests are encouraged to sign
the Guest Book located in the atrium.** We hope you will stay after
worship for conversation and refreshments!

Participating this morning

Worship Leadership: Rev. John Ambrose
Music Director: Don Cassano
Piano: Dawn Brodie
Fellowship Time: Betty Tonelli
Sanctuary Sound: Brent and Karen Tyrer
Greeters and Offering: Carol Wilson, Wayne Heath, Judy Swainson,
Kaitlyn Viveiros, Karen Tyrer, H el ene Ellison, Bob McDonald, Brian Swainson
Candlelighter: Don Cassano

*We are now only hours away from Christmas. The Fourth Sunday of
Advent proclaims the love of God – a love embodied in the person of Jesus
Christ, who began his life among us in the simplest and humblest of ways.
That love, made known through the 33 years of his short life, has left an
eternal mark on the human family. **The colour for Advent is purple.***



We Gather in God's Name

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering in Worship *said responsively*

A prophet of long ago proclaimed to a struggling nation:
The people who walked in darkness

have seen a great light!

Those who have lived through a time of deep darkness,

on them has a light shined!

The Word – the goodness of God – has taken human form
and come among us, full of grace and truth.

And we have beheld his wonder.

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

**Large print bulletins available -
please ask one of our ushers**

Opening Prayer *said together*

**God of Love, you wonderfully created,
and more wonderfully restored the dignity
of our human nature,
by entering our lives in the birth of your Son, Jesus.
May our worship this day proclaim
our gratitude and love.
And may the One who came to share our humanity
transform our humanity into a community
Of hope, peace, joy and love.
We pray in Jesus' name. AMEN**

* VU 48 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Lighting the Fourth Advent Candle *service on purple insert*

Don Cassano

Sung Refrain

**While we are waiting, come;
while we are waiting, come;
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
while we are waiting, come.**

This morning we stand at the threshold of Christmas.
The lighting of a candle on each Sunday of Advent has helped
to heighten our sense of expectancy as Christmas approaches.

In the ancient church, where candles
were the only means of light,
the lighting of the final Advent candle was a cause of great joy.
Music would burst over the congregation,
and 'Glory to God in the highest' would be sung by everyone.

The fourth candle we light this morning symbolizes love,
the love brought to the world in the coming of Jesus.

Candle is lit

Mary sang a song in praise of God's love and goodness,
when she learned she would bear a special child.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Faith, hope and love abide,
but the greatest of these is love."
And Jesus said to his followers: "This is my commandment,
that you love one another just as I have loved you."
The flickering flame of the candle reminds us that our love
must be active, and warmly extended to others.

Refrain

**Come, fill our hearts with love;
come, fill our hearts, with love.
Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel,
come, fill out hearts with love.**

We Give with Thanksgiving

Invitation to the Offering

We Present Our Offerings

* Offertory

Tune: VU 55

**What can I give 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.**

* Prayer of Dedication

A Time of Carols and Commentary

Joy to the World	VU 59	Congregation & Brass
O Come, O Come Emmanuel	VU 1	Brass
The First Nowell	VU 91, vs 1-3	Congregation & Brass
Once in Royal David's City	VU 62	Brass
O Come, All Ye Faithful	VU 60, vs 1-3	Congregation & Brass
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice	VU 35	Brass
Away in a Manger	VU 69	Congregation & Brass

Prayer

VU 38 Angels We Have Heard on High

We Go In God's Name

* Benediction

* Choral Response

VU 431

Sing Amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.

Sing Amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.

Sing Amen: Amen, Amen! Amen, Amen!

Amen, we praise your name, O God! (Repeat)

South African

Exchange of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you!

Postlude

A sincere thank you to the Brass Ensemble for their wonderful gift of music this morning!

Trumpet: Bruce Cameron, Chantalle Chasse, Randall Keast, Andrew Phillips

French Horn: Sherry Cameron, Jean Cringan, Linda Thomas

Trombone: Marshall Bax, Lorne Greenwood, Peter Hummel, Bart Vanessen

Tuba: Wally Cringan

Conductor: Judy Hunter

Announcements - December 24, 2017

Merry Christmas from the staff, volunteers and congregation of St Paul's!

Christmas Eve... members of the Annex community will provide a lively Christmas family service at 4:00pm, led by Adam Cresswell. The Sanctuary community will gather at 9:00pm for a candle-light communion service, filled with the music and message of Christmas. Do come and join us.

And what about the Sunday after Christmas - December 31? We will have, once more, our **Café Noel**, a relaxed, informal service at 10:00am in the main hall, with coffee/tea and left-over Christmas goodies to enjoy before, during, and after our time of worship. This will be a **pot-luck event**... allowing you to bring some of those special Christmas cookies, squares, etc., and share them with others. Do bring them 'plate ready' to go on a table. Volunteers will be needed to prepare the beverage and the table, and clean up afterwards. If you're available, please speak with John Ambrose

Christmas Giving Tree. A large, lighted, and decorated Christmas tree now graces the atrium at St. Paul's United Church. It stands as a blessing to the many hundreds of people who come through the doors of our building every week. But more than that, it is a giving tree. It will 'give' practical gifts to people in our community and beyond who are in need of assistance. And the gifts will come from all of us... mittens, socks, toques, gloves, scarves, and any other winter clothing items you think might help a child or adult. These can be left under or hung on the tree. But you might also consider **\$25 gift cards** from Walmart or food stores in the Loblaw chain. The gift cards can be left in the church office or placed on the offering plate with a note to leave them for the office. These will be so very helpful in meeting the urgent requests we receive in the weeks and months to come.

Donation baskets are in the atrium for the Food Bank and for gifts for women and children at Halton Women's Place. These are ongoing outreach projects of St Paul's the Mission & Outreach Committee. Thank you for your continued support.

Please note that the church offices will be closed until Tuesday January 2. For emergency pastoral care during this period, please contact Reverend John Ambrose at 905.826.2831.

Any donations to be included in your 2017 tax receipt must reach the church by December 31, 2017. Please leave on the offering plate, in the treasurer's mailslot or in the secured exterior mailslot at the parking lot entrance by December 31.

Visitors Offering Envelopes. Any donations provided in one of these envelopes will allow the giver to be obtain a receipt for income tax purposes. Visitor's envelopes are available in the atrium.

The Rose Window Memorial plaque was created approximately 20 years ago to allow folk to recognize and remember individuals who were important in their lives. Order forms are available in the atrium and in the Memorials section of the St Paul's website. Prices from 20 years ago are being held until December 31 of this year and will increase on January 1, 2018. The proceeds will be used by the St Paul's trustees to fund several identified capital projects, including noise abatement in the atrium by the installation of aesthetically pleasing sound absorbing baffles and maintenance and repair of the existing stained glass windows, including the Rose Window. If interested, please contact Carol Kerr, Chair of Trustees, (ckerrs17@gmail.com), any member of the Board of Trustees or the office.

The Worship Committee is requesting your help to take down the Christmas decorations on January 4 or 5. Please let Myra or Helene know if you can help and what day is best. It would be great to have some men volunteer to help take down the big tree in the atrium. Thanks!

Givings. We have been asked how to support our church while you are away this winter. You may want to consider going on PAR or providing post dated cheques so that your givings will continue during your absence. If you require more information, please contact the office or the treasurer.

Volunteer Opportunities at St Paul's!

Every Sunday after the services a dedicated team makes coffee and tea and lays out the refreshments for fellowship time. We are looking for a few volunteers to help out on a rotating basis. Please contact Carol Kerr for more information or to volunteer.

Volunteers Needed for The Annex. A GIANT sign-up sheet will be available at the service on January 7. You can't miss it :) Please consider how you can be a part of the Annex magic!

For the Sunday School to continue to grow and meet the needs of the youngest members of our congregation, the Sunday School is looking for one more teacher that can help teach our kids approximately two Sundays a month. We currently have three dedicated teachers but a fourth would allow for the middle school group to run more consistently and the kids to have more age appropriate activities to encourage their spiritual growth at the church. It also would allow the current teachers some time to attend church themselves. If you are interested or have questions please contact Kim Wenger at kim.wenger12@gmail.com.

Ongoing Activities

*All are welcome to join in any of the following activities.
If you need more information, 905.878.8895 x. 21 or info@stpaulsmilton.com*

Sundays

Worship (The Annex & Sanctuary or combined) at 10:00am,
fellowship time follows the services

Sunday School for kids during the services

Friday Morning Coffee - every Friday at 10:15am - all welcome!
United Church Women (UCW) - second Wed monthly, Sept-June, 1:30pm



St. Paul's United Church
123 Main Street East, Milton, Ontario L9T 1N4
905.878.8895 info@stpaulsmilton.com
stpaulsmilton.com

The Staff of St. Paul's

Interim Minister: Reverend John Ambrose
jambro@sympatico.ca

Music Director: Don Cassano
dcassano@stpaulsmilton.com

Church Administrator: Cindy Allin
info@stpaulsmilton.com

Upcoming Worship

December 24

Christmas Eve family service at 4:00pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion service at 9:00pm

December 31

Café Noel, one service at 10:00am in the hall

January 7, 2018

The Annex at 10:00am, worship leader Adam Cresswell
Sanctuary worship at 10:00am, worship leader Rev John Ambrose
Sunday School for kids during the services
Fellowship time follows the services

Check out our website for information & updates:

stpaulsmilton.com

Music License CCLI # 2223542

Office Hours for Reverend John Ambrose

Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00am to 1:00pm
Office Phone: 905.878.8895 x. 24 Emergency Pastoral Care: 905.826.2831

No Office Hours December 25-29

Main Office Hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm, closed noon to 1:00pm for lunch
Tuesday & Thursday 9:00am to 1:00pm

Office closed December 23 through January 1

Please remember St Paul's is a perfume free and nut free environment