

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH COMMUNITY OF FAITH

*A spiritual hub for
creativity, discovery and growth*



***Sunday, January 9, 2022
Celebrating Epiphany***

Licensed Lay Worship Leader
Andrew Nicholls

Guest Organist
Andrew Graham

25 Gore Street West, Perth, Ontario K7H 2L9
Tel: (613) 267-2973 Fax: (613) 267-3601
Website: www.stpaulsperth.ca Email: admin@stpaulsperth.ca

Welcome and Life of the Community

We are part of community virtual worship today at St Paul's United Church in Perth, Ontario

St Paul's offers worship in various formats during this pandemic time: by emailed bulletin, YouTube at www.stpaulsperth.ca, Zoom on occasion, in print at the outer office door, and mail upon request.

Please read "*What's Happening*" for additional group announcements, dates to remember, and church news.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: As of **January 5, 2022 at 12:01 a.m.** Ontario is temporarily moving into Step Two of the Roadmap to Reopen and these measures will be in place for at least 21 days (until January 27) subject to trends in public health and our health system.

What this means for St Pauls:

- In person worship will remain on hold, virtual worship options will continue to be offered.
- Access to the church building will be by appointment only and is limited to essential staff and volunteers (i.e. property maintenance/security, preparation for virtual worship, financial tasks such as bank deposits, cheque signing, etc.) Contact the office for information and advice.
- In person meetings and activities are limited to a maximum of 5 people; Zoom meetings encouraged
- The Office Administrator remains available for church related business and support. For fastest response email: admin@stpaulsperth.ca or call 613-267-2973 (allow 3 business days for response to phone messages).

UPCOMING WORSHIP

It would have been much more welcoming to be able to greet the presiders of our January worship services in person, but the Worship & Arts team anticipates that you will participate virtually in their services with warm hearts. We will introduce you to them prior to the service they are leading. The team welcomes your comments on this new faith journey with visiting worship leaders.

January 9 :YouTube Worship - LLWL Andrew Nicholls

January 16: YouTube Worship - LLWL Joanne Tanner

January 23: YouTube Worship - Rev. Neil Wallace

January 30: YouTube worship - LLWL Jeannie Taylor-Page

This Sunday we welcome LLWL Andrew Nicholls to St Paul's. Andrew is a member of St. Andrew's United Church in Buckingham QC. He grew up in the United Church in Kirkland Lake and returned to his journey of faith in Ottawa 18 years ago at Westboro United Church. Over the past 17 years he has attended and led worship in many United Churches in Ottawa. Andrew has been in education for 28 years now and currently he teaches at Carleton Heights P.S. He & his wife Jennifer have three daughters. Andrew says the United Church has always had a special place in his heart and that he looks forward to continuing to lead worship as long as God gives him breath to preach the Word.

We also welcome back guest organist/musician Andrew Graham. Andrew is a familiar face who has filled in for Brad on several occasions over the past few years. He has held positions at three churches in the Ottawa area including Southminster United and currently lives in the Lanark area.

Acknowledgement of Land and Affirm United/s' affirmer ensemble

The land on which we live and worship is the land of the Algonquin Anishinaabe Native People. We give thanks for their stewardship of land, and seek to learn and live in reconciliation and hope. We give thanks for elders who guide and show us the way.

St Paul's is a member of Affirm United/S'Affirmer Ensemble, and continues education to live out the learnings of the blessing of God's creation of the diversity of humanity.

We Gather

Acknowledgments - Projected on Screen

Lighting the Christ Candle

In this season of Light, we light this candle to remind us of God's light shining in the darkness.

May we carry this light of hope, peace, and justice to the world around us everyday.

Prelude "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen" – J. Brahms arr. C. Kumler

Call to Worship

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

O come, let us worship the Lord and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The Christ who embodies the Word unveils the hidden plan, making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation through the gospel!

O come, let us worship the Lord,

for God has done wondrous things!

Prayer of Approach

Light! Light, light and more light! Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men came from the East, saying: Where is he Who is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East, and have come to worship Him. The wonderful light of the Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen

Hymn: "Arise Your Light is Come" VU 79

- 1 Arise, your light is come!
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light is come!
Fling wide the prison door;

proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.

3 Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.

4 Arise, your light is come!
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

Prayer of Confession

The prophet speaks of the coming light of God which calls all the people of the earth to come together in God's realm of shalom. Let us confess the ways in which we have rejected God's vision of wholeness:

God of light and darkness, we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us, but we have turned away and followed other paths. We confess that we have not loved You with all our heart, with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not loved ourselves. Forgive us, Holy One.

Silent Prayer... Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

Lift up your eyes and see the grace of God poured out into your lives.

The light of God shines through the darkness. Our hearts rejoice for Christ is in our midst. Amen

Children and Youth Time

We Encounter Sacred Story

Scripture

Isaiah 60:1-6

1 Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. 2 For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. 3 And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. 4 Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar,

and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. **5** Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. **6** A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the Lord.

Matthew 2:1-12 *The Visit of the Wise Men*

2 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men[a] from the east came to Jerusalem, **2** saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose[b] and have come to worship him.” **3** When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; **4** and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. **5** They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6 “And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel.”

7 Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.”

9 After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11** And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. **12** And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Meditation: A Gift For Jesus

Our Response to Listening and Hearing

The Offering

Living God, Your radiance shines in the beauty of creation. In Christ Your Son, You have given the world eternal light that burns brightly in the midst of darkness. Like the magi, when You draw us near, we are overwhelmed with joy! Lead us by Your Spirit to

share Your warmth and grace with our neighbors. Let our lives in this new year be an offering. We pray through Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication

God of many gifts, we give You thanks for the diverse gifts You have blessed us with. Bless us with Your Spirit that they may be used as You would have us use them - to preach Your Gospel in word and deed. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

We Go Forth to Be the Church in the World

Hymn: "As with Gladness Men of Old" VU81 verses 1-3

- 1 As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we
evermore your splendour see.
- 2 As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with eager pace
ever seek your throne of grace.
- 3 As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,

all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.

Commissioning

Go now as a light to the nations. Honour the Lord; preach what you know of the risen Christ, and fulfill all righteousness. And may God strengthen you and bless you with peace; May Christ Jesus bring forth justice for you and among you; And may the Holy Spirit alight on you and affirm you as God's beloved ones. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, **In the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Benediction

May God strengthen you and bless you with peace;
May Christ Jesus bring forth justice for you and among you;
And may the Holy Spirit alight on you
and affirm you as God's beloved ones. Amen.

Postlude "Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her" – J.S. Bach BWV 700