



**ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
A National Historic Site: Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

**Sunday Service – Advent IV**  
**December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. 11 am**

**WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S**

*We are so glad that you've come to worship the Lord with us today, and we hope that you will experience the presence of Christ among us. In the pew are the following tools for participation in this service. The blue "Book of Praise" contains our hymns, the red "Book of Psalms" contains the responsive psalms, and the blue "New English Bible" contains the scripture passages. If an item has an asterisk (\*), then please stand if you are able. Large print Hymnals are available in the back of the Sanctuary. An usher would be happy to help you. All are welcome to join us for Coffee hour in St. Andrew's Hall, immediately following the service today.*

**WE COME TOGETHER BEFORE GOD**

Prelude "Come, Redeemer" J. S. Bach

\*Call to Worship

\*Opening Hymn 159 "Oh come, all ye faithful"

Welcome

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness Gloria Patri

**WORD OF GOD READ AND PROCLAIMED**

Reader: Joel Swenor

\*Responsive Psalm 80:1-7 ref. I

Isaiah 7:10-16 (page 817, OT)

Matthew 1:18-25 (page 3, NT)

Lighting the Christ Candle on the Advent wreath

Advent Reading IV - "Love" insert in bulletin Joel Swenor

\*Hymn 141 "Good Christians, all rejoice"

Anthem "The Blessed Son of God Most Dear"

R. Vaughan Williams

Sermon "Do you dare believe?" Rev. Dr. Victoria Eldridge

Silent Reflection

**WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD WITH CELEBRATION**

\*Hymn 164 "O little town of Bethlehem"

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer 831 Book of Praise

Announcements

The Offering

Offertory Solo "Come, Thou Dear Redeemer" Cesar Franck  
Soloist: Myke Hutchings

\*The Doxology 830 Book of Praise

Prayer of Dedication

**WE GO FORTH IN THE JOY OF THE LORD**

\*Hymn 162 "On Christmas night all Christians sing"

Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude "Come, Redeemer" Paul Manz

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

St. Paul's is situated on the traditional territories of the Erie, Neutral, Huron-Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Mississaugas. This land is covered by the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, which was an agreement between the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabek to share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. All peoples have been invited into this treaty in the spirit of peace, friendship and respect. We further acknowledge that this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Land acknowledgments are essential as we move forward on a path to reconciliation and are guided by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action.

## AN INCLUSIVE & AFFIRMING CONGREGATION

The church is called to be a welcoming, nurturing, loving and supportive community—a true church family. As affirmed by the 2021 General Assembly, all people whatever their sexual orientation or gender identity are equally beloved by God. The Session of St. Paul's endorses these truths and will strive to create a church where all people are included and affirmed.

## PLEASE NOTE: GALLERY SEATING IS CLOSED

For insurance reasons, the gallery seating around the top of the sanctuary is not open to the public. Only the individual who is coordinating the live stream will be in the gallery. We invite you to join us in the pews on the main floor of the Sanctuary as you worship with us today. Thank you.

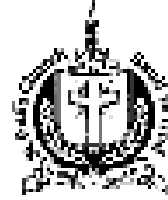
## IN CASE OF EMERGENCY



An automated external defibrillator is available in the hallway outside the main office.

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## ST. PAUL'S VISION



**St. Paul's Presbyterian Church is a Christian community in downtown Hamilton, embodying Jesus' acceptance and love of all people and supporting the growth of God's people in faith and service.**

## ST. PAUL'S TEAM

Interim Moderator:	Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lewis
Guest Minister:	Rev. Dr. Victoria Eldridge
Clerk of Session:	Jer Dubash
Director of Music:	Blair Havers
Chimer:	Branden Moffat
Custodian:	Ruparain Sydney
Office Administrator:	Lydia Ekodeu
Today's Ushers:	Heather Pirie, North Aisle Annette Sydney, South Aisle

## ST. PAUL'S CONTACT INFO

Website:	<a href="http://www.stpaulshamilton.ca">www.stpaulshamilton.ca</a>
Email:	<a href="mailto:info@stpaulshamilton.ca">info@stpaulshamilton.ca</a>
Phone:	905-522-2792
Mail:	70 James St. S. Hamilton, ON L8P 2Y8

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Welcome to our guest Minister Rev. Dr. Victoria Eldridge –**  
Guest Minister Rev. Dr. Victoria Eldridge will be joining us this week, and December 29<sup>th</sup> while Mark is away. Welcome Rev. Dr. Victoria Eldridge!

**Church office closed December 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> –**  
The church office will be closed from December 23<sup>rd</sup> to December 25<sup>th</sup>. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Looking for Volunteers – St. Paul's Social Media –**  
Lydia (the Office Administrator) is looking for volunteers to assist with an upcoming series on the St. Paul's social media. Volunteers will be asked to submit a picture of themselves and 2-5 sentences about why they follow Jesus and/or what following Jesus means to them. Pictures and sentences will be posted to the St. Paul's Instagram and Facebook pages (@st.pauls.hamilton and St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Hamilton). If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Lydia at the office, at [info@stpaulshamilton.ca](mailto:info@stpaulshamilton.ca) or at 905-522-2792.

**A Note from the Mission & Outreach Committee –**  
Urban Core/CTS: if you would like to continue to donate non-perishable snack items and toiletries, your support would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you everyone for your continued support and generosity.

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

**Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
11:00am: Sunday Service  
12:00pm: Coffee Hour  
6:00pm: Hamilton Beat Harmonic in Centennial Hall

**Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
9am-3pm: Church office is CLOSED  
7:30pm: Scottish Dance

**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Eve  
9am-3pm: Church office is CLOSED

**Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**  
Christmas Day  
9am-3pm: Church office is CLOSED

**Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>**  
5:30pm: Friday Night Meeting in Centennial Hall

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### 2025 Offering Envelopes –

If your offering envelope number from 2024 is #40 or below, or if you have been contacted by the church office, please pick up your labeled box of offering envelopes for 2025 in the front pew of the sanctuary. Please ensure that you collect the box with your name on it, as some numbers have been reassigned.