



St. Paul's Church
National Historic Site
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Sunday, December 26, 2021 11:00 a.m.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

We are thankful to be in the sanctuary of St. Paul's again. We give praise to God. Worship will look a bit different for now. We have removed all the books we normally use for worship in order to minimize the number of items that might be touched and shared. Everyone is required to wear a mask. Persons who are speaking or reading may remove their mask while they are speaking, so long as they are two meters from other people. There will be no greeting after the service, no coffee-hour, and no Sunday School. The washrooms are open with a one-person limit. The free will offering will be received in offering plates at the exit door.

*Please stand as you are able

WE COME TOGETHER BEFORE GOD

Prelude "Carol Settings"
Gordon Young & Dale Wood

*Call to Worship

Opening Hymn 144 "Twas in the moon of wintertime"
Quartet only

Welcome

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness Gloria Patri (Quartet only)

THE WORD OF GOD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Scriptures **Reader:** Enid Pottinger

Bible Readings

1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 (page 304, O. T.)

Luke 2:41-52 (page 72, N. T.)

Anthem "I Saw A Maiden" Edgar Pettman

Sermon "When was the last time
you learned something new?"

Minister: Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lewis

Silent Reflection

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD WITH CELEBRATION

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer Spoken only

Announcements

The Offering

A message about the Offering

Offertory "Torches" John Joubert

Prayer of Dedication

The Doxology Quartet only

WE GO FORTH IN THE JOY OF THE LORD

Hymn 145 "In the bleak mid-winter"
Quartet only

Benediction

Amen Quartet only

Postlude "Noël #12" Louis-Claude Daquin

*Please turn off all cell phones and personal
electronic devices during the service. Thank you.*

We are deeply thankful to be back together in worship, but we want everyone to be safe. Please wear your mask at all times.

Please maintain a physical distance of 2 metres between yourself and any person who is not a part of your family group.



St. Paul's Presbyterian Church - A National Historic Site
70 James Street South, Hamilton, Ontario L8P 2Y8
www.stpaulshamilton.ca 905 522 2792 info@stpaulshamilton.ca

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.

St. Paul's is an Inclusive and 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.



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

St. Paul's Vision Statement

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.

Minister:	Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lewis
Clerk of Session:	David Church
Director of Music:	Blair Havers
Custodian:	Ruparain Sydney
Office Administrator:	Tara Urekar

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S

We are glad you have come to worship God with us today, and hope you will experience the presence of Christ among us.

USHERS:	North Aisle: Heather Pirie
	South Aisle: Murray McDowall
GREETER:	Jer Dubash

YEAR-END CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your faithful donations to St. Paul's fundraisers over the past year. Your love and generosity have allowed us to restore the wooden frames of our stained-glass windows, the stonework and iron railings at our front entrance, and several sections of roofing. We are making good progress in the restoration of our historic buildings.

This year-end we invite you to make a special donation that will allow us to restore the architecturally significant porches of St. Paul's, make repairs to our sanctuary, and give a gift to Presbyterian World Service & Development. Our goal is to raise \$55,000 by the end of the year, and thereby match your special givings at the end of 2020. So far you have donated \$11,520 towards this goal.

We have a federal grant of \$28,500 in hand for the restoration of the porches, but we must use that grant by next summer or risk losing it. When the funds from our year-end fundraiser are added to that grant it will be enough for the restoration of the porches, repairs to the sanctuary, and a gift to Presbyterian World Service & Development.

We are confident that if we restore the porches to their original beauty, then the community will respond with renewed respect for our property. Thank you for all your care and concern for St. Paul's and its great mission in downtown Hamilton.

Psalm 100:4 says, "Enter God's gates with thanksgiving, and into God's courts with praise, be thankful unto God and bless God's name." At St. Paul's we desire to show respect for God's gates. They are the entry point for the world to come to God, and we are a faithful family, always welcoming our community into God's Kingdom.

You are invited to return your gift by writing "Year-End campaign" in the "other" line on your numbered envelope, or by e-transfer to info@stpaulshamilton.ca, or by mail to St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 70 James St. S., Hamilton, Ontario L8P 2Y8, before the end of 2021.

CHRISTINA BABCOCK – THANK YOU

Christina our excellent Office Administrator has taken a full-time position at Mohawk College. She completed her last day at St. Paul's this past Thursday. Thank you to Christina for her role as our Office Administrator, a job she performed admirably and competently. We will miss her enthusiasm and dedication to the job. We also appreciate her helping St. Paul's hire and train her replacement. All the best with her new role at Mohawk College.

(Christina says thank you, everyone, for the well wishes. She will miss St. Paul's and will be back for the Rummage Sale!)

MISSION MOMENTS – Giving Gifts through Service

For Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church, the practice of gift giving is a year-round commitment. Every day, the congregation provides "gifts" through programs and services to families living on the Mistawasis Plains Cree Reserve in Northern Saskatchewan. The ministry's elders also share gifts in less tangible but equally important ways. The congregation is blessed with wise, strong leaders who act as role models for Mistawasis' youth, helping to provide them with a solid foundation in spirituality and education. Youth programming offers teachings from the medicine wheel as well as instruction in music and Bible study—gifts that will serve the youth well as they grow into the leaders of tomorrow. Mistawasis Memorial PC is supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing.

This Week at St. Paul's

Steel the Sky in St. Andrew's Hall

Friday, December 31

Rental in Centennial Hall from 5:30 to 7 pm.

