

ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017

10:30 AM

\* *Stand if you are able*

**Bold:** *Said by all*

*All hymns, scriptures and congregational prayers are projected.*

*Musical Prelude*

CALL TO WORSHIP

\* Entry of the Word

Welcome and Announcements

**Call to Worship**

**Lighting the Advent Candle of Joy**

Jack Nicholls

Invocation for Advent

\* Gathering Hymn: *"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"*

(#110)

**Prayer of Adoration:**

**Prayer of Confession (in unison):**

God, we do not understand Jesus, the prophet.

We do not want to get our hands dirty with the poor,  
the oppressed, the prisoners.

Forgive us for being insulated and isolated.

Open our hearts to the poor

and help us to love them as you love them,

working to bring in the good news of the reign of God.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**



Anthem: *"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"*

(Patrick M. Liebergen)

\*Children's Hymn: *"Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding"*

(#116)

Children's Story

(Grade 9 & un[www.stpaulssimcoe.com](http://www.stpaulssimcoe.com) 519-426-1845

**MINISTER:** Rev. Mikal Schomburg

**ORGANIST:** Mr. Ian Madge

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

**Prayer for Illumination (in unison):**

**Speak with authority  
in our lives, Christ.**



Speak to us,  
and to what is in us,  
so that we might be whole.

Speak to us,  
with love,  
with hope,  
and with strength,  
so that we might hear you,  
and know, deep inside,  
that we are your people,  
and that you are our God.  
Let it be so.  
Amen.

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126  
Luke 1:46b-55  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28



One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**  
*Silent Reflection*

**OUR RESPONSE**

\* Hymn of Response: *"Creator of the Stars of Night"* (#111)

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**Declaration of Faith** (in unison) (Ann Siddall)

Our souls magnify the Lord,  
and our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour,  
for he looks with favour upon us  
and sees our unrealized potential.

In the tradition of Mary,  
and all who have said "yes" to God,  
we stand here today,  
to add our assent to theirs.

Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed;

we wonder if we are worthy,  
or capable, of following the calling.  
Like Mary, we have our questions  
and we will not be afraid to ask them.  
Like Mary, we will hear and ponder  
the assurance that God will empower us.  
Like Mary we will strive to say -  
“Let it be with us according to your will.”

To whatever God is inviting of us  
at this time in our lives,  
and relying on God’s grace,  
we say “yes.”

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings, Offertory

\* Doxology

(#79)

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer:

#### SENDING

\* Parting Hymn: *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

(#164/165)

\* Benediction:

\* *“Go Now In Peace”*

\* Exit of the Word

Musical Postlude