

ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

December 31, 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**

Praise the Lord!

**Praise God from the heavens.**

Young men and women alike,

old and young together!

**Let us praise the name of the Lord,**

**whose name alone is exalted above earth and heaven.**

**Alleluia!**

\* Gathering Hymn: *"Once in Royal David's City"*

(#166)

**Prayer of Adoration:**

**Prayer of Confession:**

Source of all hope, you invite us to live in the light and to experience the splendor of your glory. We confess that we are reluctant to embrace this new life and choose instead to remain in the darkness. We allow our fears and hurts to hold us hostage and our illusions to hold us back from new and real possibilities. You offer us unconditional love, but we expect others to earn our love. Forgive us and create us anew in the image of your Son in whose name we pray. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

**Sharing the Peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Anthem: *"Touched by a Child"*

(John Purifoy)

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**MINISTER:** Rev. Mikal Schomburg

**ORGANIST:** Mr. Ian Madge

\* Children's Hymn: *"Be Thou My Vision"*

(#461)

Children's Time

(Grade 9 & under leave for Sunday School)

**THE WORD PROCLAIMED**

Prayer for Illumination (in unison): As you led Simeon to embrace the infant Jesus, guide us, Holy Spirit, by your gracious light that we may welcome your saving Word. Amen.



Scriptures  
Isaiah 61:10-62:3  
Psalm 148  
Galatians 4:4-7  
Luke 2:22-40

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

### SERMON

*Silent Reflection*

### OUR RESPONSE

\* Hymn of Response: *"Good Christians, All Rejoice"* (#141)

Declaration of Faith: Living Faith 3.5.1-3.5.5 (in unison)

Jesus suffered, died, and was buried,  
but God raised him from the dead.  
Risen and ascended,  
he is alive now, the living Lord.

His resurrection means that our faith is not empty,  
that final victory is assured over all evil powers  
which destroy and deform life,  
and that death, the last enemy, is conquered.

2

The forces of the evil one still wage war against us.  
The destructive powers are still present.  
But their end is not in doubt.  
We await the full revelation of our Lord's triumph.

We worship our ascended Lord.  
Reigning in glory and power  
he is our High Priest and Advocate  
interceding before the Father on our behalf.

Through him we offer our sacrifice of praise,  
with prayer for all to the Father.

**Thanks be to God who gives us the victory  
through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings, Offertory

\* Doxology

(#79)

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

**SENDING**

\* Parting Hymn: *"Joy to the World"*

(#153)

\* Benediction:

\* *"Go Now In Peace"*

\* Exit of the Word

Musical Postlude