



# St Paul's Anglican Church, Hampton

*Growing spiritually and building community  
through discipleship, worship & service*

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## **Dec 24 – Christmas Eve 5:30 pm**

**Layreader:** Rod (*Isaiah 9: 2 & 6*)

**Chancel:** Shirley /Betty

**Greeters:** Janice / Liam

**Counters:** Pat / Clarence

### **Welcome to St. Paul's Anglican Church, and Merry Christmas!**

As joyful as this season can be it is, nevertheless, the darkest time of the year. The days are short, the nights are long and cold, and for these and other reasons it's easy to feel that there is more darkness in the world than light. But tonight, we celebrate the coming of the light, not just the change of the seasons with the slow and steady return of the sun, but the coming of God's light into the world with the birth of the Son of God, Jesus the Messiah.

Tonight, we celebrate the coming of the one whom the Scriptures call "the one true light, which enlightens everyone". I hope and pray that through this celebration of the birth of Jesus -through the music and prayers, through the readings and reflections- that you will find the light of Jesus shining even more brightly in your life, and that you would be filled with hope and peace and joy and love.

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can not overcome it." - John 1:5*

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## Gathering Praise

## *O Come All Ye Faithful*

**The Children's Welcome** - *The children are invited to gather at the steps at the front of the church to help light the candles, and remain -if they wish- for the Christmas stories "He's Here" and "The Light of the Whole World".*

### Reading from Isaiah 9:2 & 6

**READER** - *This is the darkest time of the year. The days are short, the nights are long and cold, and you may feel that there is more darkness in the world than light. But listen to what prophet Isaiah says.*

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
Have seen a great light;  
Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,  
Upon them a light has shined.

<sup>6</sup> For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the government will be upon His shoulder.  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

### LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

**READER** - Jesus, the true light, that enlightens everyone, has come into the world.

### **PEOPLE**

**The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light  
Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them a  
light has shined.**

*As the Candles are lit the people are invited to sing:*

***Jesus is the light of the world;***

***The light that can never be put out.***

***Jesus is the light of the world.***

***The Light of Life is with us now.***

*Once all the candles are lit the people pray together:*

***Almighty God, you have made this time holy by the gift of your son, born of the Holy Spirit and of Mary. Upon Him rested all your grace, through Him has come all your mercy. Let His light shine within our hearts even more brightly than it shines from these candles. Help us to hear your Word and to celebrate your everlasting love through Jesus our Saviour. AMEN.***

**Story**

***He's Here***

**Children's Carol**

***Away in a Manger vs. 1-2***

**Story**

***The Light of the Whole World***

**Congregational Carol**

***Hark the Herald Angles Sing vs. 1-2***

**The Gospel of Luke 2:8-20**

**Congregational Carol**

***Hark the Herald Angles Sing vs 3***

**Reflection**

***Rev. David Turner***

**Litany of the Incarnation**

**BAS p.120**

**Collect**

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Confession and Absolution**

**BAS p.191**

The Peace

BAS p.192

Offertory Hymn

*Christmas Offering*  
Paul Baloche

Communion

Breaking of the Bread 6

BAS p.213

Communion Carols

*It Came upon the Midnight Clear*  
*The First Noel*  
*What Child is This?*  
*Silent Night* by candle light

Benediction

Recessional

*Joy to the World*

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Mission of the Month: **Hampton Food Basket**

**International:** Our Companion Diocese of Ho - Bishop Matthias

**Diocese:** Our Bishop David and his wife Janet & Retired Bishops Harold, George, William and Claude.

**Government:** Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Premier Brian Gallant, Mayor Ken Chorley and the town council

**Deanery:** Deanery of Kingston & Kennebecasis

**Parish:** Rev. David & Family, Rev. Deacon Deborah Cochran & Family

**Jan 1 – New Year’s Day 10:00 am HC - BAS**

**Layreader:** ---

**Reader:** Stephen

**Greeters:** Stephen & Barb

**Chancel:** Donna

**Counters:** ---

**A/V:** ---

**Sunday School:** Sheri / Kate

**Youth Sunday School:** Betty

**Nursery:** Tim