

A Festival Of Nine Lessons & Carols

**Sunday, December 21st, 2025
4th Sunday of Advent
10:00am
St. Paul's on-the Hill, Pickering**

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome:

Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

Leader: We will mark our progress through Advent using the four candles of the Advent wreath. They represent the Light of Christ bringing hope, peace, joy, and love. Today we light the love candle.

Lighting of the Candle

**People: Father, your word tells us that you
loved us so much that you sent your only
Son to live among us.
Thank you for loving us and sending
Jesus to teach about your love.
Help us to remember that your love will
Never come to an end.
Strengthen us to love others as you love
us. Amen.**

Love, love, love -
The heart of Christ is love.
On all who come He pours His presence,
Life and love in holy essence.
Love, love, love -
The heart of Christ is love.

Carol: Once in Royal David's City – CP 123

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high,
when, like stars, his children crowned
all in white shall gather round.

Bidding Prayer: Canon Stephanie
(All remain standing)

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ
give us the joys of everlasting life: and unto the
fellowship of the citizens above may the King of
Angels bring us all.

All: Amen.
(Please be seated.)

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

(God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head).

Reader: Tricia Bacchus

Carol: Of the Father's Love Begotten (vs. 1-3,6) – CP 132

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore.

At his Word the worlds were framed.
He commanded, it was done:
Heaven and earth and depths of ocean,
In their threefold order one;
All that grows beneath the shining,
Of the moon and burning sun,
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth for ever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Saviour of our race,
And the babe, the world's redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee, with God the Father,

And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
And unwearied praises be,
Honour, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore.

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

(God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed).

Reader: Dave Hamilton

Carol: O Come, O Come Emmanuel – CP 89

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear

Chorus

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel*

O come Thou Dayspring come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadow put to flight

Chorus

Verse 3

O come Thou Key of David come
And open wide our heavenly home
Make safe the way that leads on high
And close the path to misery

Chorus x2

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

(The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour)

Reader: Margaret Wells

Carol: In the Bleak Midwinter – CP 122

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can, I give him - give my heart.

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah: 11:1-4a, 6-9

(The prophet Isaiah foreshows the peace that Christ will bring).

Reader: Gideon Exeter

Carol: Immanuel (Michael Card)

A sign shall be given
A virgin will conceive
A human baby bearing undiminished Deity
The glory of the nations
A light for all to see
And hope for all who will embrace His warm reality

Chorus

Immanuel

Our God is with us

And if God is with us

Who could stand against us?

Our God is with us

Immanuel

For all those who live in the shadow of death
A glorious light has dawned
For all those who stumble in the darkness
Behold your light has come

Chorus x2

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38

(The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary).

Reader: Jan Couto

Choir: Angels are Making Their Rounds

O what a beautiful sound, angels are making their rounds.

¹ Fear not, Zechariah, for the Lord has heard your prayer.

Elizabeth will bear a son.

² Hail, O blessed one, you have found favor with God.

Chorus:

*Angels are making their rounds,
O my, what a beautiful sound.
Heaven's glory comes down when angels are making their rounds.*

³ Fear not, Joseph, go and take Mary to be your wife,
for she carries a holy Child.

⁴ Unto you is born a Savior, glory to God and peace on earth,
For now the Lord is with you.

Chorus x2

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

(St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus).

Reader: David Karram

Carol: God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day
to save us all from Satan's pow'r
when we were gone astray.

Refrain:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav'nly Father
a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same;
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name. *(Refrain)*

Now to the Lord sing praises
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all other doth deface. *(Refrain)*

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

(The shepherds go to the manger).

Reader: Janet Herrera

Carol: What Child Is This? – CP 137

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spears shall pierce him through,
the cross he bore for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the Babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise a song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the Son of Mary.

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

(The wise men follow the star to Jesus).

Reader: Nyla Ashley

Carol: Good King Wenceslas – CP 145

¹ (All) Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.

² (Men) "Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou knowest it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
(Women) "Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain."

³ (Men) "Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither,
Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither."
(All) Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together,

Through the cold wind's wild lament and the bitter weather.

⁴ (Women) "Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger,
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."

(Men) "Mark my footsteps, my good page, tread now in them boldly,
Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze your blood less coldly."

⁵ (All) In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, wealth and rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

(All stand)

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

(St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation).

Reader: Samaya Chinniah

Carol: Light of the World

Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father reach through the darkness
Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight

Light of the World from the beginning
The tragedies of time were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory You saw my story
God You entered in and became one of us

Chorus

*Sing hallelujah, Sing hallelujah,
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him, Bow down before Him,
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World*

Light of the world crown in a manger
Born for the cross to suffer to save
High King of Heaven death is the poorer
We are the richer by the price that He paid

Chorus

Light of the World soon will be coming
With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory
And there He shall reign forevermore

Chorus

Offertory:

Carol: Mary's Boy Child

Verse 1

Long time ago in Bethlehem,
so the Holy Bible say,
Mary's boy child Jesus Christ
was born on Christmas day.

Chorus 1

*Hark, now hear the angels sing, a King was born today.
And we will live forevermore because of Christmas day!*

Verse 2

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
they saw a bright new shining star.
They hear a choir sing a song,
the music seemed to come from afar

Chorus 1

Verse 3

And then they found a little nook,
in a stable all forlorn.
And in a manger cold and dark,
Mary's little boy child was born.

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

*Trumpets sound an angels sing, Listen to what they say.
That we will live forevermore because of Christmas day!*

Ending

Mary's boy child Jesus Christ was born on Christmas Day!

Offertory Prayer:

God of hope,
renew in us the joy of your salvation
and make us a living sacrifice to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Collect & Blessing:

Priest: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

God of power and mercy,
You call us once again

to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes,
he may find us waiting in awe and wonder
for him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit, one God,
now and for ever.

All: Amen!

Priest: Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one
thing earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and
good will, and make you partakers of the divine
nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you
and remain with you always.

All: Amen!

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

Refrain

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Refrain

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Refrain

Thank You

Thank you for joining us for today's Lessons and Carols service. Special thank you's go to Margaret Wells, Brenda McCawley and the altar guild team for beautifying the sanctuary, and to Cynthia Peroff for the decorations.

Thanks to our ushers, readers, intercessors, chalice bearers, and clergy for their leadership in the service.

And thanks to our music director, Joanne Karram; to Dave Hamilton on the saxophone; to Stephanie Masson, soloist; to Bonnie Thomson, pianist for the 8am service; to Randal Vasagam and the worship team; and to our choir and all our musicians for their beautiful music.

As always, a heartfelt thank you to Bill Bradbury and the AV team for all their work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Services 2025

December 24 – Christmas Eve – Wed. 4pm <i>(Family Oriented Service)</i> , 8pm & 10:15pm <i>Traditional Candlelight Holy Communion</i>
December 25 – Christmas Day – Thurs. 10am Service
December 28 – Last Sunday of December – 10am Service only
January 4 – Epiphany – 8am & 10am Service of Family Blessing

Baptism Registration Now Open

Our next Baptism Service will take place on **Sunday, February 15th**. If you or your child would like to be baptized, please submit your registration by **January 7th**.

To receive a baptismal registration form, please contact the Church Office at: officeadmin@stpaulsonthehill.com

Men's Fellowship Group

Our Tuesday Morning Men's Fellowship Group will resume on January 13, 2026, D.V., meeting **each Tuesday** from **10:00am to noon**. We will begin the New Year with a study of **Luke 13**.

All are welcome to join us online or in person in the upstairs Board Room. For Zoom or phone-in details, email: officeadmin@stpaulsonthehill.com

For questions about the group, please contact:

- **Ivan Hunte** at 905-509-5415 | ivan.hunte@gmail.com
 - **George Denny** at 289-314- 0783 | havendayle@gmail.com
 - **David Karram** at 905-683-3467 | dksurfer7@gmail.com
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The Game of Thrones

Sunday, January 21st | 7pm-9pm via Zoom

In the midst of current wars and rumours of war, Bishop Yu explores patterns in history. It turns out, we've been here before! In an engaging lecture, Bishop Yu compares the theory of the fifth century historian Thucydides with that of the biblical prophet Daniel. Bishop Yu will reflect on the historical interaction of world powers leading to war and offer us hope, as he interprets for us God's action in light of revelation. This was first given as a public lecture in All Saints Cathedral in Hong Kong, 2024.

Please visit our website stpaulsonthehill.com to access the zoom link.

Women at St. Paul's – January Breakfast

Monday, January 22nd | 9:30am | Stacked Restaurant

Women at St. Paul's will gather for a breakfast outing at **Stacked Restaurant**, located at **1822 Whites Road, Pickering**, on **Thursday, January 22 at 9:30am**. This will be a wonderful chance to connect and enjoy conversation together.

To RSVP, please email: women@stpaulsonthehill.com or call the church office at 905-839-7909.

New Year's Relationship Reboot: Marriage Enrichment

Looking for a meaningful New Year refresh—together? The Alpha Marriage Course is a relaxed, date-night-style experience designed to help couples reconnect, strengthen communication, and invest in their relationship. Think good conversation, practical tools, and intentional time with your partner.

The Marriage Course will run online for 7 Sunday evenings beginning in mid-February. We're running it online to allow couples with children to more easily attend. The two-hour evening get together will be hosted by two couples: Canon Judy and Rev. Andrew, and Steve and Clare Masson. The format looks like a combo of video contact from engaging marriage experts Nicky and Sila Lee, with numerous private discussions between couples (not group exercises) throughout.

We do have some flexibility around timing or even date depending on the needs of the majority. Sign up (and make it a date!) and we'll communicate with you around details. Email our admin at officeadmin@stpaulsonthehill.com to register.

Thank you from the St. Paul's-on-the-Hill Community Food Bank

In the spirit of giving and gratitude, we want to take a moment to thank all of you—our incredible donors, partners, and supporters—who make our work possible throughout the year. Because of your generosity, families in our community have food on their tables, children wake up to hope, and neighbours know they are not alone.

This season reminds us that kindness and compassion truly change lives. Each donation, each hour volunteered, and each word of encouragement helps us bring light and warmth to those who need it most.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for believing in our mission and for sharing the true meaning of Christmas—love, generosity, and community.

Wishing you and your loved one's peace, joy, and blessings this holiday season and into the new year.

Gate 3:16 Thank you and update

On behalf of Gate 3:16, we would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has contributed clothing and financial donations to support people experiencing housing insecurity in Durham Region. If you would like to support Gate 3:16, St. Paul's collects needed clothing items which we then deliver to Gate 3:16 in Oshawa.

Currently, we need the following: **backpacks, blankets, sleeping bags, traps for shelter. Winter weight jackets, sweatshirts, sweatpants (no larger than size 36), long johns, leggings, winter T-shirts, warm sweaters. Men's jeans (30, 32, 34) – length of jeans should be a minimum of 32 inches. Running shoes (men's size 10-up). Men's clothing sizes S, M, L and XL. Women's clothing sizes S, M, L.**

We accept clean, lightly used items. Items can be placed in a bag labelled Gate 3:16 and placed in the coat closet in the narthex. Thank you for your support.

Thank you for church donations for 2025

We are so grateful to everyone for your continued commitment and support of the ministries of St. Paul's on the Hill. Your generosity enables our community to gather for worship of God learning and fellowship and in ministry to our neighbours. We thank you for making ministry possible.

As we wrap up this year, we want to remind you that your donations need to be received at the church by January 1, and all cheques must be postdated to December 31. This will ensure that you receive a 2025 tax receipt for your gifts. If the church is closed and you wish to drop off your donation, please use the secured mailbox located in the Kingston Rd parking lot. Our sincere gratitude for your support.

Sunday School and Youth Reminder

There will be no Sunday School or youth programs on Sunday, December 28th. Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 4, 2026.

You're Invited to Join St. Paul's Youth Ministry!

We warmly welcome all young people to get involved in the growing Youth Ministry at St. Paul's! There are many meaningful ways to serve — as Sunday School volunteers, readers on Sunday mornings, members of the youth band, or helpers on the AV team. We also offer a Youth Sunday School lesson for young teens each Sunday.

Our Youth Fellowship also gathers monthly — usually on the last Sunday after church, or on some Fridays — for fun, friendship, and faith-building. All high school students are welcome!

In January, we have an exciting Youth Fellowship service activity planned: preparing Valentine's gift packs for a local elderly home or hospital. We are still confirming which organization we will partner with, but we look forward to serving together.

Contact Pastor Mabel at mabell@stpaulsonthehill.com to learn more — we'd love to have you join our youth community!

Altar Flowers

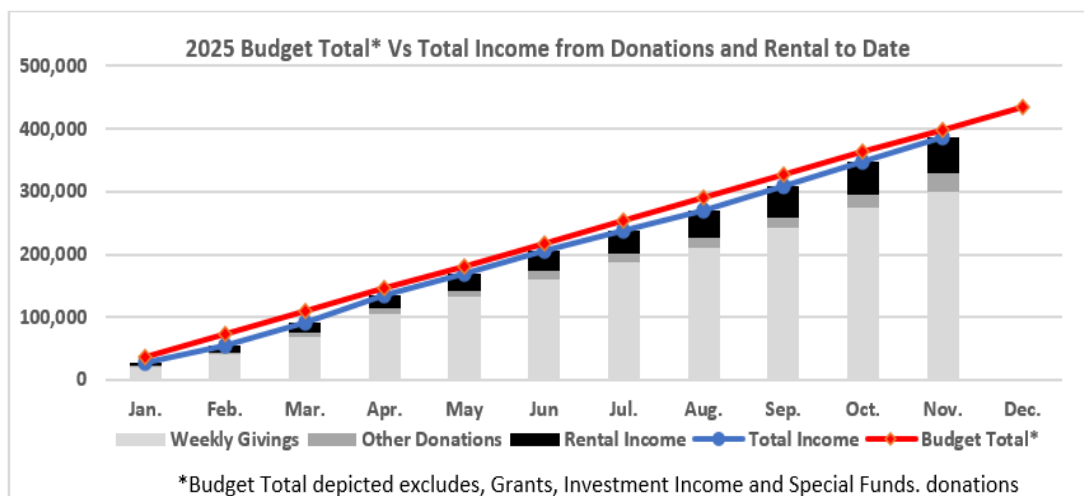
If you would like to remember a loved one, celebrate a special birthday or anniversary, contact Barb Thompson at 289-923-0045. **Cost is \$75.**

Office Hours on Christmas

Please note that the church office will close at **2:00 pm on December 24th** and will remain **closed on December 25th and 26th**. The Office will reopen **December 29th - 31st**. The office is closed on **January 1** and open **9-12pm on January 2nd**. Regular office hours resume January 3rd.

Parish Offerings Report for January to November 2025

SPOTH Offerings Report for January to November, 2025 (Representing 92% Mark for the year)			
1. Weekly Givings Offerings	Jan. to Nov. Actual	2025 Budget	% of Budget
General Envelopes (Sunday offerings, PAR, E-transfer)	275,942	295,002	94%
Christmas	60	7,000	1%
Open Offerings	7,263	24,903	29%
Easter	6,110	4,948	123%
Thanksgiving	5,220	5,000	104%
Other (Mainly 100th anniversary tickets)	5,625	2,000	281%
AV and Parking Lot Projects	260	-	
Total for Weekly Givings	300,480	338,853	89%
2. Other Designated Offerings *			
Building	10,590	10,869	97%
Christian ED (Youth, Sunday School, Courses)	9,022	15,424	58%
Fundraising	8	-	
Fundraising-Bazaar	4,463	5,000	89%
Outreach	1,170	350	334%



Total for Other Designated offerings	25,253	31,643	80%
3. Revenue from Rental			
Tower Rental	20,909	22,810	92%
SPOTH Daycare Rental	39,665	42,175	94%
Total for Rental Income	60,574	64,985	93%
TOTAL (Weekly + Designated + Rental)	386,307	435,481	89%
Diocese MAF Grant (February 2025)	76,000	76,000	
Diocese FaithWorks (March 2025)	1,003	-	
Investment Interests	7,290	20,000	36%
Overall TOTAL Income	470,600	531,481	89%

Rector and Wardens of St Paul's-on-the-Hill express appreciation for your generous donations in 2025. The Easter offerings exceeded the budget by 23%. Thanksgiving offerings exceeded the budget by 4%. By November ending, we have received about 89% of budgeted income that was presented at Vestry. Our total donation is trending at 3% below the annual budget for 2025.