



ST. PAUL'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A National Historic Site: Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Sunday Service – First Sunday after Christmas

December 28th, 2025. 11 am

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S

*We are so glad that you've come to worship the Lord with us today, and we hope that you will experience the presence of Christ among us. In the pew are the following tools for participation in this service. The blue "**Book of Praise**" contains our hymns, the red "**Book of Psalms**" contains the responsive psalms, and the blue "**New English Bible**" contains the scripture passages. If an item has an asterisk (*), then please stand if you are able. **Large print Hymnals** are available in the back of the Sanctuary. An usher would be happy to help you. All are welcome to join us for Coffee hour in St. Andrew's Hall, immediately following the service today.*

WE COME TOGETHER BEFORE GOD

Prelude "Noel #3" Louis Claude Daquin

*Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn **141** "Good Christians, all rejoice"

Welcome

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Assurance of Forgiveness

Response to Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

WORD OF GOD READ AND PROCLAIMED

Reader: Heather Pirie

*Responsive Psalm **148**, ref. II

Isaiah **63: 7-9** (page **898**, OT)

Matthew **2: 13-23** (page **4**, NT)

*The Christ Candle Reading

*Hymn **145** "In the bleak mid-winter"

Anthem "A Gallery Carol"

Sermon "Oh... wait!" Rev. Mark Gaskin

Silent Reflection

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD WITH CELEBRATION

*Hymn **153** "Joy to the world"

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord's Prayer **831 Book of Praise**

Announcements

The Offering

Offertory "Shepherds Came, Their Praises Bringing"
H. Walcha

*The Doxology **830 Book of Praise**

Prayer of Dedication

WE GO FORTH IN THE JOY OF THE LORD

*Hymn **810** "Now greet the swiftly changing year"

Benediction

Choral Amen

Postlude "Noel #6" Louis Claude Daquin

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.

AN INCLUSIVE & 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.

PLEASE NOTE: GALLERY SEATING IS CLOSED

For insurance reasons, the gallery seating around the top of the sanctuary is not open to the public. Only the individual who is coordinating the live stream will be in the gallery. We invite you to join us in the pews on the main floor of the Sanctuary as you worship with us today. Thank you.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY



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

ST. PAUL'S VISION



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.

ST. PAUL'S TEAM

Interim Moderator:	Rev. Dr. J. Mark Lewis
Guest Minister:	Rev. Mark Gaskin
Clerk of Session:	Jer Dubash
Director of Music:	Blair Havers
Chimer:	Branden Moffat
Custodian:	Ruparain Sydney
Office Administrator:	Gordon Swenor (Interim)
Today's Ushers:	Judith Flaherty Trish Haycock

ST. PAUL'S CONTACT INFO

Website:	www.stpaulshamilton.ca
Email:	info@stpaulshamilton.ca
Phone:	905-522-2792
Mail:	70 James St. S. Hamilton, ON L8P 2Y8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Offering Envelopes –

Offering envelopes for 2026 are available to be picked up in the pews at the front of the sanctuary near the piano. Please take the box that is labelled with your name and envelope number.

If you don't see your name on any of the envelope boxes but are interested in receiving a box of offering envelopes, please reach out to Gordon in the office.

Giving Tree –

Please consider looking through the Gifts of Change catalogue to learn about charitable projects that you can support with a donation to the Presbyterian Church in Canada. There are physical copies of the Gifts of Change catalogue on the piano in the sanctuary, and the catalogue can be found online at presbyterian.ca/gifts-of-change

Donations can be made online at presbyterian.ca/donate or in-person by specifying what Gifts of Change project you'd like to support on your donation envelope. Once you've considered donating, feel free to write your name and donation amount on one of the star ornaments located on the piano in the sanctuary, then hang it up on the Christmas tree.

Year-End Fundraiser –

We have set a goal of \$50,000.00 for our **Year-End Fundraiser**. A portion of the Year-End Fundraiser will go towards offsetting our deficit, and a portion will go to Hamilton Out of the Cold.

Hamilton Out of the Cold is a not-for-profit, non-denominational program that provides meals for those in need in our community from November to March. To learn more about their program:

hamiltonoutofthecold.ca/all-about-us/

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Sunday, December 28th

11:00am: Sunday Service

12:00pm: Coffee Hour

4:00pm: Hamilton Beat Harmonic

Monday, December 29th

9am-3pm: Church office is OPEN

7:30pm: Scottish Country Dancing in St. Andrew's Hall

Tuesday, December 30th

9am-3pm: Church office is OPEN

Wednesday, December 31st

9am-3pm: Church office is OPEN

Friday, January 2nd

5:30pm: Friday Night Meeting in Centennial Hall

Refugee Committee Update –

Sandu's arrival date is scheduled for January 10, 2026. Their apartment is currently being prepared for their arrival. If you wish to help with their arrival there are items listed on the bulletin board that you could generously provide for them. These items can be left in the bin labelled 'Kitchen Items' on the stage in St. Andrew's Hall, thank you to all of those who have already donated. Please reach out to Ida deJong with any questions you may have regarding Sandu's family and their arrival.

Books for Bus Tickets Fundraiser –

Our Books for Bus Tickets fundraiser will continue into the fall. Ida has taken over from Lydia. Please visit the book table in St. Andrew's Hall to view the entire collection. Thank you for your generosity and support!

The Christ Candle

Voice 1: In a land ruled by an empire, under the weight of oppression, a young couple search for a place for Mary to give birth but there was no room at the inn.

Voice 2: In the humblest of places,
the promised child is born!

Voice 1: In lowly circumstances, God fulfills the promise to all people. This is the meeting of heaven and earth!

Voice 2: The glorious light of that stable burst into the night, announcing a birth that has changed the world. On this night, we light the Christ candle.

The Christ candle is lit.

Let us pray together:

Living God, may the light of Christ find a home in our hearts, in our congregations and in our world.
Hallelujah! Christ is born!



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Christ is Born!

Hope stands resilient, even in the face of poverty, injustice and adversity.

Through PWS&D, the church answers God's call to support those in need. Together, we are working toward a brighter future for our global community by fostering sustainable solutions to overcome poverty and offering support in regions impacted by disaster, whether caused by conflict or climate change.

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, PWS&D addresses challenges such as hunger, poverty, injustice and disaster. Our collaborative efforts aim to restore dignity, alleviate suffering and encourage cooperation within communities.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let's keep our neighbours—both near and far—in our hearts. Your support plays a vital role in the success of this transformative mission.

This Christmas, help spread hope, peace, joy and love across the globe by supporting PWS&D.

WeRespond.ca

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Welcome to the Rev. Mark Gaskin

Mark Bennett Gaskin was born in Regina, Saskatchewan. When he was 5 years old, his mom and dad moved to Georgetown, Ontario, and Mark followed. He received his elementary and secondary education in Georgetown, and his post-secondary studies were at Trinity College and Knox College (U of T).

Mark has a long-time connection with Hamilton – many aunts, uncles and cousins live here. During his theological studies, he learned much under the mentorship of John Hibbs at New Westminster Church in the east end.

He received his Master of Divinity degree in 1984. In April of 1984, the Presbytery of Hamilton ordained Mark and appointed him to a pastoral charge in Prince Edward Island. In 1986, Mark convinced Kathy to marry him. Kathy and Mark have three grown children – and three grandchildren.

After PEI, Mark served pastorates in Exeter, Brantford, and Cambridge. He recently retired as the minister of Westside Church in Cambridge.

Mark enjoys cooking chilli, making jam and deviled eggs, travelling south to Louisiana, taking photographs, reading the Globe and Mail, and watching any movie with Tom Hanks. Mark is a fan of the CFL, and sometimes even cheers for the Tiger-Cats!

Mark Lewis is deeply thankful to Mark Gaskin for coming to preach on December 21 and 28. This is a busy time of year for everyone, and it is a significant sacrifice for Mark to be here. Mark Lewis is away celebrating Christmas with his family in Amsterdam and Edinburgh, and will be back at St. Paul's for Sunday, January 4.

(A note from Mark Lewis – Please tell Mark Gaskin that I recently impersonated the Bee Gees during a sermon, and that you fully expect him to do something equally entertaining when he is here.)

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St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, Ontario
January 2026 Worship Theme
Resetting the Algorithm of Your Soul in the New Year

Google, Facebook, Instagram and X have got you all figured out. They know what you want to see, they know what you will click on...they can read your mind! They have created an algorithm for you and use it every day to show you precisely what you want to see and keep you coming back. Sadly, this system reinforces false perceptions and favours content creators with nefarious motives. In truth, the social media platforms don't know anything about the real you. You are so much more than the sum of your algorithm. God know who you really are. God knows the depth and complexity of your soul. Start the new year by rejecting the two-dimensional version of you that the internet has created. Reset your algorithm and become the fully alive and beautiful soul that God know you are.

January 4 – 2nd Sunday of Christmastide

Sermon – Resetting the Algorithm of Your Soul
Psalm 72:1-14 (refrain 1), Isaiah 60:1-6, Matthew 2:1-12

January 11 – Baptism of the Lord

Sermon – Resetting When You Are Unsure
Psalm 29:1-11 (refrain 1), Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

January 18 – Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon – Resetting When Your World Has Been Shaken
Psalm 40:1-11 (refrain 2), Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:35-42

January 25 – Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Sermon – Resetting After You Have Failed
Psalm 27:1-10 (refrain 1), Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23

*For we are what he has made us,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand so that
we may walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10)*

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