

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

701 S. College Avenue, Newark, Delaware 19713

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Growing in faith. Growing in community. Welcoming all in Jesus' name.

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS
Sunday, December 29, 2024

10 AM Lessons and Carols
with Holy Communion

Heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem. Through the telling of the Christmas story, let our temporal lives be caught up in the eternal in that same child, that we might join shepherds and all the heavenly host in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Sing to God a new song—a song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.



Catch the excitement! Witness the joy! Shape the vision!

ST. PAUL'S VISION STATEMENT (adopted 02/25/2018)

- To worship as a diverse community of all ages
- To engage in faith formation as a community grounded in God's word
- To maintain with depth and integrity the work of feeding the hungry and housing the homeless
- To nurture a strong foundation of generosity, giving, and caring for creation
- To provide a music ministry that encompasses congregation and surrounding communities

Worship at Home and Away

When we cannot be together in person, we can still hear the word of God and hold each other in prayer. Therefore, we offer the 10 AM service through simultaneous live streaming to St. Paul's Facebook page. The service is then posted to the website, www.stpaulsnewarkde.org and can be found in the upper right hand corner of the home page, along with a digital copy of this worship folder.

**Large print worship folders and hearing assistance devices
are available in the narthex. Ask an usher for assistance.**

**A Playground is available for young children
in the rear of the sanctuary.**

✧ GATHERING ✧

*Worship begins with God who takes the initiative and calls us into being.
We gather at the Holy Spirit's invitation and assemble as the community of faith
on the first day of the week, the day of Christ's resurrection.*

*Upon entering the sanctuary, the people pray silently or engage in quiet meditation
allowing the music to focus their attention on God and God's kingdom.*

PRELUDE "Of the Father's Love Begotten" arr. Hildebrand

WELCOME

Please stand, as you are able.

ENTRANCE CAROL **Once in Royal David's City** **ELW 269**
(harmony)



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,



where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed;
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

LITANY FOR CHRISTMAS

The Word was made flesh,

Alleluia, alleluia!

and dwelt among us,

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus, Son of the Living God, splendor of the Father, Light eternal:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, King of glory, Sun of righteousness, born of the Virgin Mary:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, Wonderful Counselor, mighty God, everlasting Lord:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, Prince of Peace, Shepherd of souls, perfect in holiness:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, Friend of all, Protector of the poor, Treasure of the faithful:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, Good Shepherd, inexhaustible Wisdom, our Way, our Truth, and our Life:

Glory to you, O Lord!

Jesus, joy of the angels, and crown of all the saints:

Glory to you, O Lord!

A brief silence.

Christ is born! Give him glory!

Christ has come down from heaven! Receive him!

Christ is now on earth! Exalt him!

O earth, sing to the Lord!

O you nations, praise him in joy,

for he has been glorified!

Amen.

Be seated.

✠ **WORD** ✠

God speaks to us in scripture reading and song.

FIRST LESSON

Micah 5:2–5a

From Bethlehem comes a ruler.

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,

from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

FIRST CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ELW 279

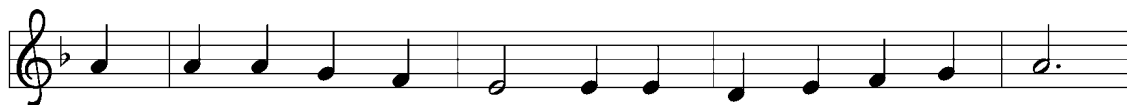
(harmony)



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908



SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26–35, 38

The angel appears to Mary.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

1 Un-ex - pect - ed and mys-te - rious is the gen-tle Word of grace.
 2 In a mo - men - ta - ry meet - ing of e - ter - ni - ty and time,
 3 We are called to pon-der mys - t'ry and a - wait the com-ing Christ,

Ev - er - lov - ing and sus - tain - ing is the peace of God's em-brace.
 Mar-y learned that she would car - ry both the mor-tal and di - vine.
 to em - bod - y God's com - pas - sion for each frag - ile hu - man life.

If we fal - ter in our cour-age and we doubt what we have known,
 Then she learned of God's com-pas-sion, of E - liz - a - beth's great joy,
 God is with us in our long-ing to bring heal - ing to the earth,

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961

Music: JEFFERSON 8 7 8 7 D, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Donald A. Busarow, b. 1934



THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

The birth of the Messiah.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THIRD CAROL

I Wonder As I Wander

WOV 642

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 7/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. Chords are indicated above the vocal line.

System 1:

- Chords: Gm, Cm, Gm⁷, D⁷
- Lyrics:

1 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
 2 When Mar - y birthed . . . Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
 3 If Je - sus had . . . want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
 4 I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how

System 2:

- Chords: Gm, Cm, D⁷, Gm, Gm, Cm
- Lyrics:

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like
 wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and high from the heav - ens a
 star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or all of God's an - gels in
 Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like

you and like I. I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.
 star's light did fall; the prom-ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
 heav'n for to sing, he sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
 you and like I. I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.

Text: Appalachian carol, collected by John Jacob Niles, 1892–1980
 Music: Appalachian folk tune, adapt. John Jacob Niles, 1892–1980
 © 1934 (renewed) by G. Schirmer, Inc. (A.S.C.A.P.)

I WONDER
 12 11 11 12

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:8–16

The shepherds find the baby.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,
¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"
¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

FOURTH CAROL

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

ELW 290

Refrains sung in Unison
Verses sung in Harmony

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;

go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
 Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:21-36

The presentation of the child.

²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

FIFTH CAROL

On Christmas Night

ELW 274





1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
 Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

Please stand, as you are able.

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:41-52

The boy Jesus increased in wisdom, and in divine and human favor.

⁴¹ Now every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the
 Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the

festival. ⁴³ When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day’s journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵ When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found Jesus in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard Jesus were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.” ⁴⁹ Jesus said to them, “Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?” ⁵⁰ But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹ Then Jesus went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEVENTH CAROL

Love Has Come

ELW 292



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
 2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
 3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
 sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
 last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
 what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
 Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

Text © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

Remain standing.

THE PRAYERS

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to God's people on earth.

Blessed are you, Prince of peace.

You rule the earth with truth and justice.

Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.

Blessed are you, Son of Mary.

You share our humanity.

Have mercy on the sick, the dying,

and all who suffer this day.

Blessed are you, Son of God.

You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

Reveal yourself to us in word and meal

that we may bear your light to all the world.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*The people greet one another
with signs of reconciliation and peace,
saying, **Peace be with you.***

Be seated.

*At this time, please sign the Fellowship Pad (the black folder) found at the end of your pew and pass it to your neighbor and back again. We ask **visitors** to provide us with contact information so we can thank you for enriching our worship experience. We ask **members** to update any changes to their information so our records can be maintained.*

✧ MEAL ✧

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

GATHERING OF GIFTS

*In response to God's love in Jesus Christ,
we offer our gifts for service and mission.*

ANTHEM

"Jesus, What a Wonderful Child"

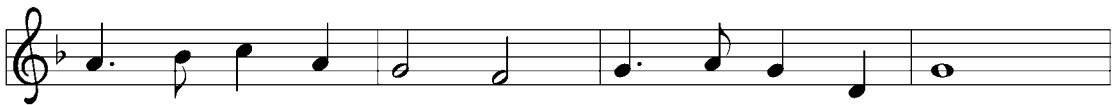
arr. Rollo Dilworth

Please stand, as you are able, and sing as the gifts are presented and the table is set.

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

ELW 294
(harmony)



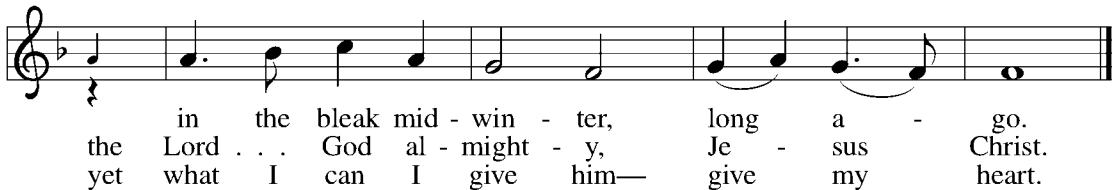
1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
3 What . . . can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid-winter, long a-go.
 the Lord . . . God al-mighty, Je-sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
 Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Let us pray. Good and loving God,
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Now in the love which is ours forever, draw us closer to your heart, as we join in praying as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal.

Come, behold and receive your God.

Glory to God in highest heaven, who unto us the Son has given.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Jesus, Lamb of God,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

grant us peace.

Be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

In Christ's body and blood given to us, God forgives us and nourishes us for mission.

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Children not yet communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossed arms. If you would like to receive communion in your pew, please notify an usher.

Non-alcoholic grape juice and gluten-free communion wafers are available upon request.

DISTRIBUTION CAROLS *Please join in singing
during the distribution.*

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

GTG 146
Found on p. 18

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem

GTG 159
Found on p. 19

After all have returned to their places, remain seated.

BLESSING AND PRAYER

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

May the Word that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms
enfold you with love and strength.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world.

And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

SENDING CAROL **Good Christian Friends, Rejoice**

ELW 288
Found on p. 20



1 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;
 2 An - gels sang a - bout his birth; wise men sought and found him;
 3 Gen - tle Mar - y laid her child low - ly in a man - ger;

there he lay, the un - de - filed, to the world a strang - er.
 heav-en's star shone bright - ly forth, glo - ry all a - round him.
 he is still the un - de - filed, but no more a strang - er.

Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Sav - ior?
 Shep-herds saw the won-drous sight, heard the an - gels sing - ing;
 Son of God, of hum - ble birth, beau - ti - ful the sto - ry;

Ask the saved of all the race who have found his fa - vor.
 all the plains were lit that night; all the hills were ring - ing.
 praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glo - ry!

1 O sing a song of Beth-le-hem, of shep-herds watch - ing there,
 2 O sing a song of Naz - a - reth, of sun - ny days of joy;
 3 O sing a song of Gal - i - lee, of lake and woods and hill,
 4 O sing a song of Cal - va - ry, its glo - ry and dis - may,

and of the news that came to them from an-gels in the air.
 O sing of fra - grant flow-ers' breath, and of the sin - less boy.
 of him who walked up - on the sea and bade its waves be still.
 of him who hung up - on the tree, and took our sins a - way.

The light that shone on Beth-le-hem fills all the world to - day.
 For now the flowers of Naz - a - reth in ev - ery heart may grow.
 For though, like waves on Gal - i - lee, dark seas of trou - ble roll,
 For he who died on Cal - va - ry is ris - en from the grave,

Of Je - sus' birth and peace on earth the an-gels sing al - way.
 Now spreads the fame of his dear name on all the winds that blow.
 when faith has heard the Mas - ter's word, falls peace up-on the soul.
 and Christ, our Lord, by heaven a - dored, is might-y now to save.

1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joi - ce with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“O Come, All ye Faithful”

arr. Cherwien

ADESTE FIDELES

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Assisting Minister:	Jeanine Heath
Lector:	Joanne Hench
Bread Provider:	Sherry Mench
Altar Guild:	Linda Radwick



The poinsettias are given to the glory and praise of God.
Dedications were listed in the Christmas Eve worship folders.



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*Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.*

Colossians 3:15, 16

ST. PAUL'S WEEKLY EPISTLE

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 29, 2024

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS (YEAR C)

On the first Sunday of Christmas, we find the boy Jesus in the temple, growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

HOLIDAY ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

Due to New Year's falling on Wednesday, please submit announcements to the church office by 10 AM on Monday, December 30. We will return to our regular Wednesday morning deadline the following week on January 8

A SPECIAL EPIPHANY OPPORTUNITY

We will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord on Monday, January 6, at 7 PM. Our worship gathering will include the Rite of Installation as Pastor Cris begins his ministry with us. Please plan to be a part of this special worship service with a guest preacher, Pastor David Schafer, and Bishop Bill Gohl presiding for the installation. A lite reception will follow.

ADULT FORUM

No matter how accepting we are towards LGBTQ+ people, the Bible seems pretty clear on “homosexuality”. Or does it? How do we answer that nagging question, “but isn't it a sin?” Plan to attend the Adult Forums on Sundays, January 5, 12, and 19, starting at 8:30 AM in the Blue Room. Join us as we examine what the Bible says about same gender attraction and sex. Hosted by members of the RIC Team.

A YEAR END OPPORTUNITY

With only two days left in the calendar year, you can be pretty confident that this will be the last appeal from Stewardship in 2024 – the final “ask” for this year.

It's definitely not the last time you'll hear from us of course, because we have an event in the works to celebrate the tremendous response we've received—sixty-five pledges for \$326,740 towards our HERE goal and another \$15,870 for the BEYOND portion. To all those who have already pledged, thank you.

If you haven't pledged yet, or if you might be able to revise your pledge to help meet the goal, it's not too late! Please pick up a yellow card in the Narthex, or print one at home using the link below. Fill it out and return it, either by mailing it in, putting it in the offering plate, or dropping it in the gold box at any time.

https://stpaulsnewarkde.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Pledge-Card-Sept_2024-1-1.pdf

BOOKS AND BANTER

St. Paul's avid readers meet the fourth Wednesday of each month at 1 PM in the Youth Room. If you have a book that you would like to share with the group, please let us know. Please join us for conversation and fellowship.

January 22 "I am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai (*Back to fourth Wednesday*)

HOLY HIKE

Love to enjoy walking in the great outdoors? Please plan to join us on Sunday, January 19 at 11:30 AM as we plan our schedule for the coming year. Questions? Please contact Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or Rudy Schock at rschock324@gmail.com We hope to grow our group this year and welcome input on when and where you would like to hike.

OLDER WISER LUTHERANS

For all those OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS) in our community, please plan to join us on Wednesday January 8, at 11:30 AM for our annual planning session. Can't make that date? Please remit your outing suggestions to Linda Grund at lgrund923@gmail.com or Bill Saylor at bsaylor2@verizon.net.

BREWING THEOLOGY

For everyone 21 and older, please plan to join us on Wednesday, January 8, at 7 PM at the Delaware Saengerbund for a tasty beverage, some snacks, and some hearty conversation as we plan our schedule for the upcoming year. If you have any questions, please speak to coordinators Rudy Schock or Linda Grund.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

Come to hear the members of St. Paul's ministry of music, with vocal and instrumental guests from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, at 4 PM next Sunday, January 5.

GIFT CARD DISTRIBUTION

Thank you for your generous support of our annual requests for gift cards. Local families in need were much appreciative of the assistance. Thirteen families received gift cards this year.



St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcomes All in Jesus' Name

Phone/Fax: 302-368-0064 Website: www.stpaulsnewarkde.org

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.



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Barb Rhodes, *Vice President*

Heidi Burch, *Secretary*

Mary Collins, *Treasurer*

Kristine Cassar, Winnie Hull, Greg Johnson,

Susie Olson, Emily Pierce

Early Education Director

St. Paul's Lutheran School

302-368-0064 ext. 118

stpaulschool@comcast.net

Weekly Epistle/E-mail Blast

St. Paul's Online Prayer Ministry

Send prayer requests to:

prayonstpauls@gmail.com

Articles due by Wednesday morning at 10 AM. Late submissions will be shared the following week. Please send articles to the church office at splcstaff@gmail.com.

**WISH TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES
OF ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH?
THEN SCAN THIS QR CODE**

