

December 6, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Christ Jesus who is born among us as Immanuel: God With Us!

Yesterday in worship we lit the Peace candle—a reminder that, as Christians, we find our peace in Christ Jesus.

This coming Sunday, December 12, the youth and children of St. Paul will lead worship with their Christmas worship service. We encourage you to attend worship either in person or via Facebook Live.

Christmas Eve at St. Paul:

5:00-7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Open House. We will have pre-recorded music (from our own musicians) and readings. Pastor Becky will provide Quiet Communion. The Open House format allows you to attend for any length of time that works for you and your family.

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Worship. We will worship both in the sanctuary and via Facebook Live at 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve. All are welcome.

This Advent/Christmas seasons St. Paul will not be sponsoring specific families in the community for Christmas gifts. Our staff simply does not have the allotted time to coordinate this project. However, if you would like to provide local families with assistance, you can drop gift cards at the church office. We recommend WalMart, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, Aldi and Kroger. We will distribute these cards to families no later than mid-December. Thank you for your generosity and your understanding.

We end with a reminder about Covid19 transmissions. Incidences of positive cases are going up in our congregation and community. **If you have been in contact with someone who either tests positive for**

Covid19 or have been in contact with someone who soon after you've been with them tests positive, you need to quarantine yourself from St. Paul Church, its building, and its staff.

It is our goal to keep one another (and our neighbors) as healthy as possible. What's more, if essential staff become infected, we will be forced to shut down worship, weekly mailers, and all programs for two weeks. We thank you for your attention and care. We know it is difficult to stay home. Isolation is hard. And yet, it is our Christian calling to care for one another in the best way possible.

We thank you for your faithfulness. We thank you for your generosity. We thank you for your love for God and neighbor.

Blessings,



Roland Dicke Myra Hanenkratt Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Council President Council VP Senior Pastor

Financial Information is unavailable due to staff vacation.

Birth Candle-welcomes Lettie Annmarie Borkowski! Lettie was born Friday, December 3, 2021 to Philip and Kelli Borkowski. Her grandparents are Jill and Joe Borkowski and great grandparents are Joyce and John Gilberg. Welcome Lettie!

Please remember the families of Richard "Butch" Felver and Patricia Wyatt in your prayers. Both have passed away and will be remembered in the hearts of their loved ones.



Word Accomplishes God's Purpose (Advent 3)

December 12, 2021

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of restoration and new life, when Israel had lost everything, you reminded them they still had one thing: your word. Help us to speak and listen for your word so that it might accomplish its purpose. Amen.



Read: Read the key verses from Sunday's reading.

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

God's people were exiled and had lost everything—except God's word. As long as they continued to speak and hear the word of God, that word would accomplish its purpose—the restoration of Israel one day.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What kinds of words do you speak? Are your words angry, gentle, spiteful, generous, bitter, meaningful? What do your words say about you?

How does a word "accomplish that which I purpose"? (Go out into the world and return full.) Just how powerful are words?

For the littles: Do you like to talk a lot or a little?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless your words going out and coming in. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Create a "bitter words" jar. Decide on an amount of money each member of the household will put in for every time they swear, speak words that sting, are bitter, or are ungrateful. Decide together how you will use the money collected—perhaps give it away!



Go Deeper: Go to clergystuff.com/daily-devotions for devotions on the daily readings.

Sunday, Isaiah 55:1-11, Word Accomplishes God's Purpose
Monday, Isaiah 40:1-11, God's People Are Comforted
Tuesday, Isaiah 53:2-12, The Suffering Servant
Wednesday, Isaiah 57:14-21, A Promise of Help and Healing
Thursday, Isaiah 59:1-8, Injustice and Oppression to Be Punished
Friday, Isaiah 61:1-11, The Good News of Deliverance
Saturday, Isaiah 65:17-25, The Glorious New Creation

Children's Program



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Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Becky Strang-Senior Pastor

Roland Dicke-Council President

Welcome to St. Paul UCC, we are glad you are here!!

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, this is the house of the Lord, and all are welcome to enter and praise our loving Creator.

May God's love fill you with kindness, mercy and joy.

December 12, 2021

**Third Sunday of Advent: Love
Children's Worship**

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Sunday School/Youth

Cheyenne Olt

Connie O'Neill

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Worship Leaders

Accompanist

Organist

Music Director

OPENING WORDS FROM ANN WEEMS:

Our God is the One who comes to us in a burning bush, in an angel's song, in a newborn child.

Our God is the One who cannot be found locked in the church, not even in the sanctuary.

Our God will be where God will be with no constraints, no predictability.

Our God lives where our God lives, and destruction has no power and even death cannot stop the living.

Our God will be born where God will be born, but there is no place to look for the One who comes to us.

When God is ready, God will come even to a forsaken place like a stable in Bethlehem.

Watch: for you know not when God comes.

Watch: that you might be found whenever, wherever God comes.

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF CANDLES: You are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

F Dm Gm⁷ C F F⁷

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the

B^b G⁷ F Dm G⁷ Gm⁷ C⁷

jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter

F Dm Gm⁷ C F F⁷

who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the

B^b G⁷ F Dm Gm⁷ C⁷ C F F

jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

To verses Last time, Fine

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Ann Weems Kneeling in Bethlehem)

Leader: When the Holy Child is born into our hearts

People: There is a rush of stars

Leader: A rushing of angels

People: A blaze of candles:

Leader: This God burst into our lives.

People: Love is running through the streets!

ADVENT CAROL

like a child

ADVENT

like a child

162

Unison Gm C Am Dm

1 like a child love would send to re - veal and to mend, like a
2 like a child we will meet, rag - ged clothes, dirt - y feet, like a
3 like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a

Gm C F $\frac{F}{E\flat}$ D7

child and a friend, Je - sus comes like a
child on the street, Je - sus comes like a
child here to stay, Je - sus comes like a

Gm7 C Am Dm7

child we may find claim - ing heart soul and mind, like a
child we once knew com - ing back in - to view, like a
child we re - ceive all that love can con - ceive, like a

Gm7 $\frac{B\flat}{C}$ F

child strong and kind, Je - sus comes
child born a - new, Je - sus comes
child we be - lieve Je - sus comes

ADVENT LITANY

Leader: We are like little children sometimes.

People: A lot of the time.

Leader: We don't understand what the grownups are saying, what they are asking us to do.

People: We think we know better sometimes.

Leader: A lot of the time.

People: We rebel. We ignore. We stubbornly go our own way.

Leader: Meanwhile, our grownups say, "Trust me."

People: "My ways are not your ways," says our grownup, our God.

Leader: "Nor my thoughts, your thoughts."

People: "Trust me, the word I speak is for good."

Leader: "Your good. The world's good."

People: Have faith in my word, and in me," says the Lord.

Leader: "I will not steer you wrong."

People: "Do not be so stubborn. Do not ignore me."

Leader: "You may not always understand."

People: "You really cannot ever understand completely."

Leader: "Because you do not have the mind of God."

People: Says the Lord.

Leader: But God's word is so healing, and so very powerful.

People: God's word nourishes the world. God's word brings justice and peace.

Leader: We need to get out of the way and let God do God's work.

People: We need to listen, really listen, and then trust.

Leader: In all things, God's word works for good.

People: Our good. The world's good.

Leader: We will always be children before God.

People: We can never be God ourselves, even though we may try.

Leader: Let us rest in God's promises.

People: Let us rejoice that our God is great!

Leader: Greater than we could ever imagine.

People: God's word can save the world.

Leader: In fact, Jesus, God's Word, did!

People: This is the word of the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: LOVE

Reader One: Just as the prophet Isaiah knew the parching thirst for a love without end, so we too thirst for waters to quench our yearning for a place in God's loving family.

Reader Two (as first candle is lit): We still yearn, but yearning leads to hope. We light this candle as a sign that this hope never ends.

Reader One (as second candle is lit): We light yet another, trusting that God's peace will come.

Reader Two (as third candle is lit): But the third, the flame of love, points to God's infinite compassion—the promise of God-with-us, the one to fill our souls with the endless life-giving waters of love.

SUNG RESPONSE

When God Is a Child

verse 4

When God Is a Child

Refrain
 $\frac{6}{8}$ C $\frac{G7}{C}$ C Em7 Am G

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the

a tempo

C Am7 D7 G $\frac{C}{E}$ Am Dm7 G7

weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -

1-3 C 4 C Am E

fraid. 1 Hope is a star that
 2 Peace is a rib - bon that
 3 Joy is a song that
 4 Love is a flame that

1-3 4

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936-)
 MUSIC: John Carter (1930-)
 Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
 Music © 1998 Hope Publishing Company

GATES
 Irregular

Am $\frac{G7}{B}$ C C#dim7 $\frac{G}{D}$ Em Am D7 G *to Refrain*

shines in the night, lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright. When
 cir - cles the earth, giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth. When
 wel - comes the dawn, tell - ing the world that the Sav - ior is born. When
 burns in our heart, Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part. When

rit.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Children Leading Worship! **Birth Candle-** welcomes Lettie Annmarie Borkowski! Lettie was born Friday, December 3, 2021 to Philip and Kelli Borkowski. Her grandparents are Jill and Joe Borkowski and great grandparents are Joyce and John Gilberg. Welcome Lettie!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for John Tostrick, Julia Paul, Susan (Topp) Wicker, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Jan Dammeyer, Scott Kuenning, Shannon Shupp and Dee Schroer.

Please keep the family of Don Howell in your prayers. Don passed away Tuesday, December 7, 2021. Services to celebrate his life will be held Saturday, December 11, 2021, 11:00am at St Paul.

PASTORAL PRAYER. SILENT PRAYER. THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Leader: Let us pray. God of love, today we pray for our church, our families, our community, our nation and our world. SILENCE

Leader: Your ways are indeed not our ways, O God, and yet we so often prefer our own. Your epic vision of a radical deliverance for all is sometimes more than we can understand, and perhaps more than we are willing to accept. Turn our hearts to you again, and give us your own eyes to see the world which you have made. Loving God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: As the rain and snow come down from heaven, so shall your word be unleashed throughout the earth, to accomplish all that you envision. May we neither avoid nor stand in the way of your powerful purposes, but rather be your agents of change and mouthpieces of proclamation on behalf of your gospel. Loving God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: The water that you give can quench thirst for eternity. Give us this life-giving refreshment when we thirst for healing, wholeness and restoration. Offer your cup of living water to all who have particular needs. We pray for healing for all who are sick and hurting. Loving God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: O God, you are all-powerful and yet you incline your ear to our smallest concerns. You are our compassionate God and we thank you that you love us today and always. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER. (sung to the tune of *Away in a Manger*)

Creator in heaven, all praise to your name!

Your kingdom among us, your will done the same.

By mortals and angels, come, Lord, reign alone!

O hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for, provide it each day

As we forgive others, our sins take away.

In times of temptation, to lead us be near.

From evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign;

And yours is the glory, all things you maintain

To you be the glory, resounding again

From all of creation, forever! Amen!

ADVENT OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 53:1-13

(NRSV)

Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

*² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?*

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

*⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.*

*⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,*

*because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.*

*⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;*

*⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

*⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.*

*⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

*¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,*

*¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.*

*¹² For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

*¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.*

ADVENT NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: John 4:13-14 (The Message)


Jesus said, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life."

Piano/Organ

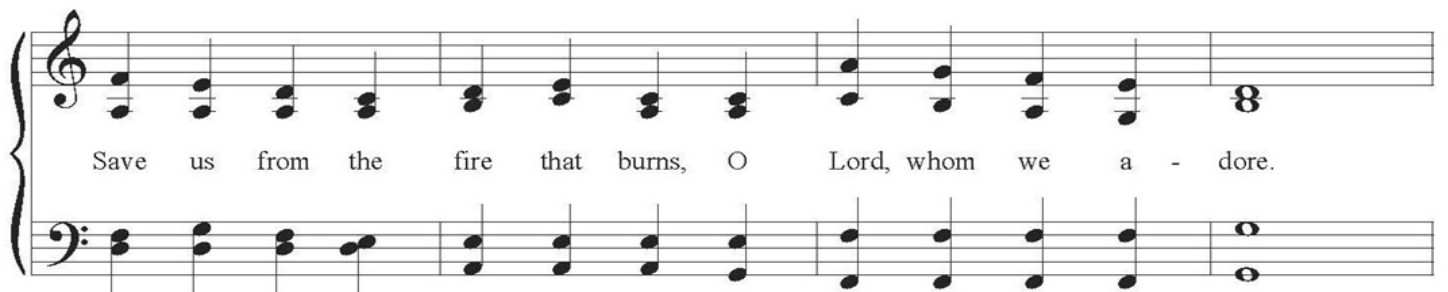
Grace, Flow From Above

♩ = 100

November 28 through December 19, 2021

Word and Music by
J. L. Salt(er)



Grace, flow from a - bove. Show your ho - ly love.



Save us from the fire that burns, O Lord, whom we a - dore.



Bring life to our bones. Make us all your own.

introduction


Let us drink your grace and truth so we may thirst no more.



11/28 My plans for you are not to cause you pain.
12/5 Your ho - ly words could make the dead bones live!
12/12 We seek you, Lord. Speak words to teach your ways.
12/19 In - to the dark, there came a ho - ly light!

I'll hear your call. I'll bring you home a - gain!"
 Your spir - it comes and Lord, new life you give.
 Help us to walk with you for all our days.
 Word be - came flesh in glo - ry and in might!

Grace, flow from a - bove. Show your ho - ly love.

CHRISTMAS STORY

WORDS FOR CHRISTMAS: THE INNKEEPER

Mary and Joseph, a pitiful sight.

So dirty and tired, they gave me a fright.

Sickly or dying, What was the matter?

“A room in the inn?” Impossible chatter!

“My rooms are all taken; not one empty bed.

There'll not be a room in all Bethlehem,” I said.

But their eyes told a story of hunger and need.

I couldn't avoid them, so I tried a good deed.

I cleaned up the stable; Rachel cooked a meal.

We helped all we could, at least, that's how I feel.

For we noticed that Mary was expecting—and soon!

So we prepared for delivery right under the moon.

The child came so quickly. His face seemed a light.

As if God had shone God's presence so bright.

Joseph said, softly, It's Jesus, my friend.”

God sent him among us to bring an end

To fear and hatred, darkness and sin.

Instead God gave light to let God's love in.

Unison (or Duet)

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
 2 The cat - tle are low-ing, the Ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay close by me for -

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the sky looked
 Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look
 ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 down from the sky and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en, to live with thee there.

WORDS: Anonymous, 1885; vs. 3 John Thomas McFarland (1851-1913)
 MUSIC: James R. Murray (1841-1905)

AWAY IN A MANGER
 11.11.11.11.

WORDS FOR CHRISTMAS: THE ANGELS

We don't often see angels in flight
 But on the first Christmas, they lit up the night.
 They appeared to the shepherds and boy, were they scared!
 "Angels!" cried one. "Will any lives be spared?"
 But "Peace on earth; goodwill to all"
 Was the angel's sweet song; that was their call.
 With a light show that dazzled all who did see,
 The angels hallelujahed and sang out with glee.

“To Bethlehem, shepherds!” the angels directed
 “To see Jesus the Christ, who God has perfected.”
 “Go worship the Lord and follow his ways.
 And you’ll find Christmas joy all of your days.”

CHRISTMAS CAROL *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* verses 1 & 2

CHRISTMAS

185 *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

F $\frac{E}{C}$ C $\frac{E}{A}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ C $\frac{E}{A}$ Am Bb2 $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ $\frac{E}{C}$ C F

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born King:
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous-ness!

F $\frac{E}{C}$ C Dm $\frac{E}{C}$ $\frac{G9}{B}$ $\frac{G7}{B}$ Am $\frac{G}{B}$ C $\frac{C}{E}$ Fmaj7 G7 C

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of the Vir - gin’s womb:
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

N.C. $\frac{E}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ C N.C. $\frac{E}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ C

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th’in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Bb Bbmaj9 $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ D7 Gm $\frac{C}{Bb}$ $\frac{E}{A}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ C F

with th’an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!”
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

WORDS: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.
 MUSIC: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

MENDELSSOHN
 7.7.7.7.D.

Bb Bbmaj9 $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ D Gm $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{C}{Bb}$ $\frac{E}{A}$ F $\frac{E}{C}$ C7 F

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new-born King.”

WORDS FOR CHRISTMAS: SHEPHERDS

The shepherds, I told you, were scared and stunned.

“To much hard work or too much hot sun!”

That’s what they thought; that’s how they explained.

Perplexed and afraid, they loudly complained.

But the angels’ song calmed them, and then they believed.

They rejoiced when they knew and they were quite relieved.

They went to the stable and worshiped the Lord.

Then they left and began to spread the good Word.

CHRISTMAS CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High* verses 1 & 2

CHRISTMAS

188 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

F Am Gm7 C7 F C F E/A E/C C7 F

1 An - gels we have heard on high sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem, and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

F Am Dm7 C7/E F C F E/A E/C C7 F

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say, what may the ti - dings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain
F Dm Gm7 C Fmaj7 Bb C/E C

Glo - - - - - ri - a

E/A C F Bb E/C C F Dm Gm7 C

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - -

Fmaj7 Bb C/E C F/A C F Bb F/C C7 F
 ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

WORDS FOR CHRISTMAS: MAGI

The star that shown brightly led Wise Ones at night
 To Bethlehem's stable, to the manger's strange light.
 They came bearing gifts, in worship and love,
 Praising God for God's wonders from heaven above.
 The Wise Men were kings and they knelt on the straw.
 It was the oddest of things that I ever saw.
 If kings bring him treasure,
 Then maybe you, too can worship with pleasure
 The person of Jesus who came to us all.
 So worthy of praise, for he brings us God's call.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

We Three Kings

We Three Kings of Orient Are 233

Em B7 Em B7 Em

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far,
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom:
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

Em D G $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D7}{A}$ G $\frac{Am}{C}$ Am $\frac{Em}{B}$ B7 Em

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

D D7 G Em C G Em C G

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

Em D G C G Dsus $\frac{Bm}{D}$ G Em C G

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

WORDS FOR CHRISTMAS

T'was the very first Christmas and there in the manger,
The Christ-child was born; it couldn't have been stranger.
Shepherds saw angels; Wise Ones a star.
They came to see Jesus; they came from afar.
They knew he was special—God's very own son,
He came to the earth to love everyone.
He grew up in time, the Savior, the Lord
To be worshiped each day, to be loved and adored.
So now at Christmas we all take delight.
In the gift that God gave us that first Christmas night.
In the gifts we receive and the ones that we give,
Let us never forget, it's in Christ that we live.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: Let us give as we are able: joyfully and generously!

OFFERING CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter

The image shows a musical score for the carol 'In the Bleak Midwinter'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'What can I offer 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 can I offer: all of my heart.' Above the vocal lines, various guitar chords are indicated, such as F, E/A, Dsus, Dm, Gm/Bb, Dm/A, Gm7, C7, Bb/D, F, Bb/D, E7/C, Bb, Dm, E/A, Am, Gm/Bb, Bbmaj7, C, F, E/A, Dsus, Dm, Gm/Bb, C7, and F.

WORDS: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
MUSIC: Gustav T. Holar (1874-1934)

CRANHAM
Irregular

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

You have given us all that we need for this life, O God, and so much more! You provide for our needs and bless us beyond

measure. May our gifts we offer here be a sign of the gratitude that overflows in us as your beloved children. Use these as a word of hope for all who turn to you for help. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

ADVENT CAROL

What Child Is This?

CHRISTMAS

What Child Is This

184

Em D F# G D Em Am C B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come peas-ant, king, to own him;

Em D F# G D Em Am B B7 Esus Em

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris-tian, fear: for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

Refrain
 Bm G D Em Am C B

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
 Raise, raise the song on high, the Vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Bm G D Em Am B B7 Esus Em

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!

BENEDICTION: May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of Jesus' birth fill you with joy, sending you out to share his love with others. Amen.

ADVENT RESPONSE

CHRISTMAS

188 Angels We Have Heard on High

Refrain

F Dm Gm7 C Fmaj7 Bb $\frac{C}{E}$ C

Glo - - - - ri - a

$\frac{F}{A}$ C F Bb $\frac{E}{C}$ C F Dm Gm7 C

in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - -

Fmaj7 Bb $\frac{C}{E}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ C F Bb $\frac{E}{C}$ C7 F

- - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

WORDS and MUSIC: French carol, 18th c.

GLORIA
7.7.7.7.Ref.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you!

People: And also with you!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Rhonda Broerman by Gin and John Voress.

Attendance- Daily Devotions-50, November 28-Sunday Worship Online-245, In Person-103, Sunday School-In Person-16, Teachers-7, Splash & Jr/Sr High Youth Group-23, Confirmation-6, Leaders-7.

Sundays in December-Worship will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am. **Sunday School** will be in person at 9:00am.

Daily Devotions-Please join us, Monday-Thursday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page: St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

Open Table
Free Community Meal

When: December 20, 2021

Who: Everyone

Where: St. Paul Assembly Room

Serving: 4:00pm-6:00pm

Menu: Ham, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans,
Side Salad, Dinner Roll, Yummy Desserts

Carry-outs Available, Free Chair Massages

Prepared and Served by: The Women's Group of Holy Redeemer

Blue Christmas Service-The Advent and Christmas seasons are often very difficult for folk who are mourning the loss of loved ones. To acknowledge these losses and our grief, St. Paul UCC, St. Peter's Church and Gilberg & Hartwig Funeral Home are hosting a Blue Christmas Worship Service on Tuesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Church. The Blue Christmas service will include scripture readings, music, a message and the opportunity for you to light candles in memory of loved ones. Each year, this service has provided comfort and hope for people in our community and beyond. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve at St. Paul Church-Christmas Eve Open House 5:00-7:00 p.m. Open House will include Christmas music, Christmas scriptures and quiet communion. You are invited to come and stay for as long as you'd like or as short as you need. All are welcome.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service. 11:00 p.m. Christmas carols, scripture, message, lighting of candles, dedication of the Light, Sacrament of Holy Communion. All are welcome.

2022 Altar Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like. You may also call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you. Price is \$30.00.

2022 Council Positions-2022 will be here before we know it and we are looking to fill several council positions. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of the following: **Jr. Deacon**. Questions or willing to serve, please contact Roland Dicke or Myra Hanenkratt. Thank you!

Blessing Pantry-is accessible during these hours - **Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm**. The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome – Blessing Pantry Needs- Diapers (size 2, 4) Baby Wipes, Diaper Cream, Baby Lotion, Chap Stick, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Q-Tips, Kleenex, Paper Plates, Garbage Bags, Food Storage Bags, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, and Napkins. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

Bulletin Availability-weekly bulletins are available for download on our website stpaulnb.org. Just click the yellow **BULLETINS** box in the upper right hand corner.

January/February Upper Rooms-are available at the East entrance to the education building and on the round tables in the sanctuary. Or please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

Mailbox-There is a mailbox outside of the East Educational Building door for any correspondence you may have for the church and would like to drop off. Please lift the flap and drop through the slot on the top. Thank you!

E-Giving @ St. Paul

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048

How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))

- For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
 - For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 space pantry (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

Once a text amount is sent:

Registration Link- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.
Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

Donation Confirm- Sent via text each time a donation is made.

Calendar-Week of December 12, 2021

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School in person
	10:15am	Worship in person & via Facebook Live
		Children's Christmas Program
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop-New Bremen
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	7:00pm	Church Council
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:30pm-6:30pm	Splash (4 th /5 th grade)
		Christmas Party
	6:30pm	Confirmation Class Dinner
	7:00pm-8:30pm	Confirmation w/Mentors
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Afternoon	Office Closed



“God is still speaking . . . to me!”

Every year, the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance receives dozens of letters, cards, emails, and phone calls saying “thank you” for much-needed financial assistance funded by your gifts to the Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross.

Donations of any amount to the Christmas Fund truly do bring “great joy” to so many people, year after year. The assistance and connection provided by your gifts lets these servants of the church know that they are not forgotten. Here are excerpts from just a few of the notes of appreciation we have received:

From a retired pastor in Chicago . . .

I do not have words adequate to express my appreciation for the Christmas gift from the Christmas Fund. My prayer is that those who contributed to make this gift possible experience God’s manifold blessings.

From a retired pastor who received assistance to purchase hearing aids . . .

Thank you for the gift from the church. I had no idea such help was available, especially to that extent. It gladdens my heart to know the church still cares. Sometimes, we don’t always get that affirmation while in the midst of doing ministry. But, God is still speaking . . . to me. Thank you so much!

From a pastor’s spouse in North Carolina . . .

My husband and I thank you so very much for the ministerial assistance that was provided for us. It was so helpful and took a lot of stress from us, so we could concentrate on my husband’s medical care and treatments. We never thought we would need ministerial assistance, but believe me, we are thankful for our national church and all those who give.

In 2020, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 276 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,180,187)
- Health benefits supplementation for 89 retired clergy and lay employees (\$274,008)
- Emergency grants for 96 individuals and families (\$214,649)
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 504 retired clergy and lay employees (\$252,000)

The Christmas Fund

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund