November 14, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of the Risen Christ!

Yesterday in worship, we announced Pastor Becky's upcoming retirement. Her letter is included in today's packet.

Also in today's packet you will find a proposed constitutional change. Church Council would like to make the vice-president and president positions at St. Paul Church one year each. We have discovered that the current model of a four-year commitment is too long.

The congregation's annual meeting is set for Sunday, December 4 at the end of worship. At that time, we will vote on the constitutional change. We will also vote on the 2023 budget which will be included in next week's packet.

Pastor Becky has been seeking Advent candle lighting volunteers. The roster is now filled—except for Saturday, December 3. If you are available to light the Advent candles that Saturday, please contact Pastor Becky.

The New Bremen/New Knoxville Rotary Club is hosting a Community Thanksgiving Meal at St. Paul Church on Monday, November 21 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Meals will be available for dine-in and carry-out. The meal is free of charge and open to everyone.

You may have noticed that Daily Devotions have offered less frequently. We are seeking volunteers to take one week at a time to film/record devotions. Please see Pastor Becky for more information.

As a gentle reminder, our primary tasks as Christians is to love God and love our neighbors. This includes keeping one another safe and healthy. If you have tested positive for Covid19, we kindly ask you to stay home until your five-day waiting period is over and you are symptom free, as prescribed by the CDC. Thank you for your attention to this detail.

May you experience the joy of Christ!

Blessings,

Roland Dector Myra Haninkatt

Roland Dicke Council President Council VP

Myra Hanenkratt

#### Financial Information as of November 14, 2022

**Operating Fund** Beg. Balance \$0.00 Giving Income \$2,656.00(weekly) Endowment Trans \$20,480.00(ytd) Expenses \$23,815.71(ytd) Income \$272,170.08(ytd) Expenses \$279,395.61(ytd) Balance (\$7,225,53)(vtd) **Building Maint & Property** Beg. Balance \$36,648.59 Income \$47,520.50(vtd) Endowment Inc. (\$6,541.32)(ytd) Expenses \$26,149.31(vtd) Balance \$51,478.46(ytd) **Project of the Year** Income \$15,445.00 Expenses \$14,107.53 Balance \$1,337.47

Local Aid Beg. Balance \$12,218.82 Income \$20,694.20(ytd) Balance \$9,097.31(ytd) **Blessing Pantry** Beg. Balance \$29,161.12 Income \$13,019.00(ytd) Expenses \$14,157.70(ytd) Balance \$28,022.42(vtd) **Our Church Wider Mission** Pledge \$25,000.00 Income \$169.50 (weekly) Income \$20,950.00(ytd)





#### November 20, 2022, Reign of Christ: Swords Into Plowshares Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; then 2:1-4

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 wisdom, the prophet Isaiah foretold the time of peace, when weapons would be turned into tools for farming. Give us hope that peace is possible in our war-torn world, and the courage to work for it. Amen.



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

In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." (Isaiah 2:2-3a)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

King Hezekiah was terrified when the Assyrian army was at the doorstep of Jerusalem. Do not fear, said Isaiah. God would be with God's people.

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**Connect:** Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- How do you suppose God decides how to arbitrate when communities are at odds with each other?
- When have you trusted in God at a time when trusting took great courage? How did it turn out?
- For the littles: Would you rather climb a tall mountain or swim in a deep ocean? Why?

**Bless:** Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God rejoice with you on the mountaintop. Amen.



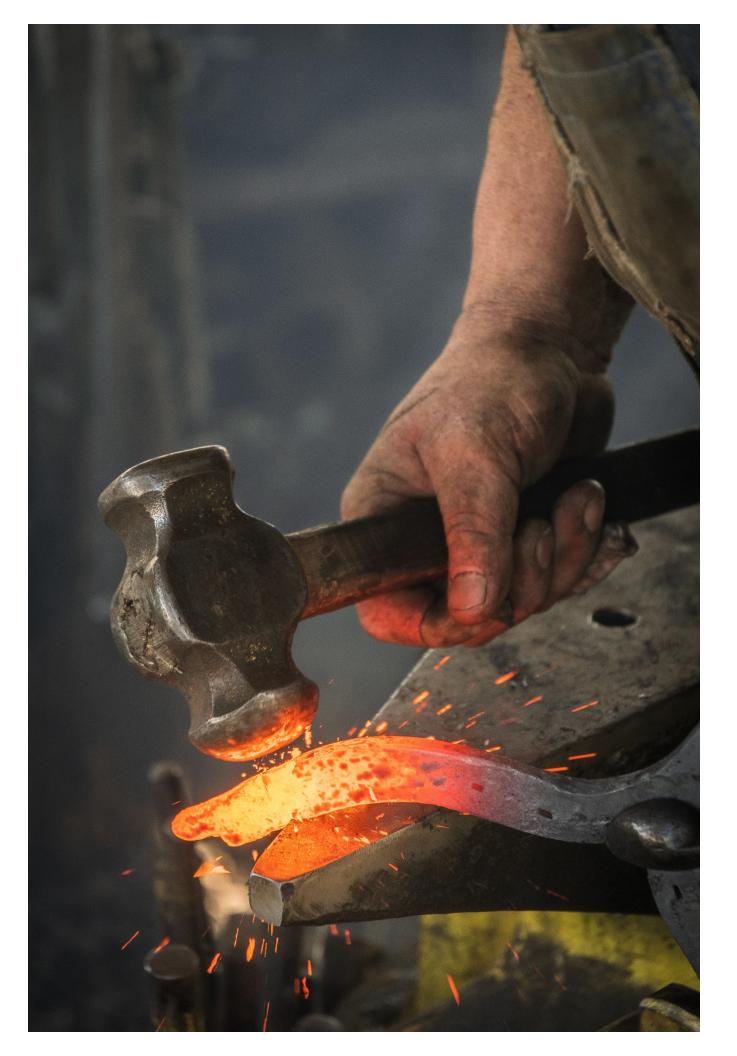
**Do:** By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Keep a prayer journal. Record your prayers and how God answers them.



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

Monday, Isaiah 36:4-12, Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem Tuesday, Isaiah 37:8-13, Hezekiah Consults Isaiah Wednesday, Isaiah 37:14-29, Hezekiah's Prayer Thursday, Isaiah 37:30-38, Sennacherib's Defeat and Death Friday, Isaiah 38:1-22, Hezekiah's Illness Saturday, Isaiah 39:1-8, Envoys from Babylon Welcomed



### St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street New Bremen, Ohio 45869 Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207) Email <u>stpaulnb@nktelco.net</u> or <u>stpaulnb@gmail.com</u> Visit our website at <u>https://stpaulnb.org</u> Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook Rev. Becky Erb 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, your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior. May every blessing be yours.

#### November 20, 2022 Reign of Christ Sunday

#### **Worship Leaders**

Ministers Rev. Becky Erb Strang Josie Bornhorst Gavin Dicke Gracie Henry Jayden Felver Mimi Messick Arianne Henry Tracy Oldiges Jim Strang The Congregation Senior Pastor Worship Leader Worship Leader Worship Leader Worship Leader Worship Leader Accompanist/Organist Sr. Deacon Chancel Choir/Music Director

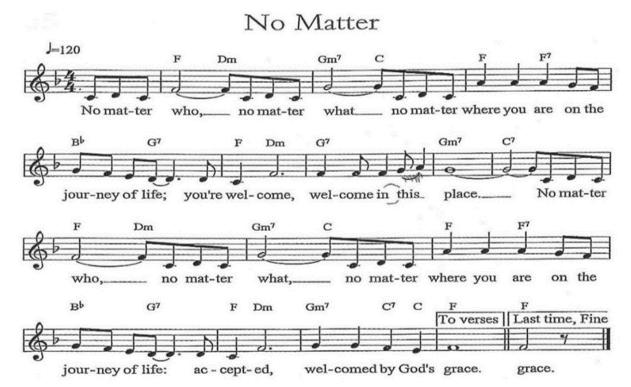
#### PRELUDE

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

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HARVEST: BLESSING PANTRY *I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. (Matthew 25:35)* The Blessing Pantry of St. Paul Church has been a community ministry for many years. Since the pandemic began, the Pantry has expanded and grown, reaching out to our hungry neighbors. Your generosity of dollars, items, and time transforms lives. Thank you!

WELCOME SONG



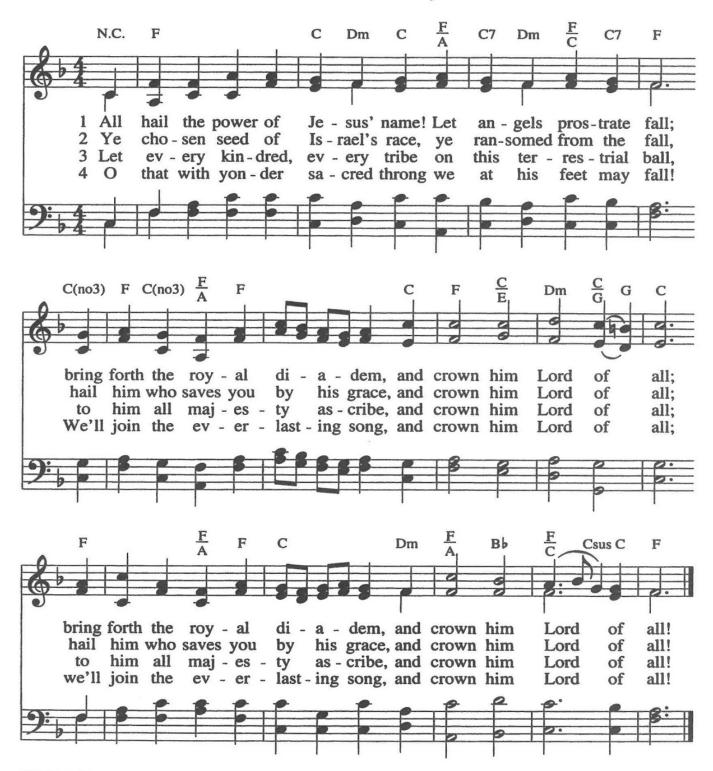
#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus reigns in heaven and on earth! **People: Jesus reigns in justice and peace!** Leader: Jesus calls us into the presence of God, **People: And teaches us God's wonderful ways.** Leader: Jesus guides us in the paths of God, **People: And brings forth justice in all the world.** Leader: We will lay down our weapons, **People: And turn them into life-giving tools.** Leader: We will no longer do violence to our neighbors,

#### People: But we will live in peace. Leader: Jesus reigns in heaven and on earth! People: Jesus reigns in justice and peace!

#### HYMN OF PRAISE All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name! 106



WORDS: Edward Perronet (1726-1792); adapt. John Rippon (1751-1836) MUSIC: Oliver Holden (1765-1844) CORONATION 8.6.8.6.8.6. CALL TO CONFESSION (Book of Worship United Church of Christ) Leader: Let us confess our sins before God and one another. UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN

Gracious God, you have promised to receive us when we come to you. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have disobeyed your law. We have not loved you or our neighbors as we should. Forgive us, O God, and grant that we may live and serve you with newness of life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: How we love to hang on to the past! We get all tied up remembering, keeping count, bearing grudges. God doesn't. Your past is accepted. Let it go. Live in the freedom God hands to you afresh each day.

#### People: Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI

734

Glory Be to the Father Glory Be to the Father



WORDS: Gloria Patri, 2nd c. MUSIC: Henry W. Greatorex (1813-1858) GREATOREX Irregular TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US

Today is Christ the King Sunday/Reign of Christ Sunday. It is the last day of our church calendar year. We shift today from the Pentecost/Ordinary season. Next Sunday is the beginning of the church/liturgical year—the first Sunday of Advent.

What is awesome about Christ the King Sunday is that Jesus is a different kind of King. He doesn't wear a royal robe and a golden crown. He doesn't hold a scepter in his hand. He doesn't ride a chariot. Our King Jesus wears a simple robe, a crown of thorns, and carries a shepherd's crook. King Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey.

Let's watch this video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=orzXw5gSQv0

On Christ the King Sunday, we look to Jesus. King Jesus—who reminds us that he came not to topple empires, but to bring God's kingdom on earth. Amen.

#### PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Preparing for the coming of Christ the King.

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Hannah Shellabarger, Monica Bushman, Betty Bushman, Terri Goodwin, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

#### PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Leader: Let us pray. God of Justice and Peace, we are certain of your mercy and grace. Today we pray for your church, the world, and all who are in need.

#### SILENT PRAYER

Leader: Faithful God, you provided your loyalty to the people of Judah by delivering them from Assyrian conquest. Remind us daily that you are the great deliverer, even when we are unable to recognize it. Merciful God,

#### People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Your faithfulness sustains all creation. Teach us to nurture your creation so that it can sustain life for generations to come. Merciful God,

#### People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Strengthen our leaders, that they might stand up to injustice and lead us forward in the way of peace. Merciful God,

#### People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Bringing healing to all who suffer ailments to body, mind, and spirit. Do for all who are sick what we cannot do for ourselves. Merciful God,

#### People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Help us to live in peace with our neighbors both near and far. Teach us to live with justice, mercy, and love. Merciful God,

#### People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We remember all your saints, O God, who proclaimed your action in their lives. May we join them in trusting you, until we see them in your kingdom which is to come. Merciful God,

#### People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: We lift all for whom we pray into your loving arms, in the name of our Savior and Friend, Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray when praying ...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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

#### CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM A Thanksgiving Prayer Price/Besig

#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON INTRODUCTION

Today's Narrative Lectionary reading is not one we have heard before. It is an obscure story with lots of difficult-to-pronounce names. With that in mind, I'm going to give an introduction to the story so that it might make more sense once you hear it in a few moments.

Some definitions/roles you need to know. I begin with Rabshakeh. This person, within the Assyrian royal court, was the chief cup-bearer to the King—the man whose royal duty to pour the King his drinks. In today's story, the Rabshakeh was also the spokesperson for the Assyrian King.

King Hezekiah was the King of Judah (the southern kingdom). Shebna was King Hezekiah's finance minister. Eliakim was the man who would ultimately replace Shebna as recorder at a later time. Joah was the royal recorder.

This is what was happening in today's scripture lesson: Assyria was on Jerusalem's doorstep. The mighty Assyrian nation had already torn through the countryside conquering lands despite the faith the people had in their gods. Now it was God's turn to be tested. When the Rabshakeh, the royal cup-bearer, called out Israel, pointing out the futility of trusting in God, Judah's King Hezekiah crumbled. It was one thing to trust God when Assyria was still far away. But now Assyria was here. It was time for God to show up.

King Hezekiah sent Eliakim and the recorder, Shebna, to the prophet Isaiah. The story tells us these men were covered in sackcloth (the clothing of repentance and despair). Isaiah once again had to reassure the king that God would remain faithful to them. God would become the God of all nations one day. One day. We would later learn that Assyria **would** conquer Jerusalem. We would also learn that God would become God of all nations. Maybe it took their defeat and then restoration for the word of God's power and reign to reach all the lands. God's people would one day once again use their weapons as tools for cultivating the land. Weapons of war would become tools for farmers.

Interestingly, when the Assyrian Rabshakeh threatened Jerusalem, he offered them a way out. If they surrendered (and even if they didn't), he promised them that they could remain on their land. Until the day they couldn't. Then they would be moved to another land, but one very much like their own land. Their lives would hardly change at all, promised the Rabshakeh.

Today we will read the scripture in a skit format. Your speaking part is that of the "people."

**Pronunciation Guide:** 

Hezekiah: heh-zeh-KAI-uh Sennacherib: she-NAK-her-ihb Assyria: a-SIHR-ee-uh Rabshakeh: RAB-shah-kuh Lachish: lah-KEESH Eliakim: ee-LAI-uh-kihm Hilkiah: hihl-KAI-uh Shebna: SHEEB-nah Joah: JOH-uh Asaph: AY-saf Hamath: HAY-mehth Arpad: AR-pahd Sepharvaim: SEF-ahr-vyhm Amoz: AY-muhz

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; then 2:1-4 Narrator: Gavin Dicke Rabshakeh: Gracie Henry King: Josie Bornhorst Eliakim: Mimi Messick Isaiah: Jayden Felver People: Congregation

**Narrator:** In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah, King Sennacherib of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them. The king of Assyria sent the Rabshakeh from Lachish to King Hezekiah at Jerusalem with a great army. He stood by the conduit of the upper pool on the highway to the Fuller's Field. And there came out to him Eliakim son of Hilkiah, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and Joah son of Asaph, the recorder. Then Rabshakeh stood and called out in a loud voice in the language of Judah,

**Rabshakeh:** Hear the words of the great king, the king of Assyria! Thus says the king:

**King:** Do not let Hezekiah deceive you, for he will not be able to deliver you. Do not let Hezekiah make you rely on the Lord by saying, The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria.

**Rabshakeh:** Do not listen to Hezekiah; for thus says the king of Assyria:

**King:** Make your peace with me and come out to me; then everyone of you will eat from your own vine and your own fig tree and drink water from your own cistern, until I come and take you away to a land like your own land, a land of grain and wine, a land of bread and vineyards. Do not let Hezekiah mislead you by saying, The Lord will save us. Has any of the gods of the nations saved their land out of the hand of the King of Assyria? Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have them delivered Samaria out of my hand? Who among all the gods of these countries have saved their countries out of my hand, that the Lord should save Jerusalem out of my hand?

**Narrator:** When King Hezekiah heard it, he tore his clothes, covered himself with sackcloth, and went into the house of the Lord. And he sent Eliakim, who was in charge of the palace, and Shebna the secretary, and the senior priests, covered with sackcloth, to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz. They said to him:

**Eliakim:** Thus says Hezekiah, This is a day of distress, of rebuke, and of disgrace; children have come to the birth, and there is no strength to bring them forth. It may be that the Lord your God heard the words of Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to mock the living God, and will rebuke the words that the Lord your God has heard; therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.

**Narrator:** When the servants of King Hezekiah came to Isaiah, Isaiah said to them,

**Isaiah:** Say to your master, "Thus says the Lord: Do not be afraid because of the words that you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled me. I myself will put a spirit in him, so that he shall hear a rumor, and return to his own land; I will cause him to fall by the sword in his own land."

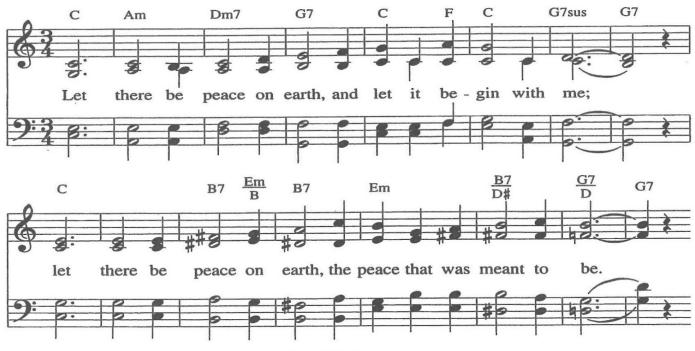
**Narrator:** the word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say,

# People: Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.

**Narrator:** For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples. They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war no more.

SUNG RESPONSE Let There Be Peace on Earth

614 Let There Be Peace on Earth



WORDS: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995), alt. MUSIC: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995); harm. Charles H. Webb (1933-) Words and Music © 1955, Ren. 1983 Jan-Lee Music



SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

On Christ the King Sunday, we have the story of two kings: Sennacherib, the king of Assyria and King Hezekiah, the 13<sup>th</sup> king of Judah (the southern kingdom) over seven centuries before Jesus was born.

While today's Old Testament reading does not put King Hezekiah in a good light—we hear/read that he was shaking in his royal shoes as the Assyrian army banged upon the doors of Jerusalem. But, this you need to know about the King of Judah: Hezekiah's reign brought about needed religious reforms. He mandated that God—Yahweh—alone was to be worshiped and that no other gods were to be present in Jerusalem's Temple. In other words, during Hezekiah's reign, the king demonstrated to the Jewish people that they belong to God and to God alone.

Today's scripture lesson is a reminder that, even when things seem grim, God is ultimately in charge. God alone is worthy to be worshipped. On Christ the King Sunday, this is the bottom line. We worship NOT human kings, presidents, politicians, nor any other human in positions of power and authority. Human kingdoms are finite. God as King is eternal.

Taken at face value, we say we believe this to be true. From our earliest Sunday School lessons, we were taught that God is in charge: **not** those who wrap themselves in the trimmings and trappings of power. And yet. And yet, when the going gets difficult for us (as individuals, as a community, a nation, a world), we sometimes lose sight of God's reign on earth. When we find ourselves walking on shaky ground, we tend to question God's loving presence and promise.

Today's story echoes this. When the Assyrian army stormed in to invade Jerusalem, devout King Hezekiah was overcome with fear. For some period of time (we don't know how long), the king who cemented the worship of God and God alone in the Temple, doubted God's ability to rescue his people.

We, too, at times have been like Hezekiah. When life is good, when the sun is shining and God's melodies echo in our hearts, our faith stays on track. Even when times are tough, we ground ourselves in God's unfailing love.

Until the enemy attacks—threatening to tear down all we have built in our lives. By "enemy" I mean that which tries to knock us off our feet: disease, death, finances, politics, divorce, broken relationships, addictions. When all is well in our world, it is much easier to worship God, thanking him for his blessings/presence in our lives.

But life **does** knock us down every once in a while. These knockdowns are not God's work—they are part of the human condition. It is how we respond to life's wobbles and woes that makes all the difference.

King Hezekiah, when his world was shaken, wobbled, and grew fearful. For an undetermined amount of time, he forgot that God is forever and always ultimately in charge. If we were to look just a bit further in Isaiah, we would read that King Hezekiah became sick and was dying. He cried out to God and his life was restored. What's more, through the prophet Isaiah, God promised to send the Assyrian army packing.

In gratitude and joy, King Hezekiah sang a song to God (see Isaiah 38:9-20). The last two verses are the now-healthy king singing, *The living, the living, they thank you, as I do this day; fathers make known to children your faithfulness. The Lord will save me, and we will sing to stringed instruments all the days of our lives at the house of the Lord.* 

Perhaps that needs to be the message for Reign of Christ/Christ the King Sunday. No matter our life circumstances, we can sing praises and offer thanksgiving to God.

Kings come and go. Politicians rise and fall. Kingdoms are finite, but God, the God of love, the Lord of the Universe, is worthy of our thanksgiving and praise. He is worthy of our worship. God sees human history from the viewpoint of eternity: there will be bumps and bruises, but in the end, even the weapons of war will be turned into instruments to raise food to feed the nations.

Reign of Christ/Christ the King Sunday is the last Sunday of the church liturgical year. We start a new year next Sunday—with the beginning of Advent. Reign of Christ Sunday reminds us that God chooses to come to us as a tiny Babe. God chooses to be vulnerable. God chooses to become human. I don't know about you, but THAT alone is why God is worthy of my worship and praise.

Our scripture lesson today ends by going backwards—jumping from Isaiah 36 and 37 back to Isaiah 2 and the language of swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks. Today's reading ends with verse 4. But, I want you to hear the very next verse, verse 5, which leads us directly into Advent: O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

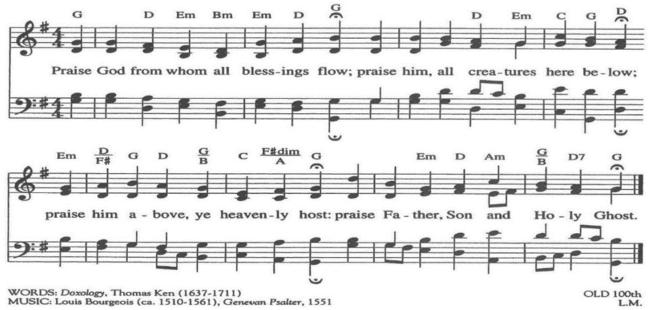
Friends, as one season ends and another begins, let us walk in the light of the Lord! Amen!

WE RESPOND WITH GIFTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: Let us give as we are able: generously and joyfully! Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34



PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

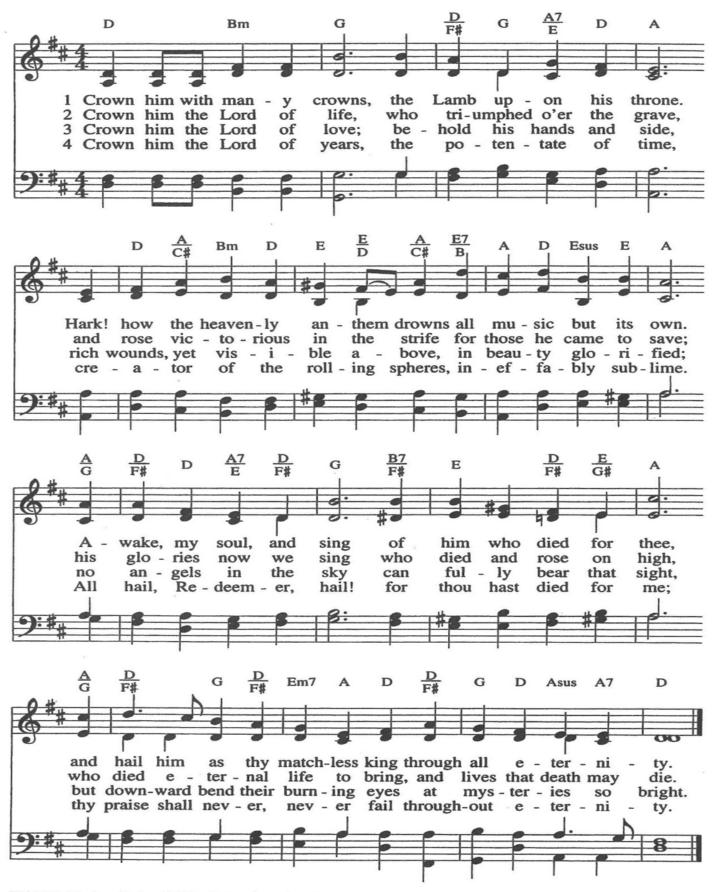
God of peace, you call us to be the light of the world. We offer these gifts that, with them, you might shine the light of hope on all who are in need. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Crown Him with Many Crowns

#### ASCENSION

317 Crown Him with Many Crowns



WORDS: Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) and Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) MUSIC: George J. Elvey (1816-1893) DIADEMATA S.M.D. BENEDICTION (adapted from <u>Liturgies Alive, Models of Celebration</u> by Camilo J. Marivoet): It is not enough to proclaim Jesus Christ as our Lord and King. Our mission in life is to make his kingdom a reality among us and to bring it to those around us by our words and deeds. The way to do this is to live as he lived: for others, in love and service. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and to give shape to his kingdom. Amen!



#### PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST Leader: The peace of Christ be with you. **People: And also with you.**

#### POSTLUDE

"No Matter" Words and music by Roger P. Miller ©2007 All rights reserved. "Pass the Love" Words and Music by Doris Ketner Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved. This arrangement by Rodney Milton, Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved. Used by Permission. CCLI License #3095528

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are in honor of Bill Blumhorst's 65<sup>th</sup> birthday by Katie Blumhorst and Daniel Sok.

**Participants-**November 5-19, November 6-Sunday School-22, Teachers-6, Worship Online-162, In Person-110, November 9, Splash-2, Youth Group-16, Confirmation-3, Leaders-6.

**Sundays in November-Worship** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am.

**St. Paul Church Nursery-**is fully staffed during the entire Sunday worship service. Please spread the word to let young parents know this is available. If you would like to volunteer in the nursery, please contact Justine Homan, Nursery Champion.

**Daily Devotions-**Please join us, Monday-Thursday, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page: St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH. They will be saved to our Facebook page.

**2023 Offering Envelopes-**are available in the Southwest corner of the sanctuary in front of the pews. Only members who are currently using their offering envelopes and/or who have indicated they wish to continue to have an offering box have been assigned an offering envelope box for 2023. All other members who are giving online or giving without using envelopes have been assigned a "Giving" number that is not linked to an envelope box. If you do not receive an "Envelope Box" but wish to, please contact the church office 419-629-2502, stpaulnb@nktelco.net or Janet Eilerman. A box number will be assigned and you may pick up your envelopes in the church office. Thank you, Janet Eilerman Financial Secretary.

**Reminder**-Wednesday, November 23 we will not be having any youth programming and Sunday, November 27 we will not have Sunday School. Enjoy your Thanksgiving Holiday.

Free Thanksgiving Community Meal by New Bremen New Knoxville Rotary-at St. Paul, Monday, November 21, 2022. Dine in or carryout meals will be available from 4:00pm-6:00pm in the Assembly room. Menu is tentatively Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Stuffing, Vegetable, Roll and Cookies. All are welcome!

Advent Candle Lighting-Would your family or group of friends like to light Advent candles this season? We need volunteers for:

Saturday, December 3 Please contact Rev. Becky to volunteer.

**Congregational Meeting** will take place Sunday, December 4 at the end of worship. Agenda items include approval of incoming 2023 council members, 2023 Operating Budget and the following constitutional changes under Article V. Administration:

6. Council members and officers shall be elected **approved** at the Congregational Meeting held in December and installed on the first Sunday in January.

7. The terms of the offices shall be three years for the Trustees. and two years for all the others. Two years for Recording Secretary and Treasurer. Elders and Deacons-one year as junior and one year as senior. Vice President (one year and) will assume the duties of President for the second year of their term. Elections shall be held each year in order to fill vacancies.

**December Book Club-**will meet Sunday, December 4, after worship. We will be reading *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom. Pick up your copy on the table outside the offices. Hope to see you there. If you do not feel comfortable meeting in person, we will also be on Zoom. To join Zoom Meeting follow this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84261145734?pwd=Q1UyYTdUNUN2VHhYY TdJVEpmY05TQT09 Meeting ID: 842 6114 5734 Passcode: 877965 **2023 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-Thursday to sign up. 2023 altar flower price will increase to \$40.00. Thank you.

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.

Want to be part of the Prayer Chain? Please contact Prayer Chain Champion, Jeff Paul. The St. Paul Prayer Chain has two formats: texting and email. All are welcome.

#### **NOVEMBER MONTHLY MISSION:** Camp Washington

Our November mission once again is Christmas gifts for the children of Washington UCC and surrounding families in Cincinnati. Our donations will go towards their program called "Gifts to the Manger" in which parents come to the church to pick out clothes and toys so they can give their children gifts at Christmas. This program will provide gifts to approximately 350 children of the neighborhoods surrounding Washington UCC.

There is a Christmas tree in the Narthex of the sanctuary with ornaments. Each ornament will have gift ideas for a specific age of boy or girl. We ask that you shop for that child and bring your gifts back to church unwrapped and place them under the tree by Sunday, December 4th. No violent toys or games, please. We are also accepting monetary donations as well which will also go to the "Gifts to the Manger" event. Last year we gave over \$1,000 along with all the gifts to the children. The gifts and money will then be delivered to Washington UCC for their scheduled "Gifts to the Manger" event. Thank you for your generous gifts to this mission!

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-Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towels, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent, Softener Sheets, Body Wash, Toothpaste, Razors, Shaving Cream, Diapers (sizes 5 & 6), Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo, Q-Tips, Vaseline, Garbage Bags. We can always use Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Bleach, All Purpose Cleaner, Disinfectants, Pull Ups. Thank you! There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

**November/December 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.

Calendar-Week of November 20, 2022		
Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School
	9:30am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	10:15am Worshij	o-In Person & via Facebook Live
11:30am-1:30pm Family Fun Day-Speedway Lanes		
Monday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop @ NB Coffee
	4:00pm-6:00pm	Free Community Meal by
	New Bremen New Knoxville Rotary	
Tuesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	7:00pm	Council Meeting
Wednesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:00pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	All Day	Office Closed
Friday	All Day	Office Closed

#### 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

afi	It is time to place your orders for the poinsettia plants that grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season. The poinsettias are 8-inch wrapped in foil with a drip pan. We are offering the choice of Red or White and the cost per plant will be \$15.00. The plants may be picked up er the 10:15am Christmas Day worship service.	
	( <u>Please</u> be sure to pick up the color you ordered so that everyone will be able to enjoy the color of	
I.	the plant that each chose.)	
	Poinsettia color choice and quantity:	
Red	Qty White Qty	
In memory/honor of		
A gift for_		
Ву		
I wish to contribute	\$to the Christmas Decorating Fund.	

Please place payment along with the order form in the offering plate or drop off in the church office. Checks should be payable to St. Paul UCC. **Please have poinsettia order in by December 10.** 

Every year at this time we also ask for and accept donations to the Decorating Fund. This money will be used toward decorations for the Church and Educational Building.

Please include payment with this order form.

Thank you for helping make our sanctuary even more beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

## Let's "STRIKE" up some fun!

Sunday, November 20, 2022 THERE'S NO TIME TO "SPARE" WE ARE GOING BOWLING AND WANT YOU THERE!

11:30 AM-1:30 PM All ages welcome for pizza & fellowship after worship! Sponsored and compliments of St. Paul UCC

New Bremen Speedway Lanes 455 N. Herman Street New Bremen RSVP: 419-629-2502









You and those you love are invited for special music and an inspiring message from our blessed children.

MUSIC | LAUGHTER | CHILDREN