

November 21, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

As we enter the Advent season, we greet you in the name of God who comes to us as a Tiny Babe.

Advent worship begins this Sunday, November 27. As we prepare for the birth of Christ, we will sing songs from *The Muppets Christmas Carol* musical. Worship is offered online, in-person, and via these weekly packets.

Our congregation’s annual meeting is set for Sunday, December 4 at the end of the worship service. You will find in today’s packet a proposed constitutional change as well as the proposed budget for St. Paul Church for 2023.

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 Becky.

You may have noticed that Daily Devotions have been 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 hope of the coming Christ!

Blessings,

Roland Dicke
Council President

Myra Hanenkratt
Council VP



Becky Erb Strang
Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of November 21, 2022

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$3,445.00(weekly)
Endowment Trans \$22,070.00(ytd)
Income \$277,565.08(ytd)
Expenses \$289,410.03(ytd)
Balance **(\$11,844.95)**(ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59
Income \$47,896.50(ytd)
Endowment Inc. **(\$6,541.32)**(ytd)
Expenses \$26,153.82(ytd)
Balance \$51,849.95(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 \$21,115.70(ytd)
Expenses \$24,565.71(ytd)
Balance \$8,768.81(ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12
Income \$13,753.00(ytd)
Expenses \$14,157.70(ytd)
Balance \$28,756.42(ytd)

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$231.50 (weekly)
Income \$21,181.50(ytd)

Birth Candle welcomed Cora Elizabeth Gabel. She is the daughter Dylan and Haley (Dicke) Gabel. Grandparents are Keith and Betsy Dicke, great grandfather is Roland Dicke.

Please remember the family of Jack Hansbrough in your prayers. Jack passed away Monday, November 14, 2022. Service to celebrate his life was held Friday, November 18, 2022. From 3:00pm-4:00pm. Sunday November 20, a reception to honor Jack’s life will be held here at St. Paul in the Assembly Room.

Please remember the family of Walter “Bob” McClure (Doris Bushman’s husband) in your prayers. Bob passed away Monday, October 31, 2022. Service to celebrate his life will be held Monday, December 5, 2022 at 11:00am at St. Paul with visitation the hour prior.



November 27, 2022, Advent I: Faith as a Way of Life
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19

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 grace and mercy, with Habakkuk we cry out to you in despair at the evil in the world. As we begin our waiting for your promised savior, give us hope that all will be made right in you. Amen.



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

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrong-doing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. (Habakkuk 1:2-3)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The prophet Habakkuk saw violence and destruction all around him. Yet he chose to rejoice in a God of strength, beauty, and love.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- In what ways is your community in exile? Where do you feel your community is isolated from God? Where do you feel it is close to God?
- When has your faith in God been tested? In what ways have your beliefs changed as you learn and grow?
- For the littles: What makes you sad? God is with us when we're sad.



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God lift you up on sad days. Amen.



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

Hold a prayer vigil for your community and those communities around you.



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

Monday, Habakkuk 1:5-11, *The Prophet's Complaint*
Tuesday, Habakkuk 1:12—2:1, *The Prophet's Complaint*
Wednesday, Habakkuk 2:5-14, *The Woes of the Wicked*
Thursday, Habakkuk 2:15-20, *The Woes of the Wicked*
Friday, Habakkuk 3:1-7, *The Woes of the Wicked*
Saturday, Habakkuk 3:8-16, *The Woes of the Wicked*



Artist Unknown. Elizabeth and Mary when Mary went to visit Elizabeth and Elizabeth felt the Babe Leaping in the womb.

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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New Bremen, Ohio 45869

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Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net or stpaulnb@gmail.com

Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

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 27, 2022

Advent One: Hope

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Arianne Henry

Amy Scheer

The Ritter Family

Tracy Oldiges

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Accompanist/Organist

Liturgist

Advent Candle Lighters

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

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

J=120

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are: "No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the". The second staff continues the lyrics: "jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter". The third staff continues: "who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the". The fourth staff concludes with: "jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace." Above the notes, various chords are indicated: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, C7, F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7, Bb, G7, F, Dm, Gm7, C7, C, F, F. The final two measures of the fourth staff are marked "To verses" and "Last time, Fine".

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The time has come to wait:

People: For a world to end and a life to begin.

Leader: The time has come to listen:

People: For the thunder of change and the whisper of hope.

Leader: The time has come to watch:

People: For a dead branch to blossom and a barren tree to bear fruit. The time has come to awaken to a new day!

ADVENT CAROL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

153 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

F C F $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F C Dm C $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Dm C F

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

F C F $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F C Dm C $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Dm C F

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Am Dm Gm7 C7 Dm7 $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{E}$ Dm $\frac{F}{A}$ G \sharp_2 Gm B \flat maj7 Csus C

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

$\frac{F}{A}$ F6 $\frac{Gm}{F}$ $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F}{E}$ Bm7(b5) $\frac{C7}{E}$ B \flat $\frac{C7}{E}$ F $\frac{F7}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Let us confess the places we need to grow to prepare the way for Christ to enter into our lives.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Advent God, it is our shame to admit that we choose not to notice the signs you offer us of consequence. It is our shame to admit that we ignore what we don't want to observe, what we don't want to hear, what we don't want to know. Be present to forgive us, Gracious God, and to nurture us to faithfulness so that all brokenness can pass away and your holiness can come to fulfillment. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: God says, "Remember these things, O Israel, for you are my servant; you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist; return to me, for I have redeemed you." I say to you in the name of Jesus the Christ, our sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain)

Refrain (Harmony)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The melody is primarily in the treble clef. Above the treble staff, the following chords are indicated: D, Em, Bm, G, Am/C, Am, G/B, D, Em, D/F#, G, G/B, C, G/B, Am, Em/G, D/F#, Em. The lyrics are: "Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!". The melody features several phrases with slurs and ties, particularly in the second and fourth measures of the refrain.

WORDS: Latin, 9th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866); vss. 3 and 4 tr. Henry S. Coffin (1877-1954)
MUSIC: French melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

VENI EMMANUEL
L.M.Ref.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: HOPE

Leader: Today is the beginning of Advent—the preparation time for celebrating Christ’s birth. We are here because God’s promises to our ancestors came true when Jesus was born. God’s promise is kept whenever we worship—in person, online, or with our worship packets—because Christ is in our midst. God will keep the promise to come again in glory.

Leader: A reading from Isaiah 60:1-3. *Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

Leader: We light this candle to proclaim the coming of the light of Christ into the world. With the coming of this light, there is hope. Because of Christ, we not only have hope, but we believe that good is stronger than evil. God wants us to work for good in this world. Let us pray.

People: O God, we thank you that Jesus brought hope into our world. By the good news of Jesus, you are still bringing hope to people. Help us to be ready to welcome Jesus Christ so that we may help bring about your kingdom on earth in the days and weeks to come. May we live into your hope and light. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL

When God Is a Child

verse 1

When God Is a Child

Refrain

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

weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -

fraid. I Hope is a star that

shines in the night, lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright. When

to Refrain

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

GATES
 Irregular

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Placing our hope in Jesus!

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 AND SILENT PRAYER

O God, our hope, we rejoice that you became flesh and made your dwelling among us, even as we long for your return.

As we wait, our hearts overflow with gratitude:

For the beauty of creation...

For your work in the world...

For signs of peace and reconciliation...

For our community and its leaders...

For your work accomplished through your church...

For all these reasons and so much more we give you praise.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son as a helpless child, we also yearn for his return, for the day in which there will be no more sorrow, pain, or death.

Today, we remember in prayer:

The nations of the world...

Those in positions of authority...

The needs of our community...

The cries of the poor, the hungry, the hurting...

St. Paul Church as we live into your call to see Jesus in others...

Hear us now as we lift up to you the prayers of our hearts.

SILENCE

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our source of hope. 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 LESSON: Luke 1:5-24a

(NRSV)

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was descended from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. ⁶ Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. ⁷ But they had no children because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

⁸ Once when he was serving as priest before God during his section's turn of duty, ⁹ he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord to offer incense. ¹⁰ Now at the time of the incense offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. ¹¹ Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified, and fear overwhelmed him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. ¹⁴ You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, ¹⁵ for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ He will turn

many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” ¹⁸ Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I know that this will happen? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.” ¹⁹ The angel replied, “I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. ²⁰ But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.”

²¹ Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²² When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³ When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

²⁴ After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion.

SUNG RESPONSE

Thankful Heart

Paul Williams

THANKFUL HEART

Words and Music by
PAUL WILLIAMS

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of six systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#) and the time signature is 2/4. The first system begins with a piano dynamic marking 'f' and the instruction 'With a'. The lyrics are: 'thank - ful heart that is wide a - wake I do make this pro - mise: Ev - 'ry breath I take will be used now to sing your praise (used now to sing your praise) and to beg you to share my days. (Beg you to share my days.) With a lov - ing guar - an - tee that ev - en if we part I will hold you close in a thank - ful heart.'

f With a

thank - ful heart that is wide a - wake I do make this pro - mise: Ev - 'ry

breath I take will be used now to sing your praise (used now to

sing your praise) and to beg you to share my days. (Beg you to

share my days.) With a lov - ing guar - an - tee that ev - en if we

part I will hold you close in a thank - ful heart.

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

This year for Advent, much of our music is from the movie *The Muppets Christmas Carol*. If you haven't had a chance to see the movie yet, I recommend you take the time in the coming weeks to check it out.

You probably know the story of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol. It is the story from the 1800's of Ebenezer Scrooge whose business partner, Jacob Marley, had recently died. Ebenezer Scrooge was a bitter, miserly man. His dealings with his family members and his employees was one of disdain and oppression.

In other words, Ebenezer Scrooge was a man without hope.

Throughout Dickens' novella and throughout the Muppets movie, Ebenezer Scrooge is visited one evening by three ghosts: the ghosts of Christmases past, present, and future—showing Mr. Scrooge in sharp relief the consequences of his hopelessness/hardened heart.

Hope. On the first Sunday of Advent, we focus on hope for good reason. Preparing for the birth of Christ Jesus, we place our hope in his birth. Our Greek Orthodox brothers and sisters treat Advent much like we treat Lent—as a time of sacrifice and penitence—all in preparation of the birth of Christ.

I see Advent more as a journey—a journey to Bethlehem—a journey to the stable and the heart of God.

Indeed, as we begin our journey to Bethlehem, we hear the story of Zechariah the priest and his wife, Elizabeth. Truly, it is a story of hope and promise: a perfect beginning to Advent.

We actually only hear the first part of the story in today's New Testament Lesson. We hear about Zechariah—a priest of the Temple—and his barren wife Elizabeth. While offering incense in the sanctuary, the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah, promising him that Elizabeth would conceive and bear a son, naming him John.

But Zechariah does not believe the angel and questions how this can be—since he and his wife are quite elderly. For doubting the Lord, the angel makes Zechariah mute for the entirety of Elizabeth's pregnancy. Elizabeth, however, is filled with joy at this unexpected blessing.

The Gospel of Luke is a gospel of reversals. Throughout Luke's Gospel, the people who are bearers of God's good news are those at the

margins: the women, the tax collectors, the lepers. Today's story follows this pattern.

Zechariah, the priest, is **not** shown as a model for faith. In fact, because of his doubt, he is rendered silent. The model of faith, instead is Elizabeth. If we had read just a little further in Luke, we would have heard the story of Mary—newly pregnant—coming to visit the heavily pregnant Elizabeth.

Do you remember what happens? When Mary greeted Elizabeth, the child in Elizabeth's womb leapt for joy. What's more, Elizabeth becomes the first prophet in Luke, proclaiming, "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me. For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Years ago, when I was pregnant with our oldest son, I was serving as a student pastor of two small rural churches in Illinois. During the children's moment, I told the story of the baby leaping for joy in Elizabeth's womb, telling the children that if the baby ever jumped around during a children's moment, I would let them feel my belly. (And trust me: that was a high possibility. That child spent the entire pregnancy doing laps—bouncing from one side of my belly to the next.)

The kids were thrilled by the prospect. But so, too, were the adults. As I was greeting people after the service, an elderly farmer asked if he, too, could feel the baby leaping inside: a symbol of hope and joy during Advent.

Today, we are called to be like Elizabeth—pregnant with hope and joy. We are called to proclaim Christ in our midst: as we journey to the stable AND as we experience his presence in our daily lives. We are called to place our hope in God—a God who loves us so much that he could come to us as a tiny, vulnerable baby.

Hope. Hope is not optimism or merely a feeling. It is active engagement to bring about God's kingdom here and now. We are called to spend Advent less focused on STUFF and more focused on changing lives. Is there someone in your neighborhood who could use a helping hand? Can you provide a meal or clothing or gas to a family in our

community through the Local Aid Fund? Will you donate to or volunteer at the Blessing Pantry? Will you befriend that child in your neighborhood who seems lost? Will you reach out to someone who is grieving?

I challenge you this week to put hope to work—reaching out, loving, forgiving.

Ultimately, after his three nighttime ghostly visits, Ebenezer Scrooge did the same. He turned his life around—no longer focused on his misery and miserly ways. The next morning, Christmas morning, he put hope to work—transforming the lives of those around him.

Friends: it is time to put your hope to work—for Jesus' sake. Amen.

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM *It Feels Like Christmas* Paul Williams

WE RESPOND WITH GIFTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: In this season of gift giving and gift receiving, let us offer our gifts, our lives, and our hearts to Jesus through the ministries of St. Paul Church. Let us be people of generosity and hope. Amen.

DOXOLOGY/CAROL *In the Bleak Midwinter*

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. Chord symbols are placed above the vocal line. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

System 1: Chords: F, E/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm/Bb, Dm7/A, Gm7, C7. Lyrics: What can I offer poor as I am?

System 2: Chords: F, E/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm7/Bb, C7, F. Lyrics: If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

System 3: Chords: Bb/D, F, Bb/D, F7/C, Bb, Dm, E/A, Am, Gm/Bb, Bbmaj7, C. Lyrics: if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

System 4: Chords: F, E/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm7/Bb, C7, F. Lyrics: yet what can I offer: all of my heart.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Advent God, you have planted us to bear fruit for your kingdom. Receive and bless all that we have put forth. Receive and bless the full portion of all we have become. You have decreed that we will become a sign of your hope. Receive and bless us to be a living sanctuary of hope in this day and in the time to come. Amen.

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 $\frac{F}{Eb}$ 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 $\frac{Bb}{C}$ F

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

BENEDICTION (from Liturgy Link; *Submitted by Rev. Susannah DeBenedetto, Christ Congregational Church & Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, Takoma Park MD*)

Be people of hope.

Let hope live in your heart and share the hope of Christ with all you meet.

Share hope by noticing someone else's humanity.

Share hope by listening to someone's story.

Share hope by praying for our world.

In this Advent season, we need to see, feel, and share hope.

As you go out into the wonder of God's creations, share hope with those you meet. Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Bless Us All*

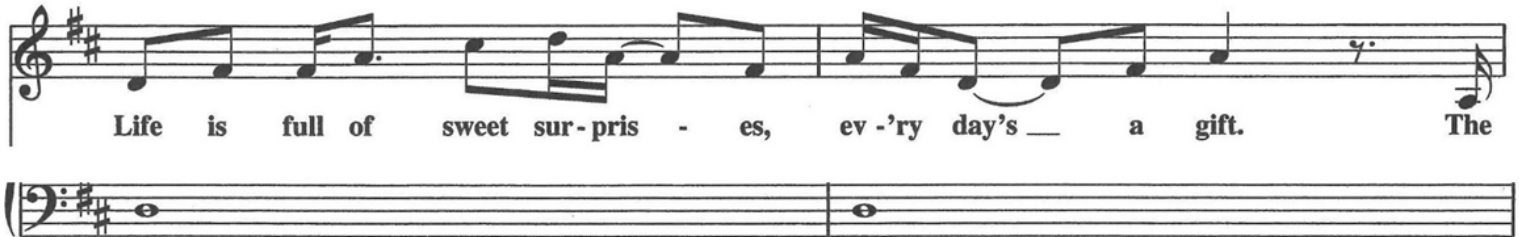
BLESS US ALL

Words and Music by
PAUL WILLIAMS

Simply



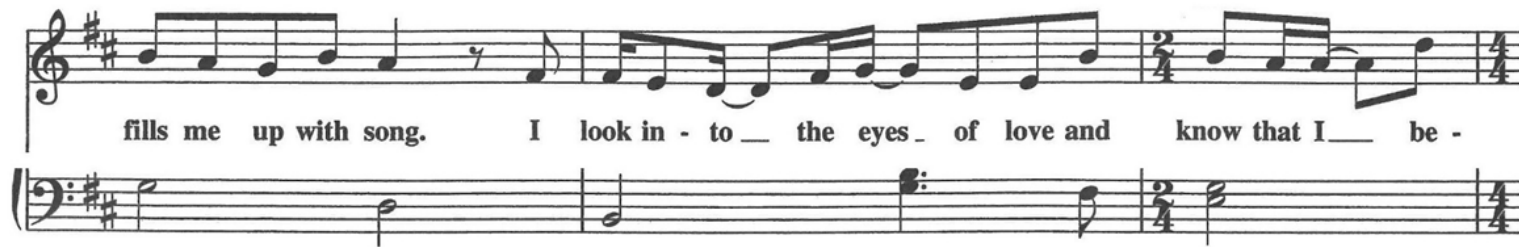
mp



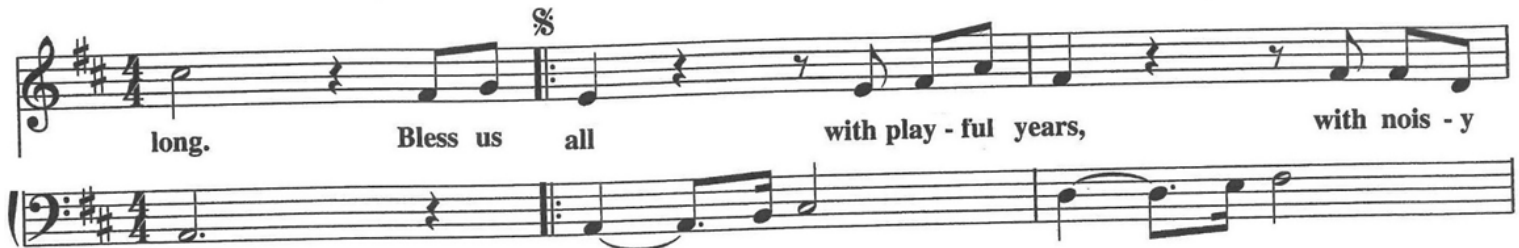
Life is full of sweet sur-pris - es, ev -'ry day's — a gift. The



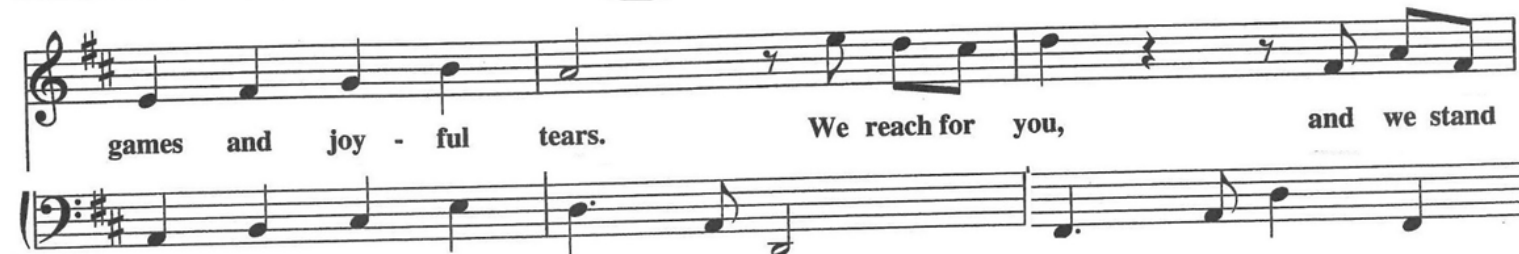
sun comes up and I can feel it lift my spir - it. Fills me up — with laugh-ter,



fills me up with song. I look in - to — the eyes — of love and know that I — be -

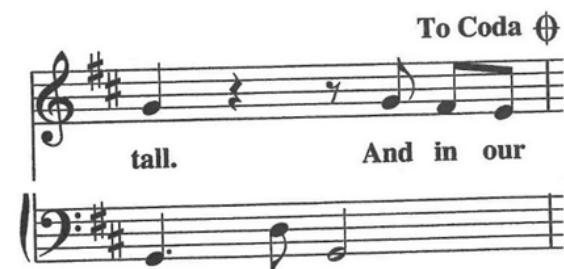


long. Bless us all with play - ful years, with nois - y



games and joy - ful tears. We reach for you, and we stand

To Coda ⊕



tall. And in our

CODA

prayers and dreams we ask you, bless us all. We reach for

Slower

you, and we stand tall. And in our prayers and dreams we ask you, bless us

Tempo I

all.

The musical score consists of three systems. The first system is the CODA, with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The second system is marked 'Slower' and continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The third system is marked 'Tempo I' and features a piano accompaniment with a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef. The score concludes with a double bar line.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: With hope in our hearts and joy on our lips, let us pass the peace of Christ to one another.

POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Participants-Daily Devotions-77, November 13-Sunday School-15, Teachers-6, Worship Online-336, In Person-67, November 16, Splash-7, Youth Group-23, Confirmation-3, Leaders-9.

Sundays in November and December-Worship will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am. **Saturday, December 3-Worship** will be in the chapel at 5:00pm with Holy Communion.

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.

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.

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.

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=Q1UyYTdUNUN2VHhYYTdJVEpmY05TQT09>

Meeting ID: 842 6114 5734

Passcode: 877965

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.~~

Mission Team-will meet Sunday, December 4 following worship in the Assembly room. Any questions? Please contact June Oaks.

Women's Service Group-will meet for lunch at Speedway Lanes on December 8th at 11:30. Following lunch we will meet at the church to pack and deliver gift bags for our homebound church members. Each member is asked to bring two dozen cookies. Guests are welcome. Please RSVP to Julia Paul by December 5th.

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, Dish Soap, Laundry Detergent, Softener Sheets, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash, Toothpaste, Razors, Shaving Cream, Diapers (sizes N, 5 & 6), Baby Wipes, Tampons, Food Storage Bags, Garbage Bags, Bleach, All Purpose Cleaner, Disinfectants. 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 27, 2022

Sunday		No Sunday School
	9:30am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	10:15am	Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live
Monday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop @ NB Coffee
Tuesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	5:30pm-6:30pm	Splash
	6:00pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Youth Dinner
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Jr/Sr High Youth Group
	7:00pm-8:00pm	Confirmation
	7:00pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed
Saturday	8:00am	Men's Club-Speedway Lanes
	5:00pm	Worship w/Holy Communion

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



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 **after the 10:15am Christmas Day** worship service.

(Please be sure to pick up the color you ordered so that everyone will be able to enjoy the color of the plant that each chose.)

Poinsettia color choice and quantity:

Red _____ Qty White _____ Qty

In memory/honor of _____

A gift for _____

By _____

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.



YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR




Children's Christmas Worship



**DEC
11**

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

AT 10:15 AM

MUSIC | LAUGHTER | CHILDREN'