

December 12, 2022

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and peace to you as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child!

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship Services Include:

Saturday December 24. Christmas Eve Open House 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Saturday December 24. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship with Holy Communion at 11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Sunday December 25. Christmas Morning Worship at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary

We will not send out a worship packet the week of December 26. The church office will be closed December 26-27 and again on January 2.

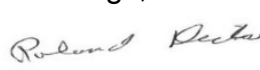

You will notice in this week's giving statement, we are down \$10,000 in giving for 2022. We encourage you to prayerfully consider giving an extra gift to St. Paul Church before the end of the year. We thank you for your ongoing generosity.

Pastor Becky's office email has been working only sporadically. If you need to reach her, please email her at stpaulpastor@nktelco.net.

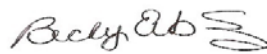
As a gentle reminder, our primary tasks as Christians is to love God and love our neighbors. This includes keeping one another safe and healthy. **If you have tested positive for Covid19, we kindly ask you to stay home until your five-day waiting period is over and you are symptom free, as prescribed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

Merry Christmas!

Blessings,

Roland Dicke Council President
Myra Hanenkratt Council VP



Becky Erb Strang Senior Pastor

Financial Information as of December 12, 2022

Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00
Giving Income \$5,835.00(weekly)
Endowment Trans \$24,360.00(ytd)
Income \$305,204.79(ytd)
Expenses \$315,227.83(ytd)
Balance **(\$10,023.04)**(ytd)

Building Maint & Property

Beg. Balance \$36,648.59
Income \$49,461.00(ytd)
Endowment Inc. **(\$3,946.34)**(ytd)
Expenses \$26,412.06(ytd)
Balance \$55,751.19(ytd)

Project of the Year

Income \$15,524.00
Expenses \$14,107.53
Balance \$1,416.47

Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$12,218.82
Income \$23,012.70(ytd)
Expenses \$25,421.22(ytd)
Balance \$9,810.30(ytd)

Blessing Pantry

Beg. Balance \$29,161.12
Income \$18,764.00(ytd)
Expenses \$14,428.89(ytd)
Balance \$33,496.23(ytd)

Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00
Income \$179.50 (weekly)
Income \$23,324.00(ytd)

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

January Book Club-All are welcome to St. Paul UCC's Zoom Room at 11:30 on Sunday, January 29 for our monthly Book Club. We will discuss Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Books can be picked up on the table outside Pastor Becky's office. This event is offered in-person and via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82332803465?pwd=WVIBdXoxM3FIUGRMTGg4NmhFSVgwQT09>

Meeting ID: 823 3280 3465 Passcode: 134323



December 25, 2022, Christmas Day: Shepherds Visit Luke 2:8-20

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



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

Holy God, with the angels we rejoice at Jesus' birth. Give us the eagerness of the shepherds to tell all the world of your limitless love. Amen.



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

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. (Luke 2:16-18)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

The shepherds kept moving through this story, even as it got weirder and scarier. But God becoming human deserves nothing less.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- What occupations are the most prestigious in your community? Which are the least prestigious? Where does your occupation lie on the spectrum? Would God send angels to share the good news with you? Why or why not?
- What has been the biggest surprise of this year? How has it shaped you?
- For the littles: Besides Jesus, what was the best gift you received this season? (Remember, the gift might not be a toy—it might be an experience, a relationship, or someone doing something with you.) God's best gift is you!



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God bless you with the miracle of the Christ child! Amen.



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

Unplug today. Be fully present with the people in your life.



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

Monday, Luke 1:5-25, *Birth of John the Baptist Foretold*

Tuesday, Luke 1:26-38, *Birth of Jesus Foretold*

Wednesday, Luke 1:39-45, *Mary Visits Elizabeth*

Thursday, Luke 1:46-55, *Mary's Song of Praise*

Friday, Luke 1:57-66, *Birth of John the Baptist*

Saturday, Luke 1:67-80, *Zechariah's Prophecy*



St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)

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, welcome to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Dr. Jeff Paul

Bryan Trego

Arianne Henry

Rindler Family

Tracy Oldiges

Diane Gilberg

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Worship Leader

Worship Leader

Organist

Advent Candle Lighters

Sr. Deacon

Sr. Elder

Chancel Choir/Music Director

PRELUDE

LIGHTING OF CANDLES: You are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship. (Include your four advent candles if you have them.)

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and gather, for the Christ Child has been born!

People: We celebrate Jesus' birth along with choirs of angels,

Leader: Shepherds and bystanders,

People: Friends and family! Welcome!

WELCOME CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

CHRISTMAS

185 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

F C F A F C F A Am Bb2 Gm Bb F 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 C Dm F G9 G7 Am G C 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. F A C7 E F F C C N.C. F A C7 E F F 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 Gm Bb D7 Gm C Bb F A F F 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.

B \flat B \flat maj9 Gm/B \flat D Gm Gm/F C/E C/B \flat F/A F F/C C7 F

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

SERVICE OF CONFESSION

Leader: We confess our sins before God and one another.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: God of Light,

People: You have come to live among us, yet we fail time and time again to see you in the faces of our neighbors. We look to ourselves instead of looking to those in need. We seek the shallow comforts of things we can buy instead of the deep and lasting comfort and power of your presence. Forgive our brokenness and open our hearts to the joy and wonder of your incarnation. Amen.

Leader: Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy. The God of boundless grace forgives you all your sins, renewing your spirit for the sake of Immanuel, God With Us.

SUNG RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Refrain (Harmony)

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

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

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

Reader One: The shepherds watched their flocks in the field by night.

Reader Two: Suddenly, an angel of the Lord stood before them and the shepherds were terrified at the glory shining all around.

Reader One: But the angel brought good news...

Reader Two: A message of new hope, new peace, new love, new joy to be given...

Reader One (light the Christ candle): Behold, today a sign has been given; a Son is born:

Reader Two: A Baby wrapped in bands of cloth, lying in a manger. Hope, peace, love and joy have taken on flesh and live among us forever!

CHRIST CANDLE CAROL *When God Is a Child*

ADVENT

165

When God Is a Child

Refrain
C G7/C C Em7 Am G

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

C Am7 D7 G C/E Am Dm7 G7

weak shall be strong, and none shall be a -

1-3 4 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

Am $\frac{G7}{B}$ C C#dim7 $\frac{G}{D}$ Em Am *rit.* 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

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Holy and loving God, on this sacred night we lift up to you in prayer this congregation, our community, our nation and the world. We lift up to you all who are in need and alone. SILENCE

Leader: Loving God, your son, Jesus, shined light into a lost and broken world. Continue to shine your light on us, and make us beacons of light for others, so that all may experience your love. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: All creation sings praises at the birth of Jesus. Let us be one with creation in song, so that we remember to nurture the world you have given to us. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Let all those in power lay down their arms and celebrate peace with the knowledge that true power belongs to Christ alone. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Heal the bodies, minds, and spirits of all who suffer. Let the miracle of the newborn savior overcome all suffering. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Whisper your unbounded love into the ears of all who have not heard, so that the sound of your love may grow into shouts of Hallelujah! Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: With all the saints and heavenly host, we praise your name and offer thanks for the gift of the Christ child in the manger, until the time when we meet him face-to-face. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: In faith, hope, and love, we lift up these prayers to you, in the name of your promised savior, Jesus Christ. 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!

CHRISTMAS EVE SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:1-20 (The Message)

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

⁶⁻⁷ While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

⁸⁻¹² There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The

angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

¹³⁻¹⁴ At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: Glory to God in the heavenly heights,

Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

¹⁵⁻¹⁸ As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

¹⁹⁻²⁰ Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had heard and seen. It turned out exactly the way they'd been told!

SUNG RESPONSE

Thankful Heart

Paul Williams

THANKFUL HEART

Words and Music by
PAUL WILLIAMS

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

Throughout the Advent season, our worship included music from the movie *The Muppet Christmas Carol*. It is a 1992 retelling of Charles Dickens' novella of the same name (minus the Muppet part, of course!)

I chose the music and the story because they serve as a metaphor for the Christmas season. The entire movie/story/musical is about love. Tonight, we have gathered to celebrate that the birth of Jesus is God's love enfleshed/incarnate/moving amongst us. Let me share with you a clip from the movie: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WIRpGj7LWS4>

Wherever you find love, it feels like Christmas. Indeed, Christmas is about love. Always.

The birth of Jesus serves as a powerful witness to God's love. God comes to us, not as an angry and vengeful god. Nor does he come to oppress or enslave. God's love sets us free. God's love frees us to live joyfully and generously—not miserly and miserable. We are **not** following Jesus when we act as Ebenezer Scrooge did before his nighttime ghostly visitors.

Christmas is about love. For many of us, this is difficult to fathom. We, who struggle with love, often cannot imagine that God loves us so much that he chooses to be born among us. And not just born among us—but born to a young woman, engaged to a carpenter. Love, God shows us, is about humility and generosity, and justice.

Theologian Richard Rohr once wrote, "God is always more loving than the person who has loved us most."

So, I ask you this night: Who has loved you most?

How did you experience that love?

What was your response to that kind of love?

The good news the angels sang to the shepherds is this: no matter how little or how much you have experienced love in your life, God loves you more. Much, much more.

On this night of love incarnate, of love enfleshed, of love born among us, we are called to BE love to others in our homes, our church, our villages, our nation and our world.

Yet our confession on Christmas Eve is this: we are a nation divided in a world divided. There is conflict and violence in our neighborhoods and in our homes. Very few of us are at peace with ourselves. Christmas

Eve reminds us that it need not be this way. Because the Prince of Peace was born on this holy night, Love will have the final word. Always.

So, what can we do with this gift given to us—the birth of the Christ Child? We can be loving—loving God, loving our neighbors, and loving ourselves. As Jesus followers, we are challenged to BE love in the days ahead. Reconcile with someone with whom you are estranged. Reach out to a neighborhood child who seems lost. Offer kindness and peace rather than bitterness and biting sarcasm.

On this night, Love is born in our midst. Love incarnate in Baby Jesus. Remember—he did not stay a baby (as much as we might like him to). He grew into a man who spent his ministry fighting for those on the margins, healing the broken, and standing up against oppressive religious and political systems. On this holy night, celebrate a birth of a baby whose story we already know: Love Incarnate was arrested, tried, and nailed onto a cross to die like a common criminal.

But, we also know that is not the end of the story. We celebrate the birth of Jesus because his death was not the final word. Three days later, Jesus rose from the dead as a reminder that while death and evil and oppression might seem to have their day, ultimately love wins. Love wins.

So tonight, on this holy night, we join with the angels and archangels, the lowly shepherds, and the wise magi in singing songs of joy for unto us a child is born—born for love!

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM *One More Sleep Until Christmas*

Paul Williams

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: Let us give as we are able on this holy night: joyfully and generously!

DOXOLOGY/CAROL *In the Bleak Midwinter*

F E A F Dsus Dm Gm Bb Dm7 A Gm7 C7
 What can I offer poor as I am?

F E A F Dsus Dm Gm7 Bb C7 F
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

Bb D F Bb D F7 C Bb Dm F A Am Gm Bb Bbmaj7 C
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

F E A F Dsus Dm Gm7 Bb C7 F
 yet what can I offer: all of my heart.

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

CRANHAM
 Irregular

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Holy God, you shower us with gifts, and above all, the gift of Jesus. With the joy of the shepherds, we offer what first belonged to you. Accept these gifts for the sake of him whose birth we celebrate. Amen.

A SUNG COMMUNION LITURGY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

(text by the Rev. Beth Quick, 2013; Sung to the tune of Greensleeves)

Em $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G D Em $\frac{Am}{C}$ B

Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.
 God called us from age to age through messengers and prophets,
 The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel; God, come to live among us!
 And on the night he was betrayed. Christ took the bread and broke it.
 He took the cup and raised it up. "My life I pour out for you.
 Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them.

Em $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G D Em Am B B7 Esus Em

We gather on this holy night. We gather at this table.
 When we would not our hearts give way, the Word-made-flesh God sent us.
 He preached good news: the kingdom come! A light shone in the darkness.
 Thanking God, he shared this gift. "Remember, when you eat it!
 From sin, set free! Remember me! We covenant anew."
 Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!

Refrain
 Bm G D Em $\frac{Am}{C}$ B

Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God and glorify!
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through! The Cross be born for me and you.
 Raise, raise, the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby:
 Raise, raise, the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby:

Bm G D Em Am B B7 Esus Em

Praise, praise the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.
 Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.
 Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.
 Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh; the Babe, the Son of Mary.
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

*Lift up your hearts unto the Lord. Sing unto God your praises.
We gather on this holy night. We gather at this table.
Lift, lift your hearts up high! Sing praise to God and glorify!
Praise, praise the Prince of Peace, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*God called us from age to age through messengers and prophets,
When we would not our hearts give way, the Word-made-flesh God sent us.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*The Word-made-flesh, Emmanuel; God, come to live among us!
He preached good news: the kingdom come! A light shone in the darkness.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*And on the night he was betrayed, Christ took the bread and broke it.
Thanking God, he shared this gift. "Remember, when you eat it!
Nails, spear shall pierce him through! The Cross be born for me and you.
Hail! Hail, the Word made flesh; the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*He took the cup and raised it up. "My life I pour out for you.
From sin, set free! Remember me! We covenant anew."
Raise, raise, the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*Pour out your Spirit, Holy God, upon these gifts, and bless them.
Make them for us the Bread of Life, the Cup of our Salvation!
Raise, raise, the song on high! The Virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Bread: The Word made flesh in this holy bread. Take and eat.

Cup: Poured out in love: the Blood of Christ. Take and drink.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

We give you thanks, O God, that you have come to us through Jesus Christ, both in the midst of time and history in the town of Bethlehem, and in the timeless presence of Christ's Spirit as we receive the gifts of bread and wine. Send us out into the world rejoicing, ready to share your love with the people we meet; through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(As we sing the first carol, we invite you to light your Christmas Eve candles if you are worshipping with us at home. In the sanctuary, Pastor Becky will begin the candle lighting from the flame of the Christ candle. The ushers will bring the light to you. Please tip your unlighted candle as you receive the light from your neighbor's candle. Please do not tip the lighted candle!.)

CAROL FOR LIGHTING CANDLES (seated) *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

CHRISTMAS

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

221

G D7 A G B G D A E D F# D G C E G B C Bm Am G

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing: shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new

G G B G D7 A G D G C E G B C D G

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the Gos - pel true.

G B C Am D Bm Em Am7 D

Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing greet the mor - row:

G C E G B Am D Em D C G B C G D D7 G

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

OFFERING THE LIGHT

Leader: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light; and there was light." ***As we raise our lights***, we dedicate ourselves to the newness of creation—the new life born among us this night.

Leader: You are the light of the world; a city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor does one light a lamp and hide it under a bushel, but instead places it on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ***As we raise our lights***, we dedicate ourselves to doing the works, which show forth not our glory, but God's glory.

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth. ***As we raise our lights***, we dedicate ourselves to be bearers of the light, with the confidence and courage that darkness will never overcome the light we share.

CAROL

Silent Night! Holy Night!

First verse in German than verses 1 & 2 in English

**Stille Nacht, heil'ge Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.
Holder Knab'im lockigen Haar,
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh! Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!**

Silent Night! Holy Night!

186

B \flat F7 B \flat

1 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight,
 3 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,

E \flat B \flat E \flat B \flat

'round yon vir - gin moth-er and child; ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing

F7 B \flat B \flat /F F F7 B \flat

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

WORDS: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John F. Young (1820-1885)
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

STILLE NACHT
 Irregular

(Please extinguish candles)

BENEDICTION: Go with God into this night
 May the Spirit guide your sight
 Offer love to all you greet
 Like Christ, see God in all you meet. Amen.

POSTLUDE



2022 Poinsettia Memorial and Gifts

In memory of Robert Wilson by Carol Wilson and Family (1 red)

In memory of loved ones by Bill and Cindy Young and Family
(1 red, 1 white)

In memory of Drew Wray by John and Gin Voress (1 white)

In memory of Freda and George Voress Sr., Jane Koening by John and Gin Voress
(1 red)

In memory of Lawrence and Thelma Broerman, Tom Broerman, Ronda Broerman by John and Gin Voress (1 red)

In memory of Loved Ones by Mark and Paula Topp (1 white)

In memory of Janice Schroer by the Lloyd Schroer Family (1 red)

In memory of Clarence and Esther Schroer by the Lloyd Schroer Family (1 red)

In memory of Leo and Luella Topp by the Lloyd Schroer Family (1 red)

In memory of Don R. Miller, Rodney Miller and Ralph Plattner by Bev Plattner (1 red)

In memory of Jesse and Verona Miller and Verdella Schaefer and a gift for Dale Schaefer by Bev Plattner (1 red)

In memory of Edgar, Vilma and Edward E. and Mamie Rump by Bev Plattner (1 red)

In memory of Raymon, Anna, Eugene and Richard Plattner and a gift for Betty Plattner by Bev Plattner (1 red)

In memory of Loved Ones by Vernon and Julia Paul (1 red)

In memory of our parents Paul and Viola Headapohl and Hilgard and Esther Paul by Rob and Diane Paul (1 red)

In memory of Jacqui Broerman, Levi Oaks, Stan and Dorothy Hertenstein by June (Hertenstein) Oaks (3 red)

In memory of loved ones by Jerry and Cindy Newman (1 red)

In memory of Kenneth Henschen by Kathy Manbeck (1 white)

In memory of Erin Rammel by Kathy Manbeck (1 red)

In memory of my parents Robert and Mai Beaven Kuenning, brothers Bob Kuenning Jr. and Eric Kuenning and a gift for Terri Goodwin by Virginia Kuenning (1 red)

In memory of Robert Finke and Paul Jones by Gary and Staci Jones (1 red)

In memory of Gregg Thobe by Gary and Staci Jones (1 red)

In memory of James and Irene Jarvis by the David Jarvis Family (1 red)

In memory of Dan Imwalle by the Steve and Kris Imwalle (1 red)

In memory of Richard Hudson by his loving wife Ann Hudson (1 red)

In memory of Ron Hittepole and Andrea Hittepole by Marlene Hittepole and Family (2 red)

In memory of Paul and Pauline Gilberg and Willis and Leta Quellhorst by John and Joyce Gilberg (1 red)

In memory of Wilbur and Enola Greber and a gift for a Local Nursing Home by the Fortman's (1 red)

In memory of Loved Ones by Burt & Jan Fiser (1 red)

In memory of Carolyn Dicke, Ruth Dicke, Albert and Marie Dicke by Todd Dicke and Family (2 red, 1 white)

In memory of Cindy Dicke by the Roland Dicke Family (1 red, 1 white)

In memory of Ruth Schoffner and Gene Schoffner by Randy and Melinda Clark (1 red)

In memory of Loved Ones by the Allen Bushman Family (1 red)

A gift for Gary and Donna Schmitmeyer by the Allen Bushman Family (1 red)

Christmas Decorating Fund Donors

Roland Dicke Family

Ty and Lori Fortman Family

David Jarvis Family

June (Hertenstein) Oaks

Mark and Paula Topp

Burt and Jan Fiser

Marlene Hittepole Family

Gary and Staci Jones

Lloyd Schroer Family

Bill and Cindy Young Family

We would like to express our gratitude to all who have donated to the beautification of our sanctuary by purchasing poinsettias or contributing to the decorating fund. We would also like to remind all who purchased poinsettias that they may be claimed after the 10:15am December 25 Christmas Worship Service, December 28 and 29 between 9:00am and 4:00pm. The building will be locked December 26 and 27. Thank You!



St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)

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, welcome to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

December 25, 2022

Christmas Day

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Connie O'Neill

Amy Scheer

Tracy Oldiges

Jim Strang

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Organist

Liturgist

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

$\text{♩} = 120$

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, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7. The lyrics are: "No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the". The second staff continues the melody with chords Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, C7. The lyrics are: "jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter". The third staff has chords F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, F7. The lyrics are: "who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the". The fourth staff has chords Bb, G7, F, Dm, Gm7, C7, C, F, F. The lyrics are: "jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace." The score ends with a double bar line and the words "To verses" and "Last time, Fine" in separate boxes.

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.

To verses Last time, Fine

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us pray. O God, you have given us the most precious gift,

People: Far exceeding anything we could possibly hope for.

Leader: You have sent your messengers to proclaim this good news,

People: The angels and the shepherds bring us good tidings of great joy!

Leader: You have come to us as a lowly child, born amongst us.

People: Let us respond with such gratitude for the gift of your son,

Leader: That we cannot help but share it with the world,

People: Bringing help and hope to those most in need.

Leader: We praise you, O God, for the gift of Jesus!

People: With songs upon our lips and prayers in our hearts, we celebrate the birth of Immanuel: God-With-Us! Amen.

CHRISTMAS

179

Joy to the World!

D Em/G D/A A7 D D/F# G A

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns; let all their songs em-
 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations

D G/D D G/D D

King; let every heart prepare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
 prove the glories of his righteousness,

D A

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature
 re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his
 (1) and heaven and na-ture sing,

A7 D G/D D Em/G D/A A7 D

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na-ture sing.
 joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the sound-ing joy.
 love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

heaven and na-ture sing,

SERVICE OF CONFESSION

Leader: God loves this world of flesh and blood, stone and tree, sheep and oxen, star and field. God loves the world so much that God comes to us in Jesus. Yet, we are careless with God's creation. Let us confess our sin.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Holy God,

People: How amazing is your love! You are not distant from us in some faraway heaven; you have come close to us in a child born of simple parents and cradled in a borrowed bed of straw. We confess we abuse this created world. When we stand by while the earth is despoiled and its destruction threatened, God, forgive. When we abuse or neglect our own bodies, God, forgive. By your great love, God, draw us into new ways of living. Teach us to cherish and nurture life in this fragile world, in the manner of Jesus Christ whose birth we celebrate today. Amen.

Leader: Hear the good news: In compassion, God forgives us, enabling us to turn from the ways of violence and death; God shows us how to choose and cherish life. I say to you in the name of Jesus: Our sins are forgiven. Rejoice and sing!

RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (refrain)

Refrain (Harmony)

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-man-u-el shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!". Above the 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 melody features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together and others held as half notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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.

TIME FOR THE CHILD WITHIN US: Bethlehemian Rhapsody

Let us watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxvMkSKRWOA>

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Birth Candle on the altar welcoming our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!!!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Barb Tostrick, Larry Kuhn, Hannah Shellabarger, Monica Bushman, Betty Bushman, Rob Paul, Greg Maurer, Bart Maurer, Karen Vornholt, Shannon Shupp, and Dee Schroer.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Holy and loving God, on this holy day we lift up to you in prayer this congregation, our community, our nation and the world. We lift up to you all who are in need and alone.

SILENCE

Leader: God of grace and glory, from the shepherds in the fields to the angels in the heavens, all creation sings your praise! Receive our hallelujahs as we celebrate your reign over heaven and earth. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: When the voices of the people are stilled, creation itself lifts its voice to praise you! Help us to care for all that you have made with tenderness and with love. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Birthing God, give a sense of peace and gentleness to the leaders of our world, encouraging them to pass on that peace to all whom they govern. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Remember this night all who are sick or suffering, and lay your healing hands upon all those in need. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: Let every voice in every gathering be lifted in praise to you. Let everyone know you and the abundant promises you hold for all your children. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: With all the saints we shout hallelujahs at the birth of our savior. Keep us ever mindful of those who have come before us whose shouts of "hallelujah!" have led us in faith. Immanuel, God-With-Us,

People: You hear our prayer.

Leader: In faith, hope and love, we lift these prayers to you, in the name of your promised savior, Jesus Christ.

People: 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!

LITANY FOR PSALM 96

Leader: Shout for joy! God reigns over all the earth!

People: God is born; he will rule with justice!

Leader: Let the heavens be glad,

People: Let the earth rejoice;

Leader: Let the sea roar,

People: And all that fills it;

Leader: Let the fields exult,

People: And the trees sing for joy.

Leader: For Jesus is here!

People: He will bring justice to the earth.

Leader: He will rule in righteousness,

People: And speak truth to all people.

Leader: Shout for joy! God reigns over all the earth!

People: Jesus is born! He will rule with justice!

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

CHRISTMAS

188 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

F Am Gm7 C7 F C F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ 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 $\frac{C7}{E}$ F C F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ 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 $\frac{C}{E}$ C

Glo - ri - a

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

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

The image shows a musical score for the phrase "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Above the treble staff, a series of chords are indicated: Fmaj7, Bb, C/E, C, F/A, C, F, Bb, F/C, C7, and F. The lyrics are: "ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!".

CHRISTMAS LESSON: 1 Corinthians 13

(A Christmas Version; Unknown Source)

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not have love, I am just another decorator.

If I spend all my time in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love, I am just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, sing carols at the nursing home, and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce tree with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties, and sing in the choir's cantata, but do not focus on those I love most, I have missed the point.

In other words,

Love stops the cooking to hug a child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the spouse.

Love is kind, even when we are harried and tired.

Love does not envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love does not yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love does not give only to those who are able to give in return, but rejoices in giving to those who cannot.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Video games and toys will break; pearl necklaces will be lost; golf clubs will rust.

But the gift of love will endure forever.

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

CHRISTMAS

198 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

F B \flat /F F B \flat /F F B \flat /F C/F F B \flat /F F B \flat /F F B \flat /F C

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

F/A B \flat C C7 F C7 F Gm7/B \flat F/C C7 F Gm/F F

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

F/A B \flat F/A C7/G F C7 Dm F/A Gm7/B \flat F/C C7 F Gm/F F

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

Dm/F A7sus/E A7/E Dm C F Dm Gm7/B \flat C F

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

CHRISTMAS LESSON: Hebrews 1:1-12

(NRSV)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,² but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds.³ He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,

*“You are my Son;
today I have begotten you”?*

Or again,

*“I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son”?*

⁶ And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

⁷ Of the angels he says,

*“He makes his angels winds
and his servants flames of fire.”*

⁸ But of the Son he says,

*“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.*

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness;

*therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”*

¹⁰ And,

*“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;*

*¹¹ they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;*

*¹² like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.*

But you are the same,

and your years will never end.”

CHRISTMAS CAROL *The Hands That First Held Mary's Child*

EPIPHANY

The Hands That First Held Mary's Child 237

Em C D/C G/B Em D G/B D7/A G Am C Dsus D

1 The hands that first held Ma - ry's child were hard from work - ing wood,
 2 When Jo - seph mar - veled at the size of that small breath - ing frame,
 3 "This child shall be Em - man - u - el, not God up - on the throne,
 4 The tools that Jo - seph laid a - side a mob would lat - er lift

G/B C2 C Am7 D G/B A7/E D G/B D7/A G G/B C Am6 Em

from boards they sawed and planed and filed and splin - ters they with - stood.
 and gazed up - on those bright new eyes and spoke the in - fant's name,
 but God with us, Em - man - u - el, as close as blood and bone."
 and use with an - ger, fear, and pride to cru - ci - fy God's gift.

Bm Em D7/F# G C D G G/B D7/A G D7/A G/B C Dsus D

This day they gripped no tool of steel, they drove no i - ron nail,
 the an - gel's words he once had dreamed poured down from heav - en's height,
 The ti - ny form in Jo - seph's palms con - firmed what he had heard,
 Let us, O Lord, not on - ly hold the child who's born to - day,

G/B C2 C Am G A7/E D G/B D7/A G Bm C Am6 Em

but cra - dled from the head to heel our Lord, new - born and frail.
 and like the host of stars that beamed blessed earth with wel - come light.
 and from his heart rose hymns and psalms for heav - en's hu - man word.
 but charged with faith may we be bold to fol - low in his way.

Then when the days stipulated by Moses for purification were complete, they took him up to Jerusalem to offer him to God as commanded in God's Law: "Every male who opens the womb shall be a holy offering to God," and also to sacrifice the "pair of doves or two young pigeons" prescribed in God's Law.

²⁵⁻³² In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God:

*God, you can now release your servant;
release me in peace as you promised.
With my own eyes I've seen your salvation;
it's now out in the open for everyone to see:
A God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations,
and of glory for your people Israel.*

³³⁻³⁵ Jesus' father and mother were speechless with surprise at these words. Simeon went on to bless them, and said to Mary his mother, This child marks both the failure and the recovery of many in Israel, A figure misunderstood and contradicted— the pain of a sword-thrust through you— But the rejection will force honesty, as God reveals who they really are.

³⁶⁻³⁸ Anna the prophetess was also there, a daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was by now a very old woman. She had been married seven years and a widow for eighty-four. She never left the Temple area, worshiping night and day with her fastings and prayers. At the very time Simeon was praying, she showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God, and talked about the child to all who were waiting expectantly for the freeing of Jerusalem.

39-40 *When they finished everything required by God in the Law, they returned to Galilee and their own town, Nazareth. There the child grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him.*

CHRISTMAS CAROL

Love Came Down at Christmas

Love Came Down at Christmas 210

Eb Ebmaj7 $\frac{Fm}{Eb}$ $\frac{Bb7}{Eb}$ Eb $\frac{Ab}{Eb}$ Eb $\frac{Eb}{G}$ Ab $\frac{Gm}{Bb}$ Cm $\frac{Bb}{D}$ Eb Bb

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, Love all love - ly, Love di - vine;
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, Love in - car - nate, Love di - vine;
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine;

Eb $\frac{Eb}{D}$ $\frac{Fm7}{C}$ $\frac{G7}{B}$ Cm Fm Gm Cm Gm Cm Abmaj7 Bb7 Eb

Love was born at Christ - mas; star and an - gels gave the sign.
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for sa - cred sign?
 love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

WORDS: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt.

MUSIC: Maurice C. Whitney (1909-1984)

WHITNEY

6.7.6.7.

Music © 1962, Ren. 1990 The H.W. Gray Company (Admin. Warner Bros. Publications)

WE RESPOND WITH GIFTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: On this day of gift giving and gift receiving, we celebrate that the greatest gift we could receive has been born amongst us. Let us respond joyfully and generously to this gift of unbounded love!

DOXOLOGY/CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter

What can I off - er poor as I am?
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what can I off - er: all of my heart.

Chord symbols: F, E/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm/Bb, Dm7/A, Gm7, C7, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm7/Bb, C7, F, Bb/D, F, Bb/D, F7/C, Bb, Dm, E/A, Am, Gm/Bb, Bbmaj7, C, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm7/Bb, C7, F.

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

CRANHAM
Irregular

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

O God, before whom at creation the morning stars sang together, and at the birth of whose Son angels praise you, singing, “Glory to God in the highest”: may our offerings be a true sacrifice of praise, helping speed the time of peace on earth, and goodwill among all your people. Amen.

CHRISTMAS

218

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain (Unison)

F Bb F Dm Gm Bb/C C F Bb/C

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

F Bb F Dm Bb6 Bb/C C7 F

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

Parts

F C7/G E/A F F/A Gm Bb/C C7 F

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

to Refrain

F Am7/E Dm7 G G7 C C7/E

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

BENEDICTION

Leader: Glory to God in the highest!

People: Jesus is born! God has come to us and shared our common lot, and so we rejoice!

Leader: Go forth rejoicing in the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Bless Us All*

BLESS US ALL

Words and Music by
PAUL WILLIAMS

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a piano introduction marked 'Simply' and 'mp' in a 4/4 time signature with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano part features a steady accompaniment of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand. The vocal line starts with the lyrics: '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 tall. And in our'. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, slurs, and dynamic markings. A section marked with a double bar line and a section symbol (§) indicates a repeat. The piece concludes with a 'To Coda' symbol (⊕) and the lyrics 'tall. And in our'.

CODA

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

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

Tempo I

all.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

*"No Matter" Words and music by Roger P. Miller ©2007 All rights reserved.
Used by Permission. CCLI License #3095528*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers: Merry Christmas to our Church Family by Rob & Mimi Messick and Family.

Participants-December 11-Sunday School-27, Teachers-6, Worship Online-328, In Person-142. December 14-Splash, Jr/Sr High Youth Group, and Confirmation-22, Leaders-9.

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

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.

December Monthly Mission-UCC Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas thank you gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed the Christmas Fund with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Your continued support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

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, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Deodorant, Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothpaste, Razors, Shaving Cream, Diapers (sizes N, 4, 5 & 6), Baby Wipes, Tampons, Food Storage Bags, Garbage Bags, Paper Plates, Napkins, Bleach, All Purpose Cleaner, Disinfectants. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

Women's Service Group-will meet January 12 at 11:30am in the Assembly room for a soup lunch followed by the movie *Green Book*. All are welcome! Please RSVP to Sally Dicke by January 9.

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.

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.

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.

Calendar-Week of December 25, 2022

Sunday	10:15am	Worship-In Person & via Facebook Live
Monday	All Day	Office Closed
Tuesday	All Day	Office Closed
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday		Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Noon	Office Closed