

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

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Cover Art by Elizabeth Paul

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

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, Welcome, one and all, to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

IN PERSON WORSHIP NOTES:

Bulletins, Offering Plates, and Masks are available on tables.

Listening devices are available in the Narthex/front entrance, for those who need them. Please return your device to an Usher following worship. Thank you!

Children's Activity Bags containing children's bulletins and other activities are available on the tables. Thank you!

Restrooms are located in the Narthex/front entrance of the church and in the south hallway of the educational building.

WIFI Connection-connect via "St Paul – Guest"

Password: godlovesyou

The * indicates all who are able may stand

December 24, 2023
Fourth Sunday of Advent
11:00pm Candlelight Service

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Interim Pastor
Organist
Sr. Deacon

The Congregation
Rev. Ken Locke
Connie O'Neill
June Oaks

PRELUDE & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

We Gather Together

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE:

This night we celebrate the Light of the World: the one who came to us, is with us now, and will come again in glory.

(Light 1st Advent candle, purple) This is the candle of hope, and it illuminates God's promise.

(Light 2nd Advent candle, purple) This is the candle of love, and its light leads us in God's way.

(Light 3rd Advent candle, pink) This is the candle of joy, and it shows us God's healing and wholeness.

(Light 4th Advent candle, purple) This is the candle of peace, and it proclaims Christ's coming reign of justice, when we will make war no more.

(Light Christ 5, white) This is the Christ candle, and its light declares that the risen Christ is here among us, now and always. Thanks be to God!

Lord Jesus, light of the world, come quickly.

*OPENING SONG

Joy to the World!

No. 179 (v. 1)

Joy to the World!

D Em D 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 Saviour 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 G 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 righteous-ness,

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 nature sing,

A7 D G D Em D A7 D

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

heaven and nature sing,

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Leader: Let us lift up our hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: We come to the manger with joy and wonder.

People: Jesus is born: flesh and blood, weak and fragile, wholly God and wholly human.

Leader: Glory to God in the highest heaven,

People: And peace to all God's beloved creation! With peace, wonder and awe we worship our God.

***HYMN**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 182 (v. 1 and 3)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

182

G Am G D F# G D F# G C G D D Em

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 3 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,

A7 E D A D G B D F# G D A A7 D

come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven - a - bove;
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry given;

G B Am G D7 A G D F# G Em Am C D

come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 glo - ry to the God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain

G D G D7 G D G D7 G D

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

G D7 A G D F# A7 E D G B C G D D G

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

*HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

No. 185 (v. 1 and 3)

185 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

F $\frac{F}{C}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ C $\frac{F}{A}$ Am B \flat 2 $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C F

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

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

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

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

B \flat B \flat maj9 $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ D7 Gm $\frac{C}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{F}{C}$ 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.

Chord progression: Bb, Bbmaj9, Gm/Bb, D, Gm, Gm/F, C/E, C/Bb, F/A, F, F/C, C7, F

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

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Leader: With awe and wonder for such perfect love, we confess our sins before God and one another.

***CONFESSION**

Leader: God of mystery and grace, you came to us not in power and might but in fragile weakness.

People: We confess that, despite your self-example, we rely more on power and might than weakness. We have bent your transformative message of uplifting love into a ceiling to keep others down. We have swapped the justice of mercy for the justice of punishment.

Leader: Forgive us, loving God, and draw us back into right relationship with you, our neighbors, and your creation.

(TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)

***PARDON**

Leader: The promise is sure: Christ is among us, and in Christ we are forgiven for all our sins.

People: As beloved children of God, we know that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Amen!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

F Bb F C7 F C7 F

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and the Son and the Ho - ly Ghost. As it

5 Gm C7 F Dm Gm C7 F

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end, A - men. As it

9 Gm C7 F Dm Gm C7 F

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be, world with - out end, A - men.

13 Am Dm Gm C7 Am Dm Gm C7 Am Dm Gm C7 F Bb

A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men. A - men.

God's Word Is Proclaimed

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Luke 2:1-20

(KJV)

2And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

*HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 188 (v. 1 and 3)

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 - - - - -

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

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

*HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

No. 191 (v. 1 and 3)

It Came upon the Midnight Clear 191

Bb Bb+ Eb/Bb Bb F9/A Bb Eb Eb/G C7/G C7 F

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

N.C. Bb Bb+ Eb/Bb Bb F9/A Bb Bb/D Eb F7 Bb

from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
 when, with the ev-er-cir-cling years, shall come the time fore-told,

N.C. D D/C Gm/Bb D Gm Gm/Bb F/C C7 F

"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, from heaven's all gra-cious King":
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

F7 Bb Bb+ Eb/Bb Bb F9/A Bb Bb/D Eb F7 Bb

the world in sol-emn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

We Respond to God's Word

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY SENTENCES

***DOXOLOGY** *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* No. 34

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Praise God, in Jesus fully known.

Creator, Word, and Spirit one. Amen.

***OFFERTORY PRAYER: God, we can think of no greater gift than Jesus. In awe and gratitude, we respond with our offerings out of the abundance you have provided in our lives. Use them, we pray, for the good of the world. Amen.**

SHARING THE LIGHT

(First verse in German. Verses 1–3 in English)

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

**Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child; holy infant, so tender
and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing
alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is
born!**

**Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of
redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at
thy birth.**

Leader: Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!

People: Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!

(Please extinguish the candles.)

Joy to the World!

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

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re-ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav-ior reigns; let all their songs em-
 3 No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions

D G D G D D
 D D D

King; let ev-ery heart pre-pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless-ings flow
 prove the glo-ries of his right-eous-ness,

D A

and heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and na-ture
 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 Em D A7 D
 G A G

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

heaven and na-ture sing,

*BENEDICTION:

Leader: Let all God's people say:

People: Alleluia, Amen!

*HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

No. 218 (v. 1-3)

218 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain (Unison)

F B \flat F Dm Gm B \flat /_C C F B \flat /_C

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

F B \flat F Dm B \flat 6 B \flat /_C C7 F

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

Parts

F C7/G F A F A Gm B \flat /_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,

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.

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another!

***POSTLUDE**



2023 Poinsettia Memorial and Gifts

A gift for Janice Howell in memory of Andrew Makley & Alivia Fraley & Don Howell by Kay Makley & Ashley Fraley & Family (1 Red)

In memory of Loved Ones by Bill and Cindy Young (1 Red)

In memory of Loved Ones by Roger and Cheryl Barlage (1 Red)

In memory of Carolyn Dicke, Albert & Marie Dicke by Todd Dicke Family (2 Red)

In memory of Ron Hittepole by Marlene Hittepole Family (1 Red)

In memory of Andrea Hittepole by Marlene Hittepole Family (1 Red)

In memory of Robert Wilson by Carol Wilson & Family (1 Red)

In memory of Paul and Viola Headapohl by David and Kelli Muether & Family (1 White)

In memory of James and Irene Jarvis by The David Jarvis Family (1 White)

In memory of Wilbur and Enola Greber and Jim and Tillie Washburn (1 White and 1 Red)

In memory of Cindy Dicke (1 White and 1 Red)

In memory of Loved Ones by Dan and Kathy Nedderman (3 Red)

In memory of Everett and Barbara Schmidt by Sue and Lester Schmackers (1 Red)

In memory of Greg Bushman and Linda Bushman (1 Red)

In memory of Becky Quellhorst by Tom Quellhorst (1 White and 1 Red)

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

In memory of Angela Lynne Bushman and Loved Ones by Dennis Bushman (1 Red)

In memory of Loved Ones by Burt and Jan Fiser (1 Red)

In memory of Loved Ones by Cindy Newman (1 Red)

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

In memory of Raymon, Anna, Eugene, Richard, and Betty Plattner by Bev Plattner (1 Red)

In memory of Don R and Rodney Miller and Ralph Plattner by Bev Plattner (1 Red)

A gift for Dale Schaefer in memory of Jesse and Verona Miller and Verdella Schaefer by Bev Plattner (1 Red)

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

In memory of Mary and Robert Finke, Irene and Paul Jones, and Gregg Thobe by Gary and Staci Jones (2 Red, 1 White)

In memory of Art and Eileen Ranly and The Meyer Family by Matt and Lynda Ranly & Family (2 White)

Christmas Decorating Fund Donors

The Family of Larry Kuhn and Tyler James Kuhn

Bill and Cindy Young

Tom Quellhorst

James and Diane Gilberg & Family

Dan and Kathy Nedderman

The David Jarvis Family

Gary and Staci Jones

Burt and Jan Fiser

Kay Makley and Ashley Fraley & 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 11:00pm Christmas Eve worship service, on the days of December 26th and 27th between the hours of 9:00am-12pm, or after worship service on December 31st. The building will be locked on December 25th and 29th. Thank you!