#### St. Paul United Church of Christ

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St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook Rev. Ken Locke- Interim Pastor stpaulpastor@nktelco.net Myra Hanenkratt- Council President 419-305-3652



### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Advent candle, purple*) This is the candle of hope, and it illuminates God's promise.

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

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

(*Light 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

179

# Joy to the World!



#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

<u>Leader:</u> 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.

<u>People:</u> 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

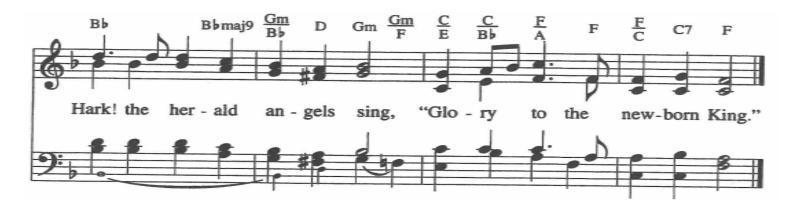
No. 182 (v. 1 and 3)

# O Come, All Ye Faithful



# 185 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing





#### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

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

#### \*CONFESSION

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

<u>People:</u> 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.

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

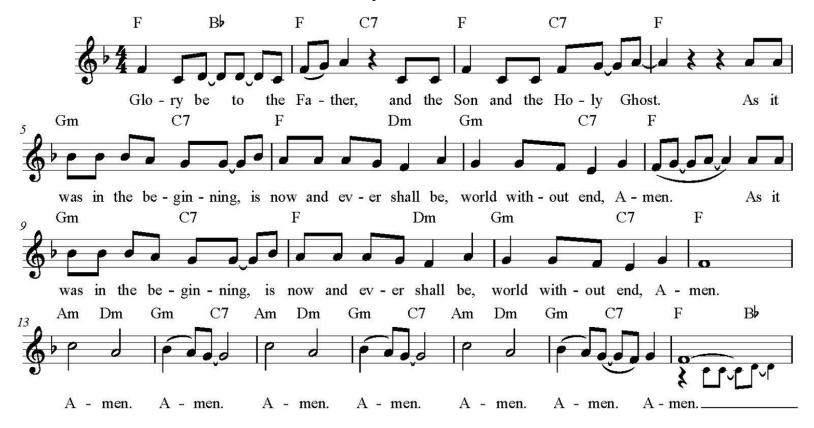
### (TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION)

#### \*PARDON

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

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

### Glory Be to the Father



### 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.
- <sup>2</sup>(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)
- <sup>3</sup>And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.
- <sup>4</sup>And 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:)
- <sup>5</sup>To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
- <sup>6</sup>And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
- <sup>7</sup>And 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.
- <sup>8</sup>And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

- <sup>9</sup>And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.
- <sup>10</sup>And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
- <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.
- <sup>12</sup>And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
- <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
- <sup>14</sup>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
- <sup>15</sup>And 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.
- <sup>16</sup>And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
- <sup>17</sup>And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
- <sup>18</sup>And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
- <sup>19</sup>But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.
- <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

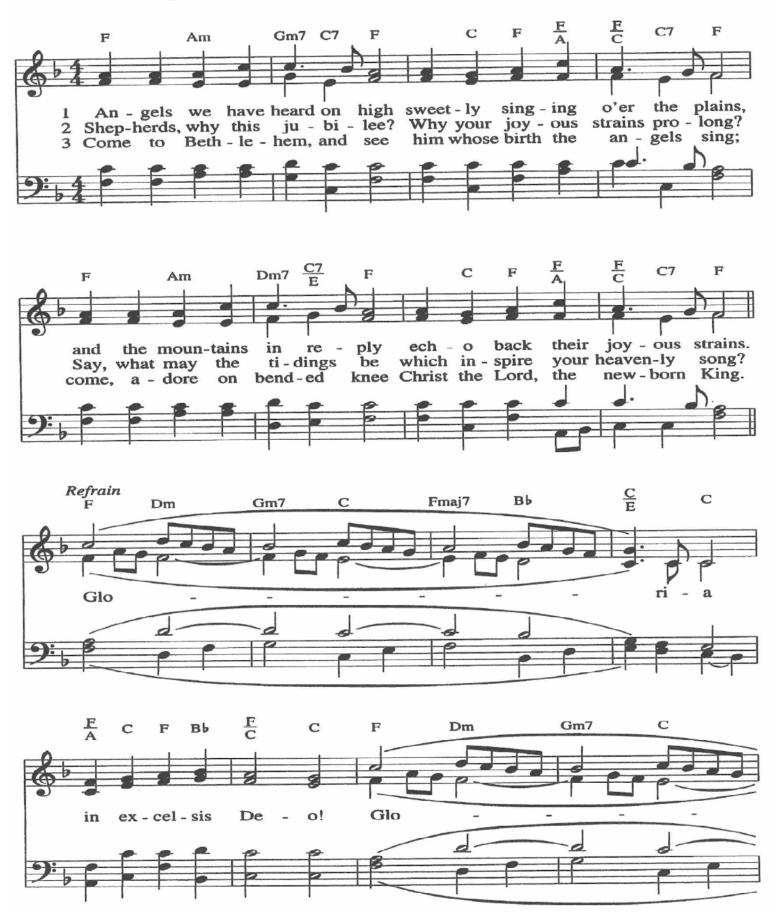
#### **CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

\*HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

No. 188 (v. 1 and 3)

# 188 Angels We Have Heard on High





\*HYMN

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

No. 191 (v. 1 and 3)

# It Came upon the Midnight Clear 191



### 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

# Silent Night! Holy Night!

(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 you 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.

<u>Leader:</u> Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!

**People:** Jesus Christ, the Light of the World!

(Please extinguish the candles.)

\*HYMN

Joy to the World!

No. 179 (v. 1-4)

179

# Joy to the World!



\*BENEDICTION:

<u>Leader</u>: Let all God's people say:

People: Alleluia, Amen!

\*HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

No. 218 (v. 1-3)

# Go, Tell It on the Mountain



#### \*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

<u>Leader</u>: The peace of Christ be with you

**People:** And also with you.

<u>Leader</u>: 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 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> between the hours of 9:00am-12pm, or after worship service on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The building will be locked on December 25<sup>th</sup> and 29th. Thank you!