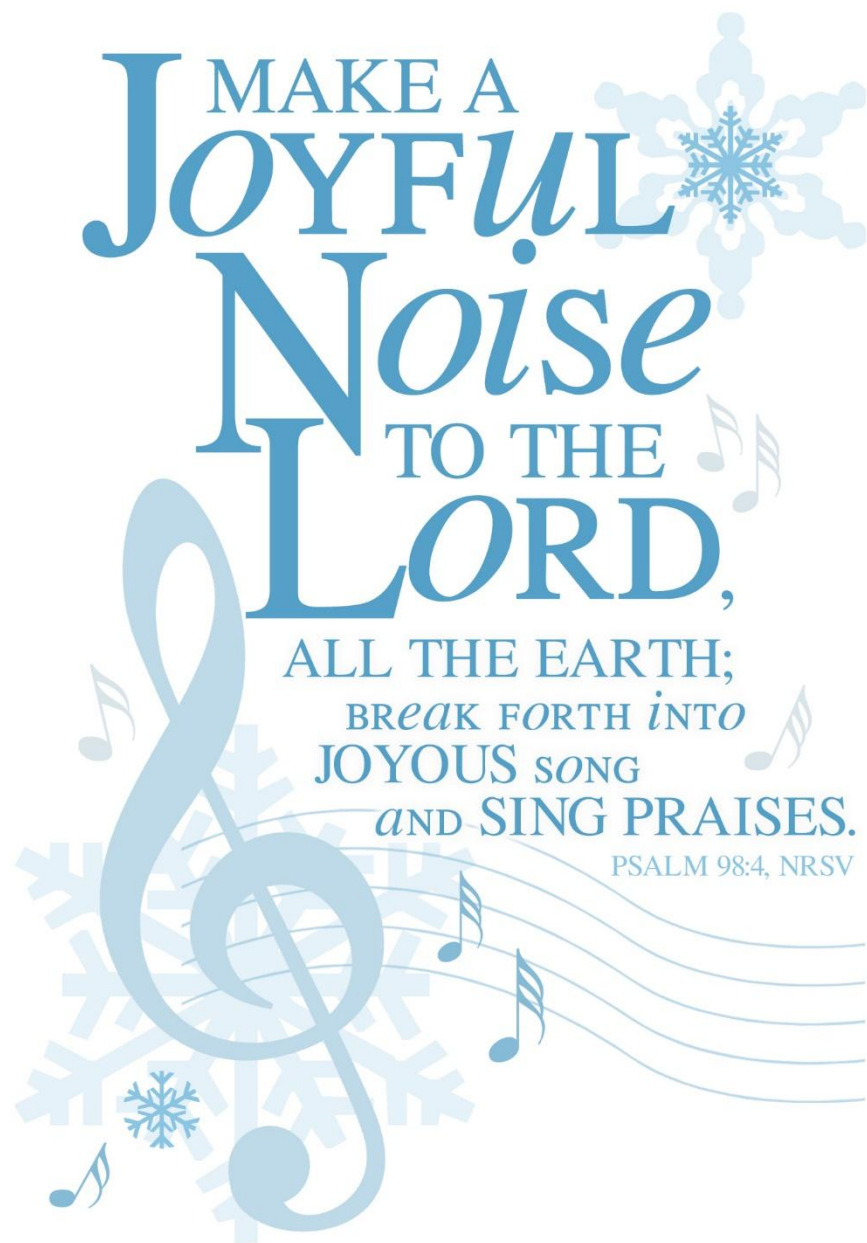


Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
December 29, 2024



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING



*NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. Anna L. Thompson

Lector: Eric Dundore

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Eric R. Dundore

Choristers' Director: Jonneke A. Dundore

Assistant Music Director: Mark A. Dundore

Organist: Sarah A. Myers

Assistant Organist: Patrice G. Miller

Ministry of Audio and Video

Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service

Lead Greeter: Jeff Leister

Greeters: Sherry Spencer

Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer

Kids' Place:

Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel

Flower Delivery: Jane Leister

Counting Team: Sherry Spencer

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Visit the church website, under the 'Sign Up' menu heading, to help as a Sunday volunteer or Worship Participant.

We're grateful for your generosity.

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

626 Williams Grove Road

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

(717)766-7931

saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 31, 2023

The livestream starts with the Announcements. If you'd prefer not to be on camera, kindly choose a seat in the back three pews of the Sanctuary. Leave prayer requests in the bowl in the Common area or give them to the Lead Greeter.

**Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.*

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "O Jesu, So Sweet"

Franklin Ritter

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: Praise the Lord!

Praise God in the heavens.

All: Praise the Lord from the earth!

One: Young and old alike

All: men and women together. Praise the Lord!

*CAROLS No. 135 "O Come, All You Faithful" (vs. 1&3)

No. 126 "Angels, from the Realms of Glory (vs. 1&2)

No. 139 "The First Nowell" (verses 1&2)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

O God, into the realms of clerics and kings You sent Your child to teach the wise and show the world what power there is in love. Keep us vigilant to hear the voices of those who speak Your truth. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God's Grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

God of Wonder, You surround us with signs of Your glory and surprise us with your presence, yet we often miss the marvels You place before us. Forgive our dullness and make us alert to the ways you make Yourself known, that we might be witnesses to Your good news and proclaim Your extravagant love; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

One: In Jesus Christ God saved us, not because of any good works that we have done, but according to God's mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. People of God, rejoice! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

As the Lord has forgiven us, let us also forgive one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

If you are able, please rise and greet one another with other signs of Peace.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

CAROLS No. 143 "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" (vs. 1&2)
No. 133 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1&4)
No. 129 "Good Christians Friends, Rejoice" (vs. 1&2)

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 148

THE EPISTLE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 2:41-52

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)



Thru Christ our ear-nest prayers are said with words we scarce can frame; Our
work of Christ-mas now be-gun, We serve now in Christ's name.

Please also place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate. Thank you.

CAROLS No. 131 "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" (Vs 1&4)
No. 134 "Silent Night, Holy Night" (all three verses)
No. 132 "Joy to the World" (all three verses)

THE OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

**From all who dwell beneath the skies,
Let the Creator's praise arise!
Let the Redeemer's name be sung.
Through every land, by every tongue! Amen.**

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Loving God: We Give You Thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. Amen.

*CAROLS No. 144 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" (vs. 1&2)
No. 125 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (verses 1&3)
No. 154 "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (all three verses)

*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

*THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER

One: Lead us, O God.

**All: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.**

*THE BENEDICTION

* THE THREE-FOLD AMEN

*The livestream ends after the Postlude. You're welcome to converse in the Narthex after the Three-fold Amen.
However, if you choose to stay for the Postlude, please remain silent until the conclusion.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Tell the Good News"

Lani Smith

References:

The Call to Worship, Invocation, Prayer of Confession, Words of Assurance, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from "Feasting on the Word worship companion: liturgies for Year C." Westminster John Knox Press 2012
The World Peace Prayer is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine nuns.

WE WELCOME the Rev. Anna L. Thompson as our Preacher and Liturgist today. Anna is a ministerial daughter of our congregation and served St. Paul's as the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministries for a number of years. She is the retired Chaplain of Thornwald Home and The Sarah A. Todd Memorial Home of United Church of Christ Homes. We thank her for her participation in our worship service today.

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL DINNER!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 12TH (PLEASE SIGN UP BY JAN. 5TH)
FOLLOWING THE 10:30 SERVICE & ANNUAL MEETING



- Join us in Fellowship Hall for our Annual Congregational Dinner of Pork & Sauerkraut.
- We will be honoring our members with 50 or more years.
- To help cover the cost of the meal, there will be a charge of \$9.00 for ages 13 & up, \$5.00 for ages 5 – 12, ages 4 and under are free.
- Sign-up sheets are available in the Common. Sign-up sheets are available for dessert donations and helpers. We are looking for dishwasher apprentices! On the job training available! All sign up sheets will be online also.

STAR WORDS

Star words are a prayer practice connected to the celebration of Epiphany, when a star in the sky guided the magi to baby Jesus. On Sunday, January 5, worshipers will receive a small paper star with a word printed on it. Participants are invited to trust the word they receive as offering guidance for their life in the coming year. Place your star word where you will see it regularly throughout the year and consider God's movement in your life through, around, and in connection with your star word. Just as the magi followed a star long ago, we too can be guided by our star word for the coming year. We hope you'll join us for this new spiritual practice.

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Your gifts through Global Ministries Child Sponsorship make a difference! Collaborating with partners, your gifts to Child Sponsorship provide food, basic health care, clothing and in some cases housing, school fees, uniforms, books and training. The cost to sponsor a child in 2025 is \$35.00 per child per month. Head to our church website to sign up. Checks can be made out to St. Paul's UCC.