

Worship Leadership
The Rev. John Ward-Diorio
Lector: 4:00 Dennis Plymette 10:45 Rick Ayers

Ministry of Music
Sarah Myers, Organist
Eric Dundore, Minister of Music

Ministry of Service
Dave Scott, Head Usher

Readers
4:00 Service
Dennis Plymette, Randy Murphy, Allyssa Boyer

10:45 Service
Rick Ayers, Jenn Martek, Bill Cashman, Shirley Keith Knox

Greeters
Bonnie & Dennis Plymette 4:00
Deb & Bill Cashman 10:45

Acolyte
Slater Ward-Diorio 4:00

Musicians
Choristers 4:00 PM
Chancel Choir 10:45 PM
Merikay Wood
Eric Dundore, Soloist

Pastor Emeritus
The Rev. Dr. Thomas Herrold

Ministers
The Entire Congregation

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717/766-7931

Website: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org
Office email: stpaulstaff@verizon.net
John's email: revjohnwd@verizon.net

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

December 24, 2011



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING 

No Matter Who You Are, or Where You Are on Life's Journey You are
Welcome Here!

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 2011
SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
4:00 and 10:45 PM

10:15-10:45 Prelude provided by Sarah Myers and Merikay Wood

THE GREETING

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE ORGAN PRELUDE AND ADVENT PROCESSIONAL

Organ "Angels We Have Heard On High"

Lector

Henry Balcombe

LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE



Advent Wreath Candle lighting: 4 PM - 2012 High School Senior's – Erin Moyer and Audrey Runkle, 10:45 PM – Don & Merikay Wood (Responsive Reading and Scripture Passage)

One: For weeks we have listened to obscure messages from ancient prophets. In their words we have caught glimpses of the light that is promised. Now, though the wreath is ablaze and all the candles of anticipation have been lit, still there is one last prophecy to hear.

All: With eyes wide open, ears attuned and hearts unguarded, we gather around the wreath one last time, longing to receive the Word within the words.

One: A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 9, verses 2 to 7.

All: This night these words are fulfilled in our hearing and in our living for the promise of God has come to us. Our lives are the manger in whom the Christ child is born. No longer do we seek light from another source; now the light burns in our hearts and we become love's lamp.

One: So, we light the candle at the center of our wreath and our faith. We light it in the name of the One who is the light, and, as Mary did so long ago, we name this light Jesus.



Jim Bowers

Ed Charles

Pat Cleland

Cleason Cromer

Bill and Alice Crouse

Richard Gray

Betty Grove

Bob Henry

Betty Hyde

Joanne Ingerson

Mobeen Khan

Steven Keith

Zachary Lazerus

Jerry McCartney

Jack Mellinger

Pat Miller

Shelby, Tammy Mullin & Family

Jean Myers

Rhoads Family

Kelly & Thomas Rice and Family

Jere Rutherford

Sandy

Joyce Sealover

Peg Seiler & Family

Robin Setcavage

Pete & Linda Shea

Gracie Simpson

Bud & Donna Sponsler

Phoenix, Shannon & Eric Trout and the Miller Family

Leah van Olden

Sue Worley, Jean and Willard Jones and Family

Lucas Wissinger

All affected by the weather, All those in the Middle East struggling for peace; All in military and their families; All who have lost loved ones and All affected by lost jobs & the economy.

Celebrations

THE PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
(Debts and Debtors)

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

(We will share in the Sacrament in our pews tonight. Please hold the elements until all have been served and we will eat and then drink together. There will be bread and gluten-free crackers on each plate and wine and white grape juice in each cup holder. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.)

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Giving God, we are grateful for all the gifts You share with us, most especially the gift of Yourself. On this night we celebrate Your coming into the world as the baby Jesus. We also celebrate the sharing of Yourself in this Sacrament of Holy Communion. Help us to understand that Your desire is that we too will share ourselves with others, remembering You are always within us, with us, Emmanuel. Amen.

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: John 1:1-18

*THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT

The ushers will light the candle of the worshipper nearest the aisle. Candles should be secure before lighting. Dip only the unlit candle when lighting your candle from your neighbor's. Help your younger children. Keep your candle lit until the conclusion of the Service. Always hold your candle in an upright position and maintain a safe distance between the candle and yourself and other people and things. As you leave the Sanctuary, please place the candle and holder in the receptacle in the Narthex.

*THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL "Silent Night"

**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 a far, heav'nly host 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.**

*THE BENEDICTION

*THE POSTLUDE "And the Glory of the Lord"

G.F. Handel

*THE PROCESSIONAL CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come, ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. R**

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

Minister: "The Angel Gabriel Said:

ALL: 'Nothing Will Be Impossible With God.'"

Minister: Thus Jesus Is Birthed By Mary;

ALL: Thus God Is Born Anew Within Us.

Minister: Nothing Will Be Impossible With God.

ALL: Nothing. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Glorious, giving God, You gifted us with Your son Jesus. You trusted us with Your Child. You continue to trust and bless us. Thank you. Be with us as we show our gratitude by loving others and offering our service to those in need. Amen.

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

God cannot stand to be separated from us. God comes to us in many ways, over and over again. We quite often refuse the gift of God's presence, wisdom and guidance. Let us join in the unison Prayer of Confession.

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

On this night we confess our minds and hearts are elsewhere. God, You come to us again, choosing to live within us, waiting to be born. We refuse Your gift and instead look elsewhere for fulfillment and joy. We raise up our defenses and allow our doubts, our resignation, and our fears to cover up Your Spirit. Amen.

THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

THE WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

Minister: God forgives us and brings Christmas no matter what.

All: Let us accept the gift of God's presence; be transformed by God's Spirit; and share with the world God's vision for justice and peace, and God's all-embracing, all-encompassing love. Amen.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE GLORIA PATRI

(10:45 Service Only) LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10

“The Spirit of The LORD Shall Rest Upon This Child”

(10:45 Service Only) ANTHEM: – Eric Dundore “Ain’t This Boy a Wonder” Adams

A CHRISTMAS STORY

THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

**Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings,
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that all no more may die,
Born to raise the ones of earth, Born to give them second birth. R**

LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

“She Laid Him In a Manger Because There Was No Room For Them In The Inn”

THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL “What Child Is This, Who Laid to Rest”

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, While shepherds watch are
keeping?**

**Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels
sing: Haste, haste to bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. R**

LESSON: Luke 2:8-14

“Do Not Be Afraid; For See—I am Bringing You Good News Of Great Joy
For All the People”

THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL “Angels We Have Heard On High”

**Angels we have heard on high Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R**

LESSON: Luke 2:15-20

“The Shepherds Returned, Glorifying and Praising God For All They Had Heard and Seen”

THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL “Joy To the World”

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love, And wonders of his love,
And wonder, wonders of his love.**

THE OFFERTORY

THE CHOIR ANTHEM 4:00 Choristers “The Friendly Beasts”
10:45 Chancel Choir “There is Faint Music” Forrest

*THE DOXOLOGY

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**Thank You, God, for all the gifts You have given us. Most of all, we are grateful for the
human child who became the embodiment of Your Love. With our offerings, we worship
the babe of Bethlehem and recommit ourselves as disciples of the man of Nazareth whom
he grew up to be. May the ministry and mission of this church be true to our crucified
and risen Savior, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

One: God Be With You.

Many: And Also With You.

One: Lift Up Your Hearts

Many: We Lift Them Up To God.

One: Let Us Give Thanks To God

Many: It Is Good To Give God Thanks and Praise.

**Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand. We welcome warmly all who are visiting with us. Please register your attendance on the Friendship Form so that others may greet you in the name of the Living Christ. The person at the end of the pew should place the finished sheet in the offering plate.

References:

The Liturgy of Light (our Advent Wreath Candlelighting Liturgy) was written by The Rev. Michael Piazza, Dean and National Pastor of the Cathedral of Hope UCC, Dallas, Texas, 2008, Local Church Ministries, Worship and Education Ministry Team, UCC.

The Prayer of Dedication is from Led By Love, by Lavon Bayler, 1996, United Church Press.

The World Peace Prayer is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, and is also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine Sisters.



POINSETTIAS



Given By:

Kathy, Mike & Christy Aumiller
Paula, Mark, Allyssa & Jim Boyer

Elaine Daly & Chris Royer
The Davinroy Family
Evelyn Diorio
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Scott & Amanda Endy and Sydnie Lau
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Terry & Gail Gastrock
Missy & Scott Gates
Missy & Scott Gates
Scott, Missy, Wyatt & Bella
Richard & Michael Gray
Mr. & Mrs. Willard Jones
Eugene & Martha Keith
Glenn C. & Esther M. Kline
Shirley, Greg, Jon & Ben Knox
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Herb Myers
Herb Myers
Sarah Myers
Sarah Myers

Tom & Betty Olsen
Julie Patton & Family
Wyatt & Ryder Paulus
Jim & Joan Quick
Betsy Rushong

In Memory of Parents & Grandparents
In Memory of Domenica Alfano, beloved mother and grandmother
In Memory of Mary Daly
In Honor of Family
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Libri J. Diorio
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Diorio
In Memory of Mr. Robert Diorio
In Memory of Richard Endy
In Memory of Kimberly Kahmer
In Memory of Albert Kahmer
In Memory of our Parents
In Honor of our Parents
In Honor of our children, Bella & Wyatt
In Memory of Mom-Mom, Nada Navratil
In Memory of Loved Ones
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. William Jones
In Honor of our Family
In Memory of Charles & Virginia Diener
In Honor of Family & Loved Ones
In Memory of Vivian C. Knox
In Honor of Jean Myers
In Memory of Herbert A. Myers
In Honor of Beth Mihmet
In Memory of My Father, Brother & Grandparents
In Memory of Loved Ones
In Memory of Parents, Fred & Ruth Thornton
In Memory of Grandpa Chilson & Nanny Rider
In Honor of Our Grandchildren
In Memory of Lucy Goodridge



POINSETTIAS



Given By

Glenn, Lynn & Laurie Schultz
Peggy & Don Seiler
Terry & Gene Shaner
Terry & Gene Shaner

Terry & Gene Shaner
The Jerry Stada Family
Clarence & Nancy Steck
The Sterner Family
Cathy, Brandon & Bradley Thomas
Anna Thompson

Anna Thompson

Ed & Susan Thorn
The Williams Family

Eleanor Witt & Family
Don & Merikay Wood
Don & Merikay Wood
Ruth Wrightstone

In Memory of Dorothy Z. Schultz
In Honor of Family
In Honor of Parents, Children & Grandchildren
In Memory of Mother, Nada Navratil & Aunt, Vivian Ware
In Memory of Father, Sister & Grandparents
In Memory of Christine Stada
In Memory of Father & Grandparents
In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Sterner Sr.
In Memory of Charles & Mary Grove
In Honor of the Snow, Dixon & Thompson Families
In Memory of John & Rena Smith and Erma Bricker
In Memory of Ken & Edna Garrett
In Honor of the Men & Women of the Armed Forces, their Families & Loved Ones
In Memory of My Husband, Robert Witt
In Memory of Helen Wood
In Memory of Herb Rupp
In Memory of Parents, Brother & Sisters

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poinsettias – If you ordered Poinsettias, you may start to pick them up after the 4:00 PM Service tonight. Thank you for sponsoring the Poinsettias that have helped beautify our Sanctuary tonight.

Christmas Day, Sunday December 25th – One Worship Service at 9 AM – Christmas Carol and Hymn Sing (no Sunday School.) Kids of all ages please feel free to come in your PJ's and bring your favorite toy.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the year 2011 must be in the church office by **Friday December 30, 2011**. If you have any questions on your 2011 contributions, please see Terry in the Church Office. **Monies received after the start of 2012 will be booked as a 2012 contribution.**

The 2012 Offering Envelopes are on the table in the commons. If you don't see yours, please check with Terry in the Church office.

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TO ONE AND ALL!!!**



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