

**Welcome to**  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

December 4, 2022



SECOND SUNDAY OF  
**ADVENT**

**GOD IS STILL SPEAKING**



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

## **Worship Leadership**

The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio

Preacher: The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer

Lector: Becky Thompson

Candle Lighting; Mia, Elsa, Megan & Aaron Riesmeyer

## **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**

Worship Welcome Team Leader: Sherry Spencer

Worship Welcome Team: Paula Boyer, Rebecca Drazba, Steven Roush,

Wendy Hayden, Megan Riesmeyer

Nursery: Susan Ward-Diorio

Flower Delivery: Becky Thompson

## **Pastor Emeritus**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

## **Ministers**

The Entire Congregation

*Please visit the church website at <http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/> to sign up for Acolyte, Welcome Team, Lector, Volunteer in the Nursery, Deliver the Altar Flowers, and/or Sponsor the Altar Flowers. You will find the individual signup sheets under the "Sign Up" menu heading. Thank you.*



**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**626 Williams Grove Road**

**Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

**717/766-7931**

**Website: [www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)**

**Office email: [stpaulstaff@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulstaff@outlook.com)**

**John's email: [revjohnwd@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnwd@outlook.com)**

**Allyssa's email: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)**

*St. Paul's Online Giving*

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 4, 2022

*Please note: the livestream broadcast begins with the Announcements.*

*If you do not wish to appear in the livestream,  
it is best to sit in one of the back three pews of the Sanctuary.*

*Please write up any Prayer Requests ahead of time, leave them in the Red Bowl  
or give them to the Welcome Team Leader. They will bring them forward.*

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

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Gesù Bambino"

Pietro A. Yon

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 104 "We Hail You God's Anointed"

**PEACE**

**One:** Last Sunday we lit the first candle, the candle of hope. Today we light the second candle, the candle of peace. We light it knowing full well that peace is elusive, and in some parts of the world, it is almost completely absent. Yet in this season of Advent, we trust that God is never absent from us. God is always preparing something new. And even where there is war and discord, whether between countries, within families, or within our own hearts, God is present, gently leading us to new possibilities.

**All:** **Loving God, in this time of preparation and planning, we thank you for the hope and peace you unfailingly offer us. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ.**

SUNG RESPONSE "The Candle of Hope"

(sung to no. 305, "You Servants of God")

***The candle of peace shines bright with God's plan;***

***The wolf will lie down and dwell with the lamb.***

***Our guns and our weapons, our hatred and war,***

***Will give way to gardens that heal and restore.***

## CALL TO CONFESSION

We, who have neglected the messages of Scripture, are called to repent, for God's realm is at hand. How can we help prepare the way for God's Kingdom of Peace if we are caught up in impatience, indifference, and lack of compassion? Let us confess all that divides us from the source of life. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: Beloved, know that God's grace and mercy abound; in God we are forgiven.

**All: Let us live into this gift. Amen.**

*Please note: we will not be shaking hands or hugging.  
If you are able, please rise and greet one another with other signs of Peace.*

## \*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*THE GLORIA PATRI (#759 is the tune, but not all the same words)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

*Children are invited to the front at this time.  
Remember, everyone who comes forward will be on camera.*

## SING THE CHILDREN TO THE FRONT

Jesus Loves the Little Children

*Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world*

*Shy and Joyful, Bold and Bright*

*They are precious in his sight*

*Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

## THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG

### SING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR SEATS

Jesus Loves Me

*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but He is strong.*

*Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me  
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so*

## THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 3:1-12

## THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Isaiah 11:1-10

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

## Advent Blessing

Bless us, Fa - ther, as we pray. Help us seek You day by day. Bind us all in  
6 Heart and mind. Bid all our quar - rls cease. Fill the world with Hea - ven's peace. Bid all war and  
12 hun - ger cease. Oh, come, Ho - ly Sav - ior, come.

*Please place your pew pad sheets in that Offering Plate. Thank you.*

THE OFFERTORY "Prepare"

Pote

Youth Choir

\*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)

**O God, architect of this world: we know You have a vision for all Your creation to dwell together in peace. With the creatures of the air, earth, and sea, You long for us to live in harmony with one another. We give this morning, seeking to help bring Your vision of peace to the earth, as it is in heaven. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 571 "O God of Love, O God of Peace"

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

**All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

### PASTORAL PRAYER & 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.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*Today we gather both in person and in spirit. For those who are present in the sanctuary, ushers will pass out bread and gluten-free crackers, and red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Unless you are sitting with a family unit, please do not pass the trays down the pew, but rather give them back to the usher.*

*For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God's blessing upon these communion elements, even as we are physically distant from one another. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.*

#### THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

**Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for Your coming to us in the person of Jesus and for Jesus's willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all deaths—those losses, endings, and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives—are not the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN “God, Your Gift of Peace is Precious”  
(to the tune of no. 436 “God of Grace and God of Glory”)

*God, your gift of peace is precious in this world of sin and loss:  
You have given joy and gladness, making peace through Jesus’ cross.  
God, in love you came to save us, giving freedom from our sin —  
In you, gifts of peace begin.*

*Jesus, you are God’s example in the life on earth you lived.  
Help us see your face in others, teach us freely to forgive.  
When, in all your children’s conflicts, hate and violence increase —  
Blest are those who work for peace.*

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, blessed, too, are all the meek.  
When we feel a slap of hatred, you say: Turn the other cheek.  
When arrested in the garden you spoke to your friend to say,  
“Peter, put your sword away.”*

*So we pray and work together toward a world of your shalom.  
May all people share your bounty, and all have both feast and home.  
Wolf and lamb shall feed together: In your kingdom war shall cease  
And your people live in peace.*

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\*THE BIDDING TO MISSION AND BLESSING (Responsive)

One: Take your encouragement from Christ, that your joy may be complete.

**All: We will share in the Spirit; we will find consolation in love.**

One: Practice a ministry of humility and compassion. For God is at work in you, empowering you.

**All: We will welcome Christ into our hearts. We will live lives worthy of the Gospel. We will go forth in hope and in peace.**

\*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

*Please note: the livestream continues until the end of the Postlude.  
Please know you are free to leave following the Three-fold Amen and exit to the Narthex  
to speak with one another. You may be visible and audible on the livestream as you exit  
early. If you choose to remain, please stay seated and listen quietly to the Postlude.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Henry Balcombe

References:

The Advent Candle Lighting liturgy and Bidding to Mission and Blessing responsive reading are from “Process & Faith: Advent Candle Liturgy, May 27, 2015” by Jeanyne Slettom.

The Call to Confession is adapted from “Taught by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1998, United Church Press.

The Words of Assurance are adapted from “Advent 2A-December 4” by the Rev. Mia M. McClain, UCC Worship Ways.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from “Stand as a Signal: Second Sunday of Advent, Year A,” Worship Planning, Discipleship Ministries, The United Methodist Church. 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.

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Are in celebration of Bonnie and Catherine Clark’s Wedding yesterday,

December 3<sup>rd</sup> at St. Paul’s.

And given to the Glory of God by

Anna Thompson, “In honor of her grandchildren.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Next Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

- Holiday Cookie Walk (9AM – 11:30AM)
- Advent Activity Day (9:15AM-10:15AM)
- Congregational Meeting: to discuss and vote on the 2023 budget (11:30AM)
- PRISM: People Rallying in Singles Ministry, simple meal (5PM)

Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>

- Blue Christmas Service (7PM)

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Cantata, “I Hear the Prophet Calling” (10:30AM)
- The Christmas Fund Offering (10:30AM)
- Christmas Caroling (4PM)

Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Christmas Eve Services (4PM & 11PM)

Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>.

- Christmas Day: No services