

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

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

December 18, 2022



FOURTH 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**

Preacher: The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio  
The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer  
Candle Lighting: The Pineo Family

### **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, Steve Roush, Corky Short  
Nursery: Kim Pirtle  
Flower Delivery: Mary Runkle

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 18, 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 "And You Shall Name Him Jesus"

Gerald Peterson

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 144 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & 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)

## 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 - rels cease. Fill the world with Hea - ven's peace. Bid all war and

12  
hun - ger cease. Oh, come, Ho - ly Sav - ior, come.

## LOVE

- One: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story.
- One: There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.
- All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season.  
As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination.  
Show us the creative power of hope.  
Teach us the peace that comes from justice.  
Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared.  
Magnify your love within us.  
Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you,  
That we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE “The Candle of Love” (sung to no. 305, “You Servants of God”)  
*The candle of love tells what we are worth:  
God loves us so much, God came to the earth!  
An angel brought news of a child who would be  
The one who would save us and set us all free.*

## CANTATA

### **I Hear the Prophet Callin’ – The Christmas Story from Prophecy to Fulfillment – by Pepper Choplin**

1. Listen to the Story – Choirs
2. I Hear the Prophet Callin’ – Soloist and Choir
3. The People Who Walk in Darkness – Choir
4. I Hear a Mother Singin’ – Soloist
5. Rockin’ Slow and Even – Choir
6. There in the Same Country – Choir
7. I Hear the Shepherds Callin’ – Soloist
8. Go, Tell It on the Mountain – Choir and Soloist
9. I See the Star of Glory – Soloist
10. A Star Rising in the East – Choir
11. I Hear the People Singin’ – Soloist and Choir
12. Joy to the World – Choir and Congregation

*(The congregation should sing verses 1 and 4 with the choir)*

**Joy to the World! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare Him room and heaven and nature sing.**

*(Choir sings verses 2 and 3)*

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

*Soloist – Gordon Kaslusky*

*Narrator – Rev. Allyssa Boyer*

*Instrumentalists – Kevin Neidig, Allen Roth, Alison Williams and Sarah Myers.*

\*THE HYMN No. 129 “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

\*THE BIDDING TO MISSION AND BLESSING (Responsive)

One: Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge  
That God is always coming into the world.

**All: We will seek God, not in a long ago stable or ancient manger,  
But in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

One: May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;  
May the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

**All: We will welcome the challenge of discipleship.  
We will offer ourselves as God’s ministers.  
We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

\*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 “Angels We Have Heard On High”

Henry Balcombe

References:

Our Advent Candle Lightening Liturgy and Bidding to Mission and Blessing Responsive Reading are from “Process & Faith: Advent Candle Liturgy, May 27, 2015” by Jeanyne Slettom, with some slight edits and additions.

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 given to the Glory of God by  
Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes, "In memory of our niece, Erin Lee Shane."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Many thanks to all who had any hand in making our down-home Christmas Cantata come to life during this season. We are so grateful to all our regular choir members and those who joined us just for this event, the instrumentalists (and MOST especially Sarah Myers), the puppeteers, the puppet makers (especially Linda Alburger), the Chancel designers, Brian Medkeff-Rose (our stage director andrewriter), and Jonne Dundore for making sure everything got done well! Hopefully some of the words and melodies will stay with you well into the Christmas season and beyond.*

**Today we are collecting the Christmas Fund Offering:** THE CHRISTMAS FUND for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

**Christmas Eve Services:** Join us for our Christmas Eve services at 4PM and 11PM. If you sponsored poinsettias, be sure to take your flowers with you after the Christmas Eve service you attend. If you are unable to attend, please arrange to pick up your flowers from the church by Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Christmas Day:** December 25<sup>th</sup>, No Services. Merry Christmas!

**Office Hours:** The office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 26, Tuesday, Dec. 27, and Monday, Jan. 2. Feel free to leave a message and we will return it when the office opens.

**SPOOF (St. Paul's On Our Feet) Hike:** Join St Paul's On Our Feet (SPOOF) to end the year with a hike! We'll be hiking Saturday, December 31st (weather permitting). All are welcome to join us! We will be hiking to the Cumberland Valley Overlook, from Miller's Gap Rd. We'll also stop at the Darlington Shelter, on the Appalachian Trail. This is a moderately difficult loop hike, 4 miles, with 550 feet of elevation gain. We will meet at the church at 9:00, or you can join us directly at the parking area at the summit of Miller's Gap Rd. It is 9 miles from the church to the parking area. Either way, boots will hit the trail at 9:30am. Bring: Hiking shoes or boots, water. Questions: Contact Jenn Martek

**POLLYANNAS:** Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tues, Dec 27 at Perkins on Erford Rd. We will be meeting in the small back room. If you are planning to attend, please contact Bonnie Plymette (591-8471).