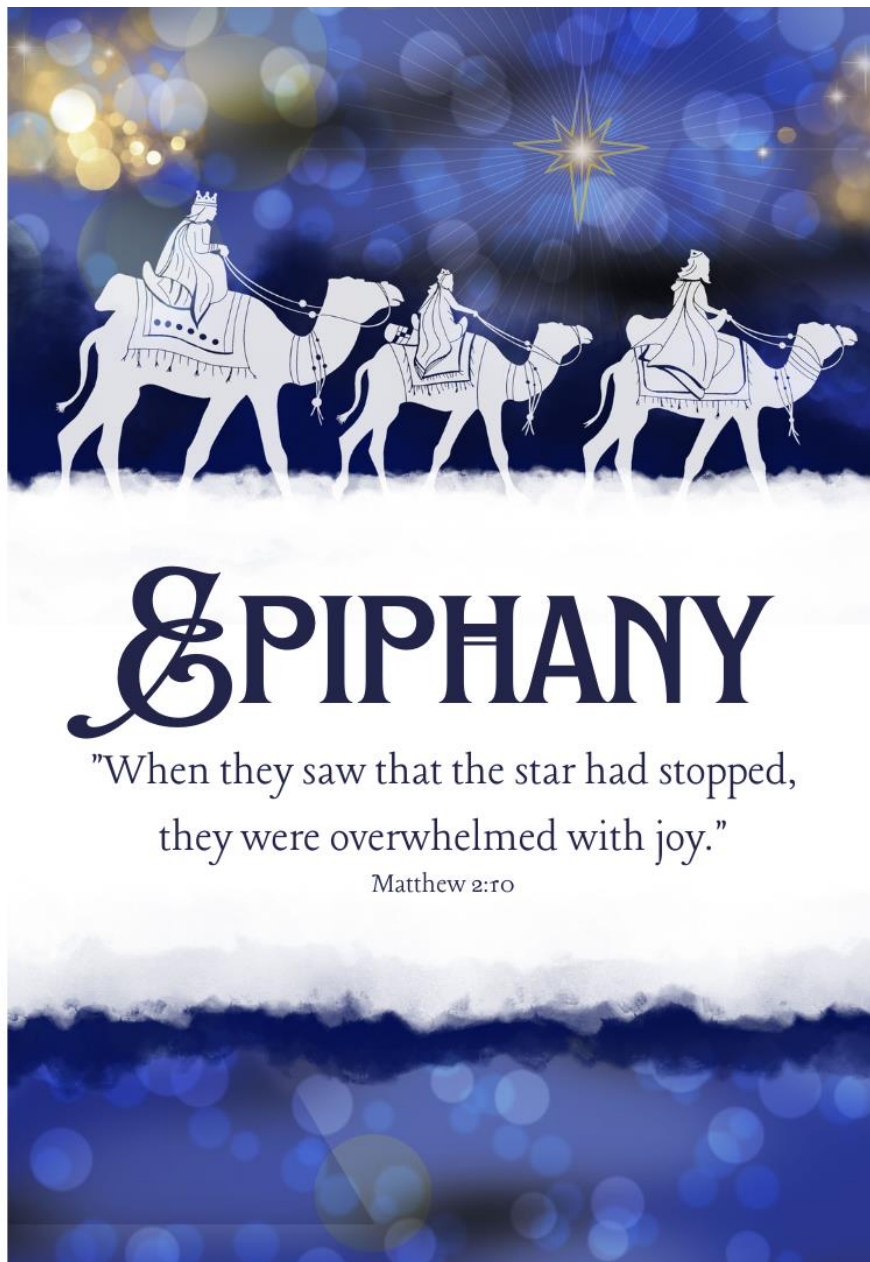


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

January 8, 2023



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING



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

Worship Leadership

Preacher: Rev. Dr. Carrie Call, PhD
The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
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

Worship Welcome Team Leader: Chris Bowers
Worship Welcome Team: Fenton Fox, Sherry Spencer, Steve Roush, Wendy Hayden
Nursery:
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore

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, Counting Team and/or Sponsor the Altar Flowers. You will find the individual signup sheets under the "Sign Up" menu heading. Thank you.



St. Paul's Online Giving

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

Website: saintpaulsucc-mech.org
Office email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com
Rev. John's email: revjohnwd@outlook.com
Rev. Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

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

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY; HOLY COMMUNION

January 8, 2023

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 "The Star in the East"

Esther S. Higgins

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 159 "As With Gladness Those of Old"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, Your light displays Your Compassion and Love for all. May we too be drawn to it, regardless of how arduous a journey that requires. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

One of the most dangerous traps faith groups can fall into is believing they, and only they, will recognize through whom and how God comes into the world. The story of Jesus' birth and the arrival of the magi, reveals a warning about such exclusiveness and human predictions about God's actions. Let us join in the Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us, and continues to speak to us, reminding us to remain open to the limitless mystery of God's Presence and Actions.

All: Let us look for God's Light, in both places and people we expect, and in surprising people and places. And may we move deeper and deeper into that Light. 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.
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 EPISTLE READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

THE HEWBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

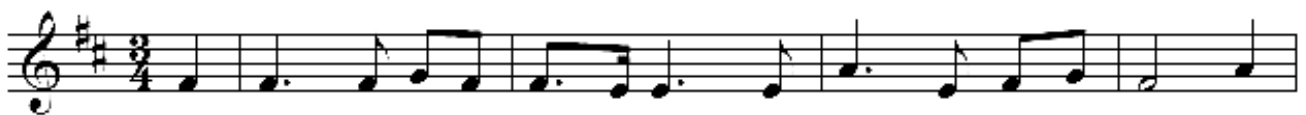
THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 2:1-12

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

Prayer Response



Thru Christ our ear-nest prayers are said with words we scarce can frame; Our



work of Christ-mas now be-gun, We serve them in Christ's name.

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

THE OFFERTORY “Arise and Shine, Your Light Has Come”
Chancel Choir

Purifoy

***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)**

As the magi presented costly gifts to the Child they dared to worship as Your special messenger, help us give our best through the Church, which continues as Christ’s body and the carrier of good news. Keep us open to the signs of Your presence and responsive to Your summons, no matter where it leads. Amen.

***THE HYMN No. 165 “Love Came Down at Christmas”**

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

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, if you are able, we invite you to come forward. We are Blessed this day by The Rev. Dr. Carrie Call’s presence and the reminder she offers of our connection to the wider United Church of Christ. When you come forward, a piece of bread will be given to you. Rev. Allyssa will have gluten free broken crackers and white grape juice as well. Once you have received your bread, please proceed to the right or the left and Welcome Team Members will have both wine and grape juice that you may dip your bread in. You may then eat your Communion Element and proceed back to your pew.

If you prefer not to come forward, remain in your pew and a Welcome Team Member will bring you the Elements. Please raise your hand if you believe the Member did not see you. 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 Blessings upon these Communion Elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space. 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 "O God of Light"

(to the tune of no. 531, "Lord, Speak to Me, That I May Speak")

*O God of light, may our light shine In ways that serve and honor you.
May we be loving, just and kind, Proclaiming Christ in all we do.*

*God, where your people are oppressed And where they cry out in despair,
Make us your light — to heal, to bless — A witness, Lord, that you are there.*

*Christ, when your way is pushed aside By those who trust in wealth and might,
Make us your lamps that we may guide A searching world to your love's light.*

*O Spirit, in this world of doubt, We often sin and drift away;
When our own faith is flickering out, Shine on our path and light our way.*

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*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

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 “Procession of the Magi”

George Blake

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Fresh Winds of the Spirit” by Lavon Bayler, 1986, United Church Press.

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

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by

TODAY ST. PAUL’S UCC WELCOMES THE REV. DR. CARRIE CALL: PENN CENTRAL CONFERENCE MINISTER.

Carrie has served in her leadership position at Penn Central Conference since August 2019. She came to us from Lancaster Theological Seminary where she worked from October of 2016 – June 2019 as the Executive Director of Development and Communication. Prior to the Seminary she served the Indiana-Kentucky Conference of the United Church of Christ as an associate conference minister from 2012-2016. She also worked for 10 years at Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, as an instructor in the departments of Psychology and Education and director of the Office for Civic and Social Engagement. From 1992-97 she was pastor of Old First Church, Middletown, N.J.

Carrie holds three degrees from Cornell University: B.S. in Rural Sociology (1986), M.S. in Development Sociology (2000), and Ph.D. in Education (2004). She received a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Systematic Theology from Colgate-Rochester Divinity School in 1990, and was ordained as a minister with full standing in the United Church of Christ in 1994. She currently serves the denomination in a variety of ways: As a member of the Council of Conference Ministers; on the UCC Historical Council; and as an active member of the UCC History and Polity Teachers Network. She is author of *Spiritually Healthy Divorce: Navigating Disruption with Insight & Hope* (Skylight Paths Publishing, 2010). She lives in Lancaster with her husband Randall, who is Professor Emeritus of Reformation Studies at the University of Notre Dame as well as an adjunct faculty member in Church History at Lancaster Theological Seminary.

ST. PAUL'S ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL DINNER!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 15TH
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 will be in the Common Area. Also sign up sheets will be available for dessert donations and helpers. All sign up sheets will be online as well.

PRISM: People Rallying in Singles Ministry

All singles are invited to attend our potluck lunch after church on January 8th. We will be gathering in the fellowship hall after burning of the greens. Please bring a favorite dish to share. We look forward to spending time with you. Questions, contact Carol Sizemore, 717-858-3105

CHURCH DIRECTORY

There is a current church directory in the Common. Please check it and make sure your entry is correct. If any changes or updates need to be made, you can mark those next to your entry and we will make the updates before printing new directories at the beginning of February. If you don't find yourself in the directory (you may not have given us permission to add you and your family) feel free to send your information to the church administrative assistant or mark it in the draft directory. Thank you!

TODAY, FOLLOWING WORSHIP

The "Burning of the Greens" is a familiar holiday event at St. Paul's. But this year, to be better stewards of the environment, instead of burning our evergreen tree, we are placing it in our columbarium garden and decorating it with handmade edible ornaments for our bird and squirrel neighbors. Join us after the worship service to bless the Epiphany Tree and celebrate the light of Christ coming into the world. Thank you for helping us start a new Epiphany tradition at St. Paul's!