

**Jesus prepared a
meal for the
multitudes to
remind us that we
feed people not
because we believe
they deserve it, but
because they're
hungry.**

johnpavlovitz.com

St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Rev. Becky Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate Pastor

Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

Welcome to St. Paul UCC, we are glad you are here!!

Welcome! Your presence, increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior. May every blessing be yours.

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent: Love

Worship Leaders

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Pastor Dee Schroer

Cheyenne Olt

Dick Hudson

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

Organist

GREETING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES: The history of humanity is fraught with pain—especially the pain that is accompanied by fear and leads to oppression and violence of one group of people against another. This is the world into which Jesus was born and through which his teachings would challenge and call for transformation. Our opening words come from an anonymous Jewish poet: *I believe in the sun, even when the sun is not shining*, were scrawled on a wall during the Holocaust. These words have become part of our theme song for our season—calling us to examine our tendencies to annihilate fear by annihilating each other.

The entire poem goes like this:

*"I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
And I believe in love,
even when there's no one there.
And I believe in God,
even when he is silent.*

*I believe through any trial,
there is always a way
But sometimes in this suffering
and hopeless despair
My heart cries for shelter,
to know someone's there
But a voice rises within me, saying hold on
my child, I'll give you strength,
I'll give you hope. Just stay a little while.*

*I believe in the sun
even when it is not shining
And I believe in love
even when there's no one there
But I believe in God
even when he is silent
I believe through any trial
there is always a way.*

*May there someday be sunshine
May there someday be happiness
May there someday be love
May there someday be peace....*

The power of story and music will call us this season to a different response: transformation and reconciliation through hope, love, joy and peace. This Advent and Christmas, let us fill our days and our nights with

music and light as we affirm and act upon the reasons we can still “believe, even when” we are discouraged.

As we light the altar and Christ candles, I invite those of you who are worshiping at home to light a candle or candles in preparation for today’s worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THRESHOLD SONG

I Believe **I Believe**

Mark A. Miller

I _____ be-lieve in love, _____ I _____ be-lieve in

love, _____ e - ven when, _____ e - ven when I don't feel _____ it. _____

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD: In both the Gospel of Matthew and Isaiah, a messenger appears as a sign from God, heralding a new era. In each passage, the words “do not be afraid” appear...offering a clue that the messenger—whether prophet or angel—was referencing something that induced fear in the recipient. A new way of being together, of relating and loving takes courage—setting aside the present order of things so that a new and better day can be born.

Leader: I believe in love, I believe in love, even when, even when I don't feel it

Soloist: *I believe in love, I believe in love, even when, even when I don't feel it.*

Leader: The emptiness of loneliness

Soloist: The emptiness of loneliness

Leader: The wounds inflicted

Soloist: The wounds inflicted

Leader: The fear of the “other”

Soloist: The fear of the “other”

Leader: Let us pray. Holy one, we thank you for the glimpses we catch of your gift of daring love. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle—even when we cannot yet see a better day when we will act like the human family we are, ignite the flame of love within us,

People: That we might glow with its brilliance from the inside out.

Soloist: I believe in love, I believe in love, even when...even when...I don't feel it.

(Advent One and Two Candles are Lit) (If you are worshiping at home, you are invited to light the first two Advent candles at this time.)

Leader: God, help us face this fear of difference and dare to see what love can do

People: Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates* verses 1 & 4

176 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

C G7 D C E C F G7 D C G/B Am G/B

1 Lift up your heads, O mighty gates: behold, the
 2 Fling wide the portals of your heart: make it a
 3 Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to
 4 So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and

Csus C Dm F C E Dm C G G/B D G G/B

King of glory waits! The King of kings is
 temple set apart from earth - ly use for
 you: here, Lord, abide! Let me your in - ner
 nobler life be - gin! Your Ho - ly Spir - it

C G/D D7 G G/F C/E C Dm C Dm C G G7 C

draw - ing near, the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel: your grace and love in me re - veal.
 guide us on, un - til the glo - rious crown be won.

WORDS: George Weissel (1590-1635); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878); para. Psalm 24:7-10
 MUSIC: Thomas Williams' *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789

TRURO
 L.M.

ADVENT SERVICE OF CONFESSION

Leader: John the Baptist called people to repentance, to prepare them for the coming of God's reign. Let us, too, repent that we may be ready for God who comes to us.

People: God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you. Our world worships the power that acts quickly through force; how difficult it is for us to wait for the power of your rule which comes slowly through love. We admit, that while claiming to desire your reign of peace and justice, we take part in the ways of war, hatred and injustice. We leave little room for you to act in our lives. We turn now to you in repentance and openness to your Spirit. Forgive us, and show us how to clear a path for you. Come to us in your Christ, and reveal your reign on earth.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: God says: Remember these things, O Israel, for you are my servant; you will not be forgotten by me. I have swept away your transgressions like a cloud, and your sins like mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you. I say to you in the name of Jesus the Christ: our sins are forgiven.

People: Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (chorus)

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The image shows a musical score for the chorus of 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music features a simple, rhythmic melody with some phrasing slurs and accents.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: THIS LITTLE LIGHT OF MINE

The song This Little Light of Mine, is nearly 100 years old this year. No one knows exactly who wrote it, but during the 1950's and 1960's our African American brothers and sisters sang this song as a song of resistance: as a reminder that no matter the oppressive circumstances, no matter the darkness we experience, God's light within us shines through when we let it.

Each week during the Children's Moment we are going to add a verse to this song so that by the time Christmas comes, we will be ready to celebrate the birth of God's Light in our midst.

This Little Light of Mine 525
African-American spiritual *Matt. 5:14-16*

The image shows a musical score for the song 'This Little Light of Mine'. It is written in 4/4 time and consists of four systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment line on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are: '1 This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine, this lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine, This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine.)' The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

2 Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine...
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine.
Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine,
Let it shine...let it shine...let it shine.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 7:10-14 (NRSV)

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹ Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹² But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. ¹³ Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 1:1-25 (NRSV)

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, ⁴ and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, ⁶ and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

RESPONSE

Leader: The word of God for the people of God!

People: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

"Who are your people?" When I first arrived in New Bremen over eleven years ago, that was one of the first questions asked of me. "Who are your people?" In other words, "Where do you come from? Who are your parents? How do you fit in amongst us?"

In this German heritage village, being tied to one's family is paramount. Even our teens understand that. When we invite teens to Rotary meetings, they introduce themselves by their name AND by who their parents are. For better and for worse, we typically see (and judge) one another through the lens of family.

Our gospel reading for today could have been written for folk in New Bremen, Ohio of Auglaize County of the United States of America. As an introduction to Jesus, we hear first of who his people were. It should come as no surprise that most lectionary readings skip over the genealogy verses to get down to the business at hand: the birth of Jesus. And yet, this year's advent reading walks us through those first seventeen verses in order to establish Jesus' people, his pedigree, his fitness to be Immanuel: God With Us.

I have a couple of things to say about Jesus' genealogy. First, there are two genealogies of Jesus in the New Testament: the one you just heard and one in the third chapter of Luke. The genealogies read very differently from one another and for good reason: neither were intended to serve as the first century version of Ancestry.com. Instead, they were included in the gospels to establish Jesus' authority. The length of generations do not add up in either Gospel, but the message is clear: Jesus is God's chosen, God's son, God With Us.

Similarly, in Luke, Jesus' genealogy is traced through the fathers. In Matthew, Jesus' lineage is traced through the fathers AND five mothers: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba (the only one unnamed, but still implied) and Mary. These were all women of faith in their time. And remember: Ruth was a foreigner—a reminder to Christians in all times and places that pure bloodlines are not the point: faithfulness is.

But moving along, the second portion of our reading from Matthew tells the birth of Jesus. It is a story rarely read on Christmas Eve because it lacks the drama of the annunciation, the surprise pregnancy of Elizabeth, the travel to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus in a stable surrounded by scruffy shepherds. And yet, we would be remiss if we skipped today's reading.

Matthew's Gospel focuses on Joseph rather than Mary. This is what we learn of Joseph: he was engaged to a young woman who became pregnant. Joseph did not want to publicly shame his bride-to-be, so made plans to divorce her quietly. And yet. And yet an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him to not only marry the pregnant woman, but to name the baby Jesus. Interestingly, the angel quotes Isaiah (the same piece we heard today) about naming the child

Immanuel: God With Us. But the angel gave the child a new name through Joseph: Jesus, meaning God saves.

Today in worship, we lit the candle of love and we are focusing on love. Imagine the love (and faithfulness) Joseph must have had to take Mary and her child into his home and into his heart. Author and mystic Madeleine L'Engle once wrote a poem about this moment. Written from Mary's point of view, It is called "O Sapientia" which means "wisdom" in Latin:

*It was from Joseph I first learned
Of love. Like me he was dismayed.
How easily he could have turned
Me from his house; but, unafraid,
He put me not away from him
(O God-sent angel, pray for him).
Thus through his love was Love obeyed.*

*The Child's first cry came like a bell:
God's Word aloud, God words in deed.
The angel spoke: so it befell,
And Joseph with me in my need.
O Child whose father came from heaven,
To you another gift was given:
Your earthly father chosen well.*

*With Joseph I was always warmed
And cherished. Even in the stable
I knew that I would not be harmed.
And though above angels swarmed,
Man's love it was that made me able
To bear God's Love, wild and formidable,
To bear God's Will, through me performed.*

In many ways, that is exactly what Advent asks of each of us: that we bear God's love, that we be pregnant with love and hope at the birth of a tiny Baby in Bethlehem. The scandal of Jesus' birth was threefold: Mary: pregnant outside of marriage. Joseph: not the father of the Child,

but taking him in as his own. Finally, the scandal of the Holy Spirit as Jesus' true parent. Scandal, upon scandal, upon scandal and yet both Mary and Joseph accepted this strange and wondrous blessing from God. But anchored with the scandals is the good news: that both Mary and Joseph were obedient to God's call in their lives.

I suppose you could say there was a fourth scandal: that God would choose to come into human history in the form of a tiny baby. That God would willingly choose to enter human life with all of its depravity, violence, corruption and prejudices. Jesus' birth serves as a signpost of love for all humankind: we have not been abandoned in our brokenness and sin. God comes to us in Christ, reconciling the world with the power of love.

Friends, Christmas will look and feel very, very different this year. Family gatherings are cancelled. We aren't traveling to faraway places for vacation. Many of us have lost our livelihoods, our health and even our loved ones. But the good news is still among us: God loves us so much that he comes to us in Jesus. No matter the state of our health, the state of our bank accounts, the state of our politics, the state of the world, Love will ultimately win. Always and forever.

Since both Matthew and Luke include the genealogy of Jesus, we know that where he came from is important—to a point. What every name in either of those two lists tells us is that God is in charge. Love will indeed win. And the next time someone asks you who your people are, tell them you belong to Jesus. Amen.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Congratulations to Cardinals Football, Division 7 State Champion and Volleyball Division 4 State Runner Up.

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for Drew Wray (Miami Valley), Macie Barlage (Mercy Hospital NICU-St. Louis), Deb Lear, Jan Dammeyer, and Pastor Dee Schroer.

Please keep the family of Dave Waterman in your prayers. Dave passed away Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

PRAYERS IN THE STILLNESS

Leader: I invite you to get in comfortable position of rest. I invite you to get as quiet and still as you can. I invite you to take a deep breath and a deep listening posture—perhaps close your eyes or focus on a candle—as we prepare for our time of prayer.

Soloist:

In The Stillness In the Stillness

Mark Miller

3

The gen-tle pull of God is of-ten lost a-midst the

7

rush of all the ob-li-ga-tions which lay a claim on us. Yet, just be-yond the fran-tic

11

pace our rest-less feet have trod, lie deep still pools of qui-et-ness, the

15

dwell-ing place of God. Meet me in the still-ness, Lord, be the air I

20

breathe, meet me in the still-ness, Lord, free me to re-ceive. Meet me

26

in the still-ness, Lord, be the air I breathe, meet me in the still-ness, Lord,

32

free me to re-ceive. O take me to that se-cret place where lost in

37

won-der and in awe, that mo-ment comes, and I re-joice to be, and be with

42

God! Meet me in the still-ness, Lord, be the air I breathe, meet me

47

in the still-ness, Lord, free me to re-ceive, to re-ceive.

3

55

Meet me in the still-ness, Lord, free me to re-ceive, to re-ceive.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

O God, our love, we rejoice that you became flesh and made your dwelling among us, even as we long for your return.

As we wait, our hearts overflow with gratitude:

For the beauty of creation...

For your work in the world...

For signs of peace and reconciliation...

For our community and its leaders...

For your work accomplished through your church...

For all these reasons and so much more we give you praise.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of your Son as a helpless child, we also yearn for his return, for the day in which there will be no more sorrow, pain, or death.

Today, we remember in prayer:

The nations of the world...

Those in positions of authority...

The needs of our community...

The cries of the poor, the hungry, the hurting...

St. Paul Church as we live into your call to see Jesus in others...

Hear us now as we lift up to you the prayers of our hearts. SILENCE

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our source of love. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (sung to the tune of *Away in a Manger*)

Creator in heaven, all praise to your name!

Your kingdom among us, your will done the same.

By mortals and angels, come, Lord, reign alone!

O hear us and bless us from heaven's high throne.

The bread that we yearn for, provide it each day

As we forgive others, our sins take away.

In times of temptation, to lead us be near.

From evil deliver your children most dear.

**For yours is the kingdom; o'er all things you reign;
 And yours is the glory, all things you maintain
 To you be the glory, resounding again
 From all of creation, forever! Amen!**

OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND OUR HEARTS TO JESUS

Offertory Sentences: In this season of gift giving and gift receiving, let us offer our gifts, our lives, and our hearts to Jesus through the ministries of St. Paul Church

DOXOLOGY/CAROL *In the Bleak Midwinter*

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "What can I offer poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what can I offer: all of my heart." Above the vocal line, guitar chords are indicated: F, F/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm/Bb, Dm/A, Gm7, C7, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm7/Bb, C7, F, Bb/D, F, Bb/D, F7/C, Bb, Dm, F/A, Am, Gm/Bb, Bbmaj7, C, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm7/Bb, C7, F.

WORDS: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
 MUSIC: Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

CRANHAM
 Irregular

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Accept these offerings, O God, for you are the giver of every good and perfect gift. Grant that these offerings may be symbols of our love and of ourselves now offered more fully to you. Amen

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Our God, Song of the Ages, be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Unison: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to raise our voices with you, tuning ourselves to you, Creator of heaven and earth. You filled the night of creation with music and light, setting in motion the rhythms of sunrise and sunset, of sound and silence. You formed within us your love song and breathed into us the breath of life. Sometimes our voices are choked off and we cannot find your melody. But you keep the bass line humming, waiting for us to rejoin the chorus. You show up in the worst of times offering us the way to freedom in you. Your voice breaks through in prophets whose songs wake us up in the kingdom you desire. And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending song:

Solo/Congregation

Communion Liturgy English melody, harm. John Weaver

Now Ma - ry sings her birth-ing song till ev-ery voice can sing a -
long, and voic-es weak will rise up strong. Her choir is one where all be - long.

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Breaking forth into light from the blessed darkness of the womb, he brought light that illumined a path so we could see our way to a more beloved community.

Unison: Born into a world of suffering, he suffered. Born into a world of senseless death, he died. Born into a world that needed hope he rose, delivering us and proclaiming light and life as the triumphal coda of life's song.

Leader: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread and said: Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Solo/Congregation

Communion Liturgy English melody, harm. John Weaver

For deep-er love we spread the bread. I won't be full till all are
4 fed. Till ev-ery soul has home and bed, the rest of us can't move a - head.

Leader: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said: Drink from this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Solo/Congregation:

Communion Liturgy English melody, harm. John Weaver

For deep-er love we share the wine. I can-not taste the love di - vine till ev - ery
5 soul has walked the line, and you've had yours like I've had mine.

Unison: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine. Make them be for us your love and light so that our hearts may be broken open for the world and our lives poured out in service. Amen

Solo/Congregation:

Communion Liturgy English melody, harm. John Weaver

No one is saved__ till all are healed as Je-sus on the Mount re -
vealed. Your life and mine for-ev-er sealed just like the li - lies of the field.

SHARING THE MEAL

Leader: The body of Christ, broken for you. Take and eat.

Leader: The cup of salvation, poured out for you. Take and drink.

Solo/Congregation:

Communion Liturgy English melody, harm. John Weaver

We fol - low where__ the Christ has led to ta-ble that for all is__
spread, and no one's sit - ting at the head but deep-er Love in wine and bread.

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PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

We thank you, O God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

It Came upon the Midnight Clear 191

B \flat B \flat + $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ B \flat $\frac{F9}{A}$ B \flat E \flat $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ C7 F

1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo-ven skies they come, with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3 For lo, the days are has-tening on, by proph-ets seen of old,

N.C. B \flat B \flat + $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ B \flat $\frac{F9}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat F7 B \flat

from an-gels bend-ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
 when, with the ev-er-cir-cling years, shall come the time fore-told,

N.C. D $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ D Gm $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F

"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, from heaven's all gra-cious King":
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains they bend on hov-ering wing,
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

F7 B \flat B \flat + $\frac{E\flat}{B\flat}$ B \flat $\frac{F9}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat F7 B \flat

the world in sol-lemn still-ness lay to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 and all the world give back the song which now the an-gels sing.

BENEDICTION: We wait for justice, but we do not wait to work for change;
We wait for restored health, but we do not wait to work toward healing;

We wait for wholeness, but we do not wait to work at binding brokenness;

We wait for peace, but we do not wait to work to eliminate hatred, prejudice and violence.

And so, my friends, like bells ringing out the news that the sun still shines even on cloudy days, fill the night left by sadness with messages of hope. Go into your week humming the tunes that keep hope alive in you and that spur you on in your work of justice and reconciliation.

Leader: Raise your voices and repeat after me: Do not be afraid!

People: Do not be afraid! Amen!

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Raymon, Anna and Eugene Plattner by Bev Plattner.

Attendance-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-96, November 22-Sunday Worship Online-202, In Person-37, Sunday School-17 students, 8 teachers, Splash-4 students, 2 leaders, November 25-No Youth Programming

Daily Devotions-Please join Rev Becky or Pastor Dee Monday-Friday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

Sunday's in December-Sunday School will be via Facebook Live beginning at 9:00am. **Worship**-we will be worshipping via Facebook Live at 10:15am.

2021 Altar Flower Chart has been posted in the Narthex. To sign up for the date(s) you would like. Please call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you.

Mailbox-There is a mailbox outside of the East Educational Building door for any correspondence you may have for the church and would like to drop off. Please lift the flap and drop through the slot on the top. The box is locked and will be checked often. Thank you!

Blessing Pantry-is located in the North Hallway and accessible by the North door during these hours - **Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm**. The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome – Blessing Pantry Needs**-Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Kleenex, Laundry Detergent, Shaving Cream, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Diapers (size 2, 3, 4 & 6), Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo, Hand & Body Lotion, Tampons, Cleaning Supplies, Storage Bags and Garbage Bags. Food Items-Fruit, Eggs, Milk-**Thank you!** There is a metal can outside the East Educational Building door for donations.

Zoom Bible Study- Thursday's at 6:30 p.m. Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on or logging onto:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88567175194?pwd=K2FBaGYzRUUpaRElwTjc4Q1Y4b3UrUT09> Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

Meeting ID: 885 6717 5194 Passcode: 229014

*If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: berbstrang@stpaulnb.org

November/December Upper Rooms-have arrived! They are available at the East entrance to the education building. Or please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

Congregational Meeting-December 6, 2020. The meeting will begin at the end of worship. The meeting will be held by Zoom (either by website or phone). After the Zoom meeting you will be able to vote in the Auditorium between Noon and 2:00pm on December 6th. Jeff Quellhorst, Council President. Here is the Congregational Meeting Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87534319438?pwd=czFETlpNWTcxVmFSRyt3NDFnNWthdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 3431 9438 Passcode: 051346

You can also join the meeting by phone: +1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 875 3431 9438 Passcode: 051346

This will be the first time we have met this way, so please be patient with us on December 6!

E-Giving @ St. Paul **3 Different Ways to Give**

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org

Give+ App – Search “Give Plus Church” in your App store and find St. Paul to Get Started!

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048

St. Paul New “Text to Give” #(# changed as of 10/9/19)

How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))

- For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
 - For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 space pantry (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

Once a text amount is sent:

Registration Link- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.

Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

Donation Confirm- Sent via text each time a donation is made.

Thank you for donating \$ (amount)! Text repeat to make this recurring or refund to cancel this donation.

Poinsettia Order

It is time to place your orders for the poinsettia plants that grace our sanctuary during the Christmas season. The poinsettias are 6½-inch wrapped in foil with a drip pan. We are offering the choice of Red or White and the cost per plant will be \$10.00.

The plants may be picked up **after the 11:00pm, Thursday, Christmas Eve** worship service.

(Please be sure to pick up the color you ordered so that everyone will be able to enjoy the color of the plant that each chose.)

Poinsettia color choice and quantity:

Red _____ Qty White _____ Qty

In memory of _____

A gift for _____

By _____

I wish to contribute \$_____ to the Christmas Decorating Fund. Please place payment along with the order form in the offering plate or drop off in the church office. Checks should be payable to St. Paul UCC.

Please have poinsettia order in by December 7.

Every year at this time we also ask for and accept donations to the Christmas Decorating Fund. This money will be used toward decorations for the Church and Educational Building.

Please include payment with this order form.

Thank you for helping make our sanctuary even more beautiful as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.