

## **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 24, 2020**

**Christmas Eve**

### **Worship Leaders**

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Pastor Dee Schroer

Cheyenne Olt

Dick Hudson

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

Organist

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES:

CROSSING THE THRESHOLD

In this season leading up to this night, we have been hearing the Good News from all the Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John because we have *needed* good news and that's what "Gospel" actually means.

Tonight we return to the story of Jesus' birth as it is told in the Gospel of Luke. This account is the narrative we read again and again on this

holy night, for this author gives us the most beloved details. We yearn to see the scene play out, to hear the music of the angels, to feel the rush to the manger.

Our opening words of worship this night come from an anonymous Jewish poet: *I believe in love, even when there's no one there*, 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....

(You are invited to light the four Advent candles at this time.)

## THRESHOLD SONG

*I Believe*

### I Believe

Mark A. Miller

I \_\_\_\_\_ be-lieve in the sun, \_\_\_\_\_ I \_\_\_\_\_ be-

lieve in the sun, \_\_\_\_\_ e-ven when, \_\_\_\_\_ e-ven when it's not shin -

ing. \_\_\_\_\_

Leader: Over the last four weeks, our theme song has helped us remember that we can believe that God is with us, even, and especially, in the midst of hard times.

Leader: Even when the sun is hidden from sight

*Soloist: Even when the sun is hidden from sight*

Leader: Even when love feels so remote

*Soloist: Even when love feels so remote*

Leader: Even when God is silent

*Soloist: Even when God is silent*

Leader: Even then...

*Soloist: Even then...*

Leader: We believe

*Soloist: We believe*

(Christ candle is lit at this time)

Leader: We believe in the presence of Emmanuel—God with us. This night is the night we celebrate that the Holy came in human form to be light in our lives...to speak to us, touch us, comfort us, and call us.

# CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Leader: Holy One, we thank you for the glimpse of heaven on earth in the faces and light of those around us. Even in the midst of fear, of challenge, of struggle—even when our view is obscured by clouds of doubt, you have ignited the flames of hope, love, joy, and peace within us.

**People: Let us glow with its brilliance from the inside out. Amen.**

## OPENING CAROL

## *Joy to the World*

179

## Joy to the World!

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a guitar accompaniment line. The guitar line includes chord diagrams for various chords: D, Em/G, D/A, A7, D, D/F#, G, A, D, G/D, D, G/D, D, D, A7, D, Em/G, D/A, A7, and D. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re-ceive her  
2 Joy to the earth! the Sav-ior reigns; let all their songs em-  
3 No more let sins and sor-rows grow, nor thorns in-fest the  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na-tions  
King; let ev-ery heart pre-pare him room,  
proud; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
ground; he comes to make his bless-ings flow  
prove the glo-ries of his right-eous-ness,  
and heaven and na-ture sing, and heaven and na-ture  
re-peat the sound-ing joy, re-peat the sound-ing  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his  
(1) and heaven and na-ture sing,  
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na-ture sing.  
joy, re-peat, re-peat the sound-ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse-ing found.  
love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.  
heaven and na-ture sing,

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 52:7-10

(NRSV)

How beautiful upon the mountains

are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,

who announces salvation,

who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

<sup>8</sup> Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,  
together they sing for joy;

for in plain sight they see

the return of the Lord to Zion.

<sup>9</sup> Break forth together into singing,

you ruins of Jerusalem;

for the Lord has comforted his people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord has bared his holy arm

before the eyes of all the nations;

and all the ends of the earth shall see

the salvation of our God.

ANTHEM

*What Child Is This*

Josh Groban

(YouTube search: Josh Groban *What Child Is This* )

*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?*

*So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh,*

*Come Peasant, King to own Him*

*The King of Kings salvation brings,*

*Let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

*This, this is Christ the King,*

*Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing*

*Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.*

*Oh, raise, raise a song on high,  
His mother sings her lullaby.  
Joy, oh joy for Christ is born,  
The Babe, the Son of Mary.  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe,  
The Son,  
Of Mary.*

*What Child  
Is this  
Who laid  
To rest  
On Mary's lap  
On Mary's lap  
He is sleeping  
This, this is Christ the King,  
Whom shepherds guard and Angels sing  
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,  
The Babe,  
The Son,  
Of Mary*

*The Babe, the Son of Mary*

*The Son of Mary*

*In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

*<sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,*

*<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”*

*<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

## RESPONSE

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

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



SERMON     *For Unto Your Living Room is Born This Day a Savior...*

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

What a strange year this has been! So much has changed since last Christmas Eve that it is difficult, for me at least, to remember what last years' service was like—how it felt to be together as a congregation on the Eve of Christ's birth.

And it's not just church that's out of sync. Our families are not gathering as we normally might. Many of us have lost livelihoods and some of us have lost loved ones. The Christmas Eve traditions we hold dear will not look or feel the same this year.

And yet: here we are—Jesus People gathering in our separate living rooms to celebrate the birth of God Incarnate-Emmanuel-God With Us. The strangeness of these times takes away not one dot or iota of the miracle transpiring on this holy night: for unto us is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Christ, the Lord. The shepherds will still run from their hillsides into Bethlehem. The angels will still sing their alleluias of joy. The Magi will arrive in 12 days' time. We have much to celebrate.

It is my task as your pastor to bring this miracle home to you: literally into to your homes on December 24 in the year 2020.

This is what I have to say to you: our biblical translations we have relied upon to tell the Christmas story are not necessarily the most accurate—in wording AND in cultural relevance. I invite you to join me as I tell the story tonight in a new way.

God came to us in Jesus of Nazareth—a Jew of his place and time approximately two thousand years ago. Biblical and archaeological scholars consistently tell us that the Christmas story we've framed in our minds does not necessarily match the reality of life in Jesus' day. We typically have in our minds scenes of the nativity that come from Sunday School pageants and Christmas carols more than biblical scholarship.

What do I mean? Specifically verse seven in the second chapter of Luke's Gospel is not all that it appears to be: *And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.* In Greek, the word for inn is *kataluna*. While the word HAS been translated as “inn” in many

instances, the original Greek of *kataluna* actually points to a guest room in a private home—a place where a guest could stay while traveling.

In Jesus' day, many homes had a back room or back area of a single room home set aside for guests. Hospitality was the prevailing ethic: anyone passing through a village in Jesus' day could generally find lodging in a private home. Likewise, homeowners not only expected guests, but they also happily welcomed them. Again: hospitality was paramount.

Joseph and Mary, traveling to Bethlehem for a census, would have stayed among family. After all, Joseph was a descendant of King David—and he and his bride would have been welcomed into any home in the village.

What we also know from Luke's account is this: Mary gave birth in the place where the cattle were lodged because there was no room for them in the *kataluna*—the guest room. Scholars tell us this about first-century Palestinian houses of that time: the cattle were brought into the house for the night; their food/hay was kept in depressions in the dirt floor in the living room. Yes. The Living Room.

Some of our English translations bear this out:

Common English Bible: *there was no place for them in the guestroom*

**New Living Translation: *no lodging available***

The Passion Translation: *no space in any upper room in the village*

**New Life Version: *no room in the place where people stay for the night***

Complete Jewish Bible: *no space for them in the living quarters*

**Young's Literal Translation: *not for them a place in the guest chamber***

New Testament for Everyone: *no room for them*

My dear ones: do you see where I am going with this?

For centuries, western Christian theology has framed the birth of Jesus as a story of an outsider: the Son of God relegated to the barn—with no place to lay his head except with the cows and the sheep. Tonight I want to turn that story on its head: Jesus birth was heralded not only by

the angels, the shepherds, and Mary and Joseph. He might very well have been born in a kinsman's living room—because the guest room was already occupied. Jesus might very well have been born amongst extended family (and yes, the cows).

So what does this mean for us, in the Year of our Lord, 2020?

It means that no quarantine, no lockdown, no pandemic, no isolation, no political unrest can keep the Christ Child from being born. What's more, Jesus' birth in what was most likely the front room of a home reminds us that on this holy night we need not gather in the sanctuary to celebrate. Jesus is being born in your home, in your living room, amongst family and friends (and yes, amongst cows).

It is our task this holy night to welcome Jesus into our homes.

It is our task to keep welcoming Jesus in our homes tomorrow, the next day, the next day and the next. Jesus comes to us not from our barns or sheds or other remote settings. Jesus is with you right now. He is born into your living rooms and will be your constant companion/family member your whole life long.

When we share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion in a few moments, Jesus will be with you. When we lift up our candles this night, Jesus' Light is already shining brightly in your home. You are not alone. You are not cast out. Jesus has come to you and will stay with you now and forevermore. Amen

## PRAYERS IN THE STILLNESS

Leader: I invite you to get in a 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.

55

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

3

## PASTORAL PRAYER AND SILENT PRAYER

O God, our peace, 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 hope. 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 written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of four systems of music, 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." The guitar chords are indicated above the vocal line.

Chords for the first system: F, F/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm/Bb, Dm7/A, Gm7, C7.

Chords for the second system: F, F/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm7/Bb, C7, F.

Chords for the third system: Bb/D, F, Bb/D, F7/C, Bb, Dm, F/A, Am, Gm/Bb, Bbmaj7, C.

Chords for the fourth system: F, F/A, F, Dsus, Dm, Gm7/Bb, C7, F.

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

CRANHAM  
 Irregular

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION ( in unison)

**Loving God, we thank you that you have come into our lives and that you act with saving power to make all things new. We thank you for pouring out your life into the human form of Jesus and for the continual rebirth of Christ in the human heart. Touched by your Word made flesh, we would embody, incarnate, and celebrate your love on this earth.**

**Bless this night the many gifts we offer to the Christ Child: our devotion, our service, our very lives. Transform our gifts into hope and love for the world greatly in need of rebirth. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Word. 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

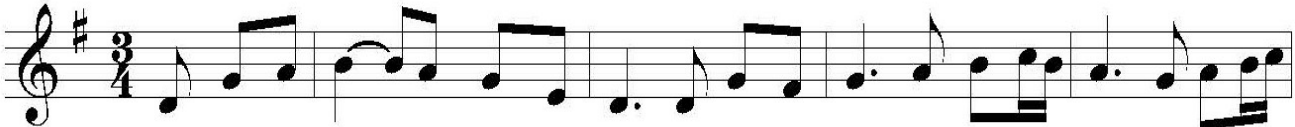
For deep - er love — we spread the bread. I won't be full till all are  
fed. Till ev-ery soul — has home and bed, the rest of us can't move a - head.

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 -

4



vealed. Your life and mine for-ev-er sealed just like the li - lies of the field.

### SHARING THE MEAL

Leader: At this time, I invite you to take your communion elements or some bread and a drink from home and prepare them for the sacrament: 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.**

### CELEBRATION OF THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

*(As we sing the first carol, we invite you to light your Christmas Eve candles.)*

CAROL FOR LIGHTING CANDLES *It Came upon the Midnight Clear*

# It Came upon the Midnight Clear 191

B $\flat$  B $\flat$ +  $\frac{E\mathbb{b}}{B\mathbb{b}}$  B $\flat$   $\frac{F9}{A}$  B $\flat$  E $\flat$   $\frac{E\mathbb{b}}{G}$   $\frac{C7}{G}$  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 $\flat$ +  $\frac{E\mathbb{b}}{B\mathbb{b}}$  B $\flat$   $\frac{F9}{A}$  B $\flat$   $\frac{B\mathbb{b}}{D}$  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  $\frac{D}{C}$   $\frac{Gm}{B\mathbb{b}}$  D Gm  $\frac{Gm}{B\mathbb{b}}$   $\frac{F}{C}$  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 $\flat$ +  $\frac{E\mathbb{b}}{B\mathbb{b}}$  B $\flat$   $\frac{F9}{A}$  B $\flat$   $\frac{B\mathbb{b}}{D}$  E $\flat$  F7 B $\flat$

the world in sol-emn 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.

Leader: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was on the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light; and there was light." ***As we raise our lights***, we dedicate ourselves to the newness of creation—the new life born among us this night.

Leader: You are the light of the world; a city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor does one light a lamp and hide it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works, and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ***As we raise our lights***, we dedicate ourselves to doing the works, which show forth not our glory, but God's glory.

Leader: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What came into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it...And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...full of grace and truth. ***As we raise our lights***, we dedicate ourselves to be bearers of the light, with the confidence and courage that darkness will never overcome the light we share.

CAROL

*Silent Night! Holy Night!*

First verse in German than verses 1 & 2 in English

Stille Nacht, heil'ge Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht

Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar.

Holder Knab'im lockigen Haar,

Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh! Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!

# Silent Night! Holy Night!

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1 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright  
 2 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Shep-herds quake at the sight,  
 3 Si - lent night! ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light,

'round you vir - gin moth-er and child; ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and  
 glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu -  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing

mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

WORDS: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John F. Young (1820-1885)  
 MUSIC: Franz Gruber (1787-1863)

STILLE NACHT  
 Irregular

*(Please extinguish candles)*

## BENEDICTION

Go with God into this night  
 May the Spirit guide your sight  
 Offer love to all you greet  
 Like Christ, see God in all you meet. Amen.

## POSTLUDE



## *2020 Poinsettia Memorial and Gifts*

In memory of Family and Friends and a gift for Elmwood Assisted Living  
by Bill and Cindy Young (1 red, 1 white)

In memory of Robert Wilson by Carol Wilson and Family (1 red)

In memory of Janice Schroer by the Lloyd Schroer Family (1 red)

In memory of Clarence and Esther Schroer by the Lloyd Schroer Family  
(1 red)

In memory of Leo and Luella Topp by the Lloyd Schroer Family (1 red)

In memory of Everett and Barbara Schmidt by Sue and Lester Schmackers and Family (1 red)

In memory of Shirley Schaefer by Craig and Brenda Siefring and Family  
(1 white)

In memory of Ralph Plattner, Rodney Miller and Don R. Miller by Bev Plattner (1 red)

In memory of Jesse and Verona Miller and Verdella Schaefer and a gift for Dale Schaefer by Bev Plattner (1 red)

In memory of Edgar, Vilma and Edward and Mamie Rump by Bev Plattner  
(1 red)

In memory of Raymon, Anna, Eugene and Richard Plattner and a gift for Betty Plattner by Bev Plattner (1 red)

In memory of Loved Ones by Vernon and Julia Paul (1 red)

In memory of Paul and Viola Headapohl by David and Kelli Muether and Family (1 white)

In memory of Loved Ones by Greg and Cathy Maurer and Family (1 red)

In memory of Kenneth Henschen by Kathy Manbeck (1 white)

In memory of Erin Rammel by Kathy Manbeck (1 red)

In memory of Lance L. Lear by Debra Lear, Kayla Lear and Andrew Hendericks (1 red)

In memory of Irene and Jim Jarvis by the David Jarvis Family (1 white)

In memory of Bud and Louise Hay, Herb, Irene and Doris Jean Imwalle by the Steve and Kris Imwalle Family (1 white)

In memory of Casey Hoelscher, Zac Gossette and Ken Jutte by the Steve and Kris Imwalle Family (1 red)

In memory of Ron Hittepole and Andrea Hittepole by Marlene Hittepole (2 red)

In memory of Harry and Alice Tressler, Carmen and Kathryn Fiser by Burt & Jan Fiser (1 red)

In loving memory of Angela Lynne Bushman and Loved Ones by Dennis and Gert Bushman (1 red)

In memory of All Loved Ones by the Allen Bushman Family (1 red)

*Christmas Decorating Fund Donors*

Allen Bushman Family

Burt and Jan Fiser

David Jarvis Family

Greg and Cathy Maurer Family

Lloyd Schroer Family

Bill and Cindy Young

In memory of Mike Bushman

In memory of Tyler James Kuhn, Joseph and Grace Kuhn and Anna Kocsis by Larry and Ann Kuhn

We would like to express our gratitude to all who have donated to the beautification of our sanctuary by purchasing poinsettias or contributing to the decorating fund. We would also like to remind all who purchased poinsettias that they may be claimed 6:00pm-8:00pm Christmas Eve or 10:00am-Noon Christmas Day. Thank You!