

December 21, 2020

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Merry Christmas!!!

Though we are unable to gather to worship, we still celebrate the birth of the Christ Child with shouts of joy.

We are very aware that the weekly worship packets have not been arriving on time. You can access the weekly bulletin on the St. Paul webpage: [www.stpaulnb.org](http://www.stpaulnb.org). Just click the yellow **BULLETINS** box in the upper right hand corner.


Next week's packet will not include this letter. Nor will it include updated financials. We thank you for your understanding.

We have three Council positions that need filled: First Year Trustee. Junior Deacon and Treasurer. Please contact Jeff Quellhorst or Roland Dicke if you are interested in any of these positions.

We are seeking a volunteer with snow removal equipment who would be available for snow removal on weekdays on the west side of our property and on weekends for our parking lots. Please contact Jeff Quellhorst or Roland Dicke if you are interested.

2020 has been a difficult year. We thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in the midst of this global pandemic. Your passion for loving God and loving neighbor is a real gift!

Grace and Peace,

  
Jeff Quellhorst    Roland Dicke    Becky Erb    Dee Schroer  
Council President    Council VP    Senior Pastor    Associate Pastor

Please keep the family of Dave Kuck in your prayers. Dave passed away December 15, 2020. Services to celebrate his life were held Saturday, December 19, 2020.

Financial Information as of December 21, 2020

### Operating Fund

**Beg. Balance (\$2,974.14)**

Giving Income \$6,269.18(weekly)

Endowment Transfers \$37,942.92(ytd)

Income \$295,848.54 (YTD)

Expenses \$301,575.55 (YTD)

Balance **(\$8,701.15)**

### Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$83,428.04

Income \$16,549.00 (YTD)

Endowment Income \$4,304.33 (YTD)

Expenses \$32,825.34(YTD)

Balance \$71,456.03

### Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$9,934.05

Income \$18,803.00(YTD)

Expenses \$22,847.82(YTD)

Balance \$5,889.23

Bless Pantry Inc. \$20,346.16

Bless Pantry Ex. \$12,458.19

Balance \$7,887.97

### Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$30,000.00

Income \$620.00(weekly)

Income \$24,312.00 (YTD)

### Project of the Year

Income \$25.00(weekly)

Balance \$2,548.00



DECEMBER 27, 2020  
FIRST SUNDAY  
AFTER CHRISTMAS

# taking faith home

*The sight of baby Jesus brings peace.*

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 2:22-40	Jesus presented in the temple
Monday	Isaiah 61:10—62:3	Rejoice in the Lord
Tuesday	Galatians 4:4-7	Adoption as God's children
Wednesday	Jude 1-2	A prayer for blessing
Thursday	Ecclesiastes 3:1-13	A time for everything
Friday	Psalms 8	Divine majesty and human dignity
Saturday	Psalms 148	All creation praises God
Sunday	John 1:1-18	The Word became flesh

## SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation." Luke 2:29-30 (NRSV)*

## PRAYERS AND BLESSING

### A Prayer for the Week:

God of peace, give us faith to walk in peace each day and to trust your eternal care for us and for all the world through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

### Mealtime Prayer:

Praise the Lord, all you people; for our Savior Jesus and for this gift of food, praise the Lord.  
(Psalm 148:1)

### A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus, the light of the world, give you peace.



© 2020 Milestones Ministry, LLC. All rights reserved.

DECEMBER 27, 2020  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Away in a Manger*

# taking faith home

## WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

## CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When something painful happens, where do you look for hope?
- What does it mean to you to be a person of peace?
- How does the message of the birth of Jesus bring you hope and peace?

## DEVOTIONS

Read: Luke 2:22-40.

Luke 2:29-32 is known as the *Nunc Dimittis* (Latin for, "Now release," the first words of Simeon's song of praise in the Latin Bible) used in worship and also tender words offered at the deathbed of a loved one. Simeon's song makes it clear that in Jesus, God has acted in a way that now gives peace for all people, including Gentiles, the non-Jews of the world. Luke makes it clear that the promise given to the Jewish people to be a blessing to the world has now come to pass through the birth of Jesus. Barriers are broken down. Jews and Gentiles together have hope. Mary and Joseph who can only offer two turtledoves (often a gift given by the poor) as a sacrifice for Jesus' birth, have actually given the world its real hope and peace. It brings the joy expressed in Psalm 148, but it also brings the pain that will pierce Mary's soul. Compassion is like that. It feels the pain of others and trusts that God's saving work is the light, hope, and peace of the world. How has love brought you pain and peace at the same time?

Pray: **Loving God, we thank you for Simeon, Anna, and all those throughout history who have lifted up Jesus as the hope and peace for all the world. Amen.**

## SERVICE

In the temple in Jerusalem, Simeon and Anna encouraged and blessed two young, first-time parents, Mary and Joseph. Identify parents with young children in your congregation or community. Is there an act of service you can do on their behalf (e.g., help with cleaning, bringing a meal, or childcare) so they can enjoy some time out together?

## RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Psalms 148 is a psalm that offers praise to God in all things. Praise means to give thanks. Write your own psalm. Make a list of things for which you wish to praise God. Using the list, say each praise aloud. For example:

**I praise God for earth and all stars. Praise the Lord!**

**I praise God for family and friends. Praise the Lord!**

And so forth until you finish the list.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)

When Jesus was born, people knew he was going to do great things. In the New Testament readings, we learn about Simeon, a man who knew he would meet the Messiah before he would pass away. Upon seeing Jesus, he knew that the baby boy was the Messiah. He rejoiced when he realized it. This story is a bit different than Anna. She lived in the temple for a long time, never leaving it as she would pray and worship everyday. Anna knew the Messiah was coming, and would give thanks to God about it. Both Simeon and Anna in this story had one thing in common. They had faith that the Lord was coming.

Everyone encounters faith in a different way. I would have to consider myself lucky as I grew up in the church. I don't think there was an exact moment in time where I thought I would become a Christian. Growing up, my mom always took me to church on Sundays. My cousins and I were always in Sunday school together, and we would sit with my entire family during the church service. Some times, we'd even go to the Wednesday night dinners that was hosted at the church because my family wanted to raise my cousins and me to have a strong relationship with Christ.

It was how I thought everyone was like until I was in fourth grade. A boy in my science class had asked me who my dad was. To those who know me well, you may know I'm a child of a single mother, but at that time, I didn't really know that was something some people would find strange. That didn't mean I had no answer for him. I looked the boy straight in the eyes, and without missing a beat, I said, "God. God's my Father." Looking back, I realized that answer came from growing up in the church. I knew that God was the Father, and that He was everyone's father as He created us all. Because of this,

I never felt as if I was missing something. While the boy in my class may have asked for my answer in a more literal sense, it didn't matter to me. I was lucky that I have faith in my life to help me through.

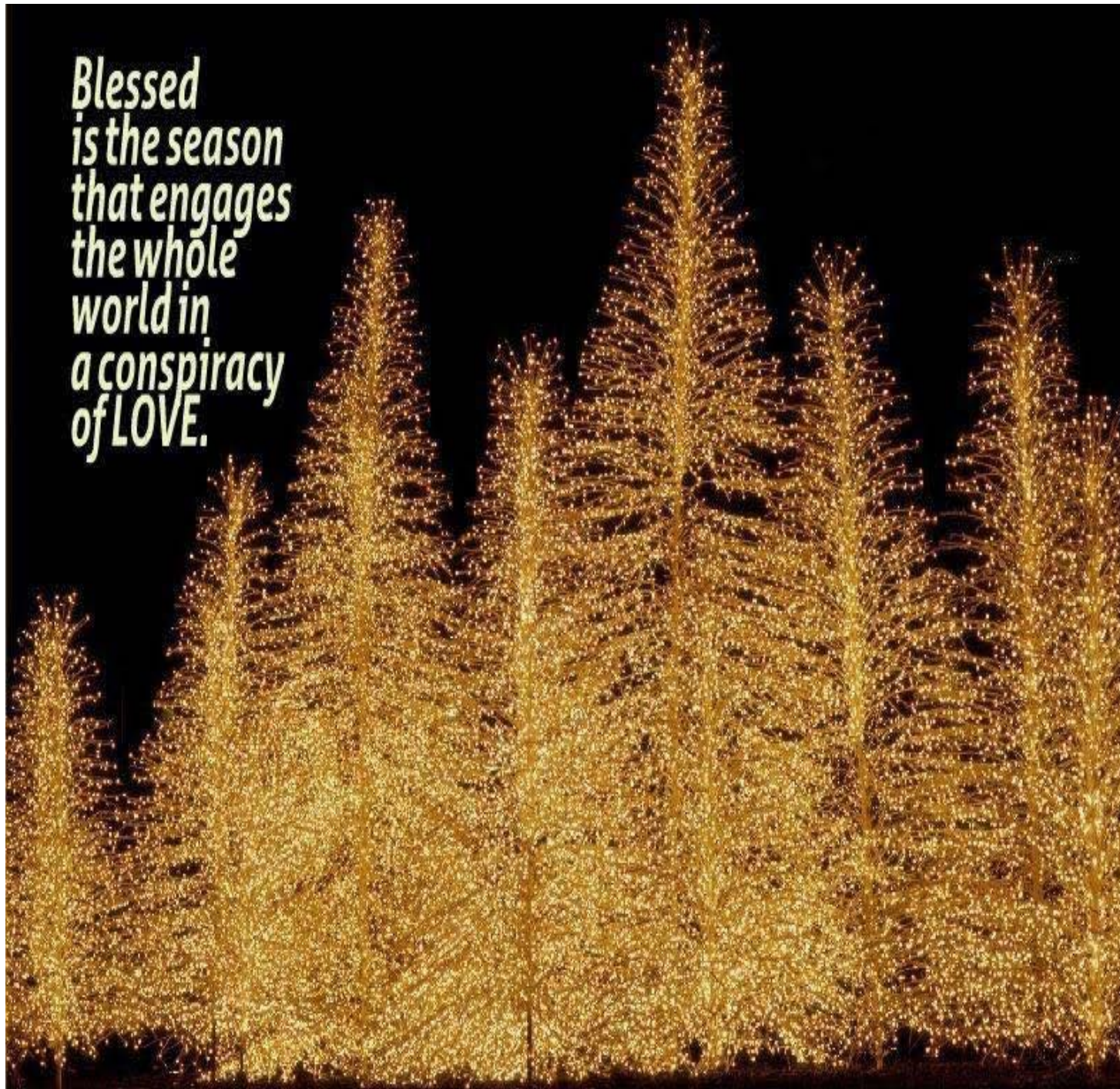
In sixth grade, I moved here to New Bremen, where a friend from school invited me to come here, where I grew more into my faith. It was here that I could become more involved in the church by participating in activities and serving others. On Sunday nights, I'd go to Youth Group, connecting with others who wanted to grow in their faith as well. I was able to go on a mission trip to help people in New York, who were still recovering from a hurricane. This was all because I felt comfortable here, and knew this was how I could grow in my faith. The way I praise God is through acts of service and through connecting with others as I feel a stronger connection whenever I do that.

Everyone's faith is a bit different as everyone comes face-to-face with faith in different ways. While I grew up in the church and feel comfortable sharing my faith through acts of service and connecting with others, others do not. The prophet from the passage, Anna, shared her faith through prayer. It was how she became more connected with Christ, as she knew when Jesus had come. Her story is different from Simeon, who knew he was going to see Him, and when he did, he rejoiced.

It is important to have faith, to know that He is with us. Before Jesus was born, people were looking forward to the day that He would come to the earth because of the things He would do. Today, we are lucky enough to know that is true, but we still need to grow in our faith, whether it's through prayer, actions, or just simply believing in Him.



Blessed  
is the season  
that engages  
the whole  
world in  
a conspiracy  
of LOVE.



## **St. Paul United Church of Christ**

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)

Email [stpaulnb@nktelco.net](mailto:stpaulnb@nktelco.net) or [stpaulnb@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulnb@gmail.com)

Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

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 27, 2020**

**First Sunday after Christmas**

### **Worship Leaders**

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Pastor Dee Schroer

Tatum Temple

Cheyenne Olt

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Guest Worship Leader

Accompanist/Vocalist

### **GATHERING MUSIC**

**GREETING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES:** As we light the altar and Christ candles, you are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## WELCOME SONG

## No Matter

### No Matter

*J=120*

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the  
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter  
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the  
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-come by God's grace. grace.

*[To verses] [Last time, Fine]*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

(From Kneeling in Bethlehem by Ann Weems. The Westminster Press.)

Leader: Christmas comes every time we see God in other persons.

**People: The human and the holy meet in Bethlehem or in Times Square,**

Leader: For Christmas comes like a golden storm on its way to Jerusalem—determinedly, inevitably...

**People: Even now Christmas comes in the face of hatred and warring—no atrocity too terrible to stop it, no Herod strong enough, no hurt deep enough, no curse shocking enough, no disaster shattering enough.**

Leader: For someone on earth will see the star; someone will hear the angel voices; someone will run to Bethlehem; someone will know peace and goodwill:

**People: The Christ is born!**



## Angels, from the Realms of Glory 189



- 1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,



you who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light:  
 seek the great De - sire of na - tions, you have seen the na - tal star:  
 sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.





## CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Loving God, over these past weeks our worship and praise have focused on what you have done for us in Jesus. Forgive us if we think today that Christmas is over. Prompt us, Holy God, to continue your work of Christmas in our acts of care and compassion that express your love, shown in the Christ Child, a love that continues to flow to us, and through us, to all people. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: This is the good news of Jesus Christ. We can stand before God, not through our own goodness, but through God's great kindness to us. Rejoice and be glad. God promises the gift of new life!

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## \*RESPONSE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (chorus)



## CHILDREN'S MOMENT: (copyright 2008 sundaychildrensfocus.com)

On this first Sunday of the Christmas season, I want to talk about the meaning of Christmas. I've placed a crèche, a nativity scene, on this table as a reminder that Christmas is about Jesus' birthday.

Christmas is an exciting time. There are special meals, lots of gifts and singing of favorite Christmas carols. If I were to place Christmas gifts and Christmas food here on the table, what happens? (We can no longer see Baby Jesus).

At Christmastime, it can be easy to lose track of why we celebrate. We get busy with meals and gifts and cards and shopping that we lose

sight of Jesus. Jesus is the greatest gift of the season. (Take away everything obscuring the nativity scene).

Let us pray. Thank you, God, for Jesus. Remind us again and again that it is Jesus' life and love are the greatest gifts we can receive this season. Let us always make room for Jesus because that's what Christmas is all about. Amen.

# CAROL

## What Child Is This

CHRISTMAS

## What Child Is This

184

Em D F# G D Em Am C B

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come peas-ant, king, to own him;

Em D F# G D Em Am B B7 Esus Em

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear: for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

Refrain Bm G D Em Am C B

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the Vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Bm G D Em Am B B7 Esus Em

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!  
 joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!

# PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys: Birth Candle** Billie Rosiland Micheal born to Adam Micheal and Anna Nielsen on December 14, 2020. Billie is welcomed by sister Lára and grandparents Lori & Mark Likens and Brett Micheal & Jody Ritter.

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Ellen Topp (The James), Tom Quellhorst, Drew Wray, Macie Barlage, Deb Lear, Jan Dammeyer, and Pastor Dee Schroer.

## 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

The gen-tle pull of God is of-ten lost a-midst the  
rush of all the ob-li-ga-tions which lay a claim on us. Yet, just be-yond the fran-tic  
pace our rest-less feet have trod, lie deep still pools of qui-et-ness, the  
dwell-ing place of God. Meet me in the still-ness, Lord, be the air I  
breathe, meet me in the still-ness, Lord, free me to re-ceive. Meet me  
in the still-ness, Lord, be the air I breathe, meet me in the still-ness, Lord,  
free me to re-ceive. O take me to that se-cret place where lost in  
won-der and in awe, that mo-ment comes, and I re-joice to be, and be with  
God! Meet me in the still-ness, Lord, be the air I breathe, meet me  
in the still-ness, Lord, free me to re-ceive, to re-ceive.  
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 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!**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 131

(NRSV)

*O Lord, my heart is not lifted up,  
my eyes are not raised too high;  
I do not occupy myself with things  
too great and too marvelous for me.*

*<sup>2</sup> But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.*

*<sup>3</sup> O Israel, hope in the Lord  
from this time on and forevermore.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 2:21-38

(NRSV)

*After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child;  
and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was  
conceived in the womb.*

*<sup>22</sup> When the time came for their purification according to the law of  
Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the  
Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall  
be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a sacrifice  
according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves  
or two young pigeons."*

*<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was  
Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the  
consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup> It had been  
revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he  
had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup> Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into  
the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for  
him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms  
and praised God, saying,*

*<sup>29</sup> "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;*

<sup>30</sup> *for my eyes have seen your salvation,*  
<sup>31</sup> *which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,*  
<sup>32</sup> *a light for revelation to the Gentiles*  
*and for glory to your people Israel.”*  
<sup>33</sup> *And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being*  
*said about him. <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother*  
*Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in*  
*Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup> so that the inner thoughts*  
*of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”*  
<sup>36</sup> *There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe*  
*of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven*  
*years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup> then as a widow to the age of eighty-four.*  
*She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer*  
*night and day. <sup>38</sup> At that moment she came, and began to praise God*  
*and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption*  
*of Jerusalem.*

## RESPONSE

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

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

## MEDITATION

Tatum Temple

## WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

Offering Invitation: The prophet Isaiah remembers so many things God has done for the people out of the abundance of God's steadfast love. God continues to bless the world with abundance, and we share our gifts today out of that abundance in the hope that this church will be a blessing to the world. Let us give joyfully and faithfully.

## DOXOLOGY/CAROL

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

What can I off - er poor as I am?

If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

yet what can I off - er: all of my heart.

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

CRANHAM  
Irregular

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

**O God, we have been given good news of a great joy; for us, and for our world, a Savior is born. We see your mercy and love in Jesus, and we pray that our words and actions, at Christmas and always, would shine the light of Christ. May we, and our gifts, bring hope, peace, joy, and love, in Jesus' name and for his sake. Amen.**

## CAROL

*Go, Tell It on the Mountain*

# 218 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

## Refrain (Unison)

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery-where;

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

## Parts

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a - bove the earth  
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

WORDS: John W. Work (1872-1925)  
MUSIC: African-American spiritual

GO, TELL IT  
Irregular



## BENEDICTION

Depart in peace, for you have seen God's salvation, a light for the nations. May the love of God guide you, the word of Christ dwell in you richly, and the gift of the Holy Spirit give you power, now and forever. Amen.

## \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

### Pass the Love

♩=95

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 C7

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go-ing on your way.

F Gm7 F Gm7 F/A F/Bb Gm9 G7 C

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in ev - 'ry way.

Fmaj7 Dm F/G F/C

Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.

Am7 Dm7 Gm7 F/C C7 F

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our God.

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

You are invited to pass the peace of Christ with others in your household. If you are at home alone, we encourage you to write a note, call a friend and pass Christ's peace in creative ways this week.

## POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Flowers** are given in loving memory of Sherri Wissman by Jason, Tracy, Jack & Elise Oldiges.

**Thank You All!**-Mom and I would like to thank all the St Paul folk who called or sent cards to celebrate her ninetieth birthday. Hearing from friends and family made her day. Myra Hanenkratt and Dorothy Schneider

**Attendance**-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-147, December 13-Sunday Worship-278, Sunday School-174

**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.

**Bible Study** resumes Thursday, January 7, 2021 at 6:30pm.

**Sunday December 27 & January 3-Sunday School** will be via Facebook Live beginning at 9:00am. **Worship-** will be via Facebook Live at 10:15am.

**Bulletin Availability-weekly bulletins** are available for download on our website **stpaulnb.org**.

**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, Napkins, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Razors, Shaving Cream, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Diapers (size 1, 4, 5 & 6), Baby Wipes, Baby Shampoo, Shampoo, Conditioner, Bath/Hand Soap, Hand & Body Lotion, Tampons & Panty Liners, Cleaning Supplies, Storage Bags, Garbage Bags and Pet Food. **Thank you!** There is a metal can outside the East Educational Building door for donations.

**Senior Food Boxes:** Coming to New Bremen is a new program for our area, Western Ohio Food Bank, offers a food box for those over 60 years of age, who meet Federal Guidelines. It is a monthly program which serves as a supplement to your monthly food supply. If you are over 60 and interested in this program, please contact Larry Kuhn at 419-629-2379.

**January/February 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.

**Offering Envelopes**-if you haven't received your 2021 offering envelopes, they are available for pickup inside the East door of the Educational building.

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

**Online** – Make a donation on our website: [stpaulnb.org](http://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.



## “For Such a Time as This.”

*Esther 4:14*

**T**he Rev. Jeanne Tyler was called to ministry in the 1960s, and along with her husband, John, spent 33 years jointly serving congregations in Wisconsin, Nebraska, and Iowa.

Born with cerebral palsy and diagnosed with moderate to severe hearing loss in the third grade, Jeanne became a fierce advocate for the church's awareness of, and response to, those with disabilities.

“There is a hidden cost of disability of which many are unaware,” she explains. “The financial cost – speech therapy, hearing aids, motorized wheelchairs, specialized computers – all expensive. Without these, isolation and depression can set in.”

Jeanne served with the UCC's Disabilities Ministries and in other capacities with the national church and was instrumental in the conception and funding of the Virginia Kreyer Endowed Scholarship Fund, which provides tuition and assistive technology for ministers with disabilities.

“I'm grateful for the United Church of Christ being with me on my journey, and it's essential that the church continue its commitment to clergy who have disabilities.” Hearing aids have been a godsend to Jeanne, from the first ones she used while still in college. “They worked well for the time – I could hear the fire crackle for the first time and it was just thrilling.”

After retirement, the high cost of newer technology hearing aids was problematic. A grant from the Christmas Fund filled the gap left by her insurance allowance, allowing Jeanne to have hearing aids that make all the difference. “As a pastor, I always asked people to support the Christmas Fund, to support those whose life work has been serving and empowering others, but I never thought I would be on the receiving end. I am humbled and grateful for this acknowledgement by my church that hearing aids are life-giving.”

### **In 2019, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:**

- Monthly pension supplementation for 350 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,347,419)
- Health premium supplementation for 144 retired clergy and lay employees (\$374,577)
- Emergency grants for 69 individuals and families (\$123,727)
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 521 retired clergy and lay employees (\$260,500)

## **THE CHRISTMAS FUND**

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund