

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

"We Shine for All Through Christ"

St. Marys, Ohio

December 24, 2025 Christmas Eve 7:00 pm
Order of Service

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CHIMES

WELCOME

PRELUDE "Noel" - Claude Daquin

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

***HYMN #179 "Joy to The World"**

***PASSING ON THE JOY OF CHRIST**

***UNISON PRAYER**

God of Light and Majesty, on this holy night we rejoice that Your Son, the King of all creation, has come among us. You have filled our hearts with joy, and You have drawn us together by Your love. Like the wise men who journeyed far to seek the newborn King, guide us now by the light of Christ. Open our eyes to behold His glory, open our hearts to receive His grace, and open our lives to follow where He leads. As we worship, may awe rise within us, may wonder awaken in us, and may we offer You our very best gifts, our trust, our devotion, our lives. Be present with us, O Majesty in the manger, for we come to adore You. Amen.

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD

OFFERTORY "Sing We Now of Christmas" – John Carter

***THIRD VERSE OF "O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM"**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

SPECIAL MUSIC Darryl Smith, Jean Smith

THE GOSPEL LESSON LUKE 2:1-20

***HYMN #184 "What Child Is This"**

SECOND GOSPEL LESSON MATTHEW 2:1-12

VIDEO "The Wise Men"

SERMON "Behold His Majesty" Pastor Ed Karges

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

LIGHTING CANDLES DURING "SILENT NIGHT" (Please keep everyone safe: when passing the flame, tip your candle to a lighted candle until yours has flame, then hold it straight upright as the next person safely tips his or her candle to receive light from you.)

***HYMN #186 "Silent Night"**
(We will sing three verses and then will lift our candles high as we hum a Silent Night one more time.)

***Benediction**

Postlude "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" – John Carter

***Denotes those who are able are invited to stand in body and in spirit.**

Communion Service for Christmas Eve

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to God.

L: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: We give you thanks, Holy One, Almighty and eternal God, always and everywhere, the only one begotten by you before all time, by whom you made the world and all things.

We bless you for your continual love and care for every creature. We praise you for forming us in your image and for calling us to be your people.

Although we rebelled against your love, you did not abandon us in our sin but sent to us prophets and teachers to lead us into the way of salvation. In the fullness of time, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior, and at His Birth the angels sang glory to you in the highest and peace to your people on earth.

Therefore, with the entire company of saints in heaven and on earth, we worship and glorify you, God most high.

P: Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God most high, Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God! Hosanna in the highest!

L: Holy are you and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. As Mary and Joseph went from Galilee to Bethlehem and there found no room, so Jesus went from Galilee to Jerusalem and was despised and rejected. As in poverty of a stable Jesus was born, so by the baptism of his suffering,

death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

As your Word became flesh, born of woman, on that night long ago, so, on the night of betrayal Jesus took the bread, and after giving thanks to you, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also after supper, Jesus took the cup, and after giving you thanks, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you and many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

L: Holy One, show forth among us the presence of your life-giving Word and Holy Spirit, to sanctify us and your entire church through these holy mysteries. Grant that all who share the communion of the body and blood of our risen Savior may be one in Jesus Christ. May we remain faithful in love and hope, until the perfect feast with our exalted Savior in the eternal joy of your heavenly realm.

P: Gracious God, accept with favor this our sacrifice of praise, which we now present with these holy gifts. We offer to you ourselves, giving you thanks for the perfect offering of the only one begotten by you, Jesus Christ our Savior: By whom and with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, eternal God, now and forever. Amen.

L: Let us pray as Christ our Savior has taught us. **Our Father, who art in...**