

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
"We Shine For All Through Christ"
St. Marys, Ohio

December 19, 2021 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:30 a.m.
Order of Service

Welcome to our Worship Service today. Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God.

WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES
CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP
WELCOME

PRELUDE “Gesu Bambino” by Pietro A. Yon
LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH “Love” Tom and Jill Dickman

We know that what the world needs now is more love. We need to remember how much God loves each one of us and we must share that love with others.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: Seasons come and seasons go,
People: but our God endures forever.

Leader: Our faith exhibits ebb and flow,
People: but our God endures forever.

Leader: Our lives may freeze up or may grow,
People: but our God endures forever.

ALL: So let our souls magnify the Lord our God this day.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION FOR ADVENT

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, and touch, and easily believe. But you did not ask us to believe what is easy, you have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways you work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive us we question how you chose to enter the world, born as one of us. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways which seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, open our belief, and set aside our doubts that you sent your Son, the one who has come to set us all free. We offer these prayers in the name of your Son, Emmanuel, God with us. Amen.

***HYMN 185** “Hark The Herald Angels Sing”

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY
Announcements Joys and Concerns of our Church Family
Introduction of Guests

ANTHEM “Bethlehem Bound” Beall/Carter

ON THE STEPS WITH THE CHILDREN

PASSING OF THE PEACE
*Leader and children: The Peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also, with you.
(Those of you who are new among us today, please fill in the Welcome card that you will find in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate - Thank you!)

HYMN 229 “The First Noel”

WE OPEN UP TO GOD

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD ***DOXOLOGY** **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**
 “O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel” Arr. Lloyd Larson

GOD SPEAKS TO US

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS Isaiah 12:2-6 Luke 3:7-18

SERMON “What are we to do?” Rev. Rhonda Hainer

WE RESPOND WITH FAITH AND COMMITMENT

***HYMN 182** “O Come All Ye Faithful”

***BENEDICTION**
Leader: May the love of the Christ Child sustain us through this darkness.
People: That together we may shine again. Amen.

WE GO FORTH TO WITNESS AND SERVE

POSTLUDE

“Ding Dong, Merrily On High”

Arr. Lee Evans

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

.....Depart to serve

ST. PAUL’S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
201 N. PERRY ST., ST. MARYS, OH 45885
(419) 394-3811 (Church Office) (419) 394-8733 (Church Fax)
email: smucc@bright.net website: www.stpaulsuccsm.com
email for Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer: rhainer@bright.net and cell phone number: (563) 210-3508
email for prayer team requests to Carol Schmidt: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com
email for Christian Education: jnjl2021@gmail.com
email for media: spmedia@bright.net

Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer, Pastor	Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss, Children’s Ministry Coordinators
Jim Huckemeyer, Director of Music	Cynthia Hanover, Choir/Church Pianist
Ann Vogel, Organist	Andrea Spencer, Organist
Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director	Madeline Frankenhauser, Children’s Music Director
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant	<i>Vacant</i> , Custodian
Rich Spencer, Audio and Video	Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
Tracy Winget, Sunday Nursery Supervisor	Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary
Becky Anderson, Church Pianist	

LiturgistGreg Leffel
AcolytesConfirmands
Children’s offering.....Avery Dieringer
Missionaries.....Members of our Congregation

Our Giving to God December 12, 2021
Current - \$8452.00 and Mission - \$145.00
Attendance – 209

Altar flowers today are from Becky Anderson In memory of her parents at Christmas

**This is the day the Lord has made; let us
rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24**

SATURDAY ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERIES: If you order altar flowers, be sure to let your florist know that the **Elevator entrance** is the **only door** that will be open on Saturdays, and that **deliveries must be made before we lock up at noon**. Thank you.

.....

Breaking Bread Reminder


NOTICE of Meal Schedule Change:

There will be **NO MEALS in the month of December**

Breaking Bread Staff are taking a Holiday Break!

Please join us back here on January 13th! Thank you.

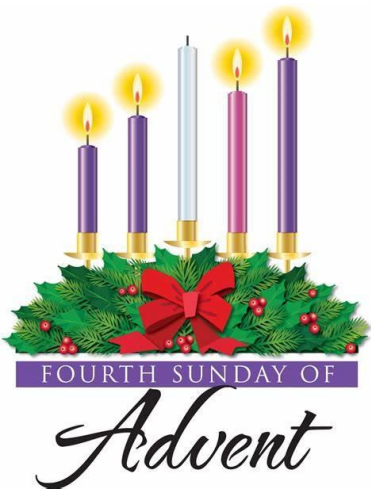
.....

 **REMINDER -- CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2021** should be submitted to the church office **no later than 10:00 am on December 31st.** in order to receive credit on your 2021 giving statement. This gives the office time to make all final deposits for the end of the year. Any contributions received **after** 10:00 am on December 31st will be credited to you in 2022. Thank you!!

.....

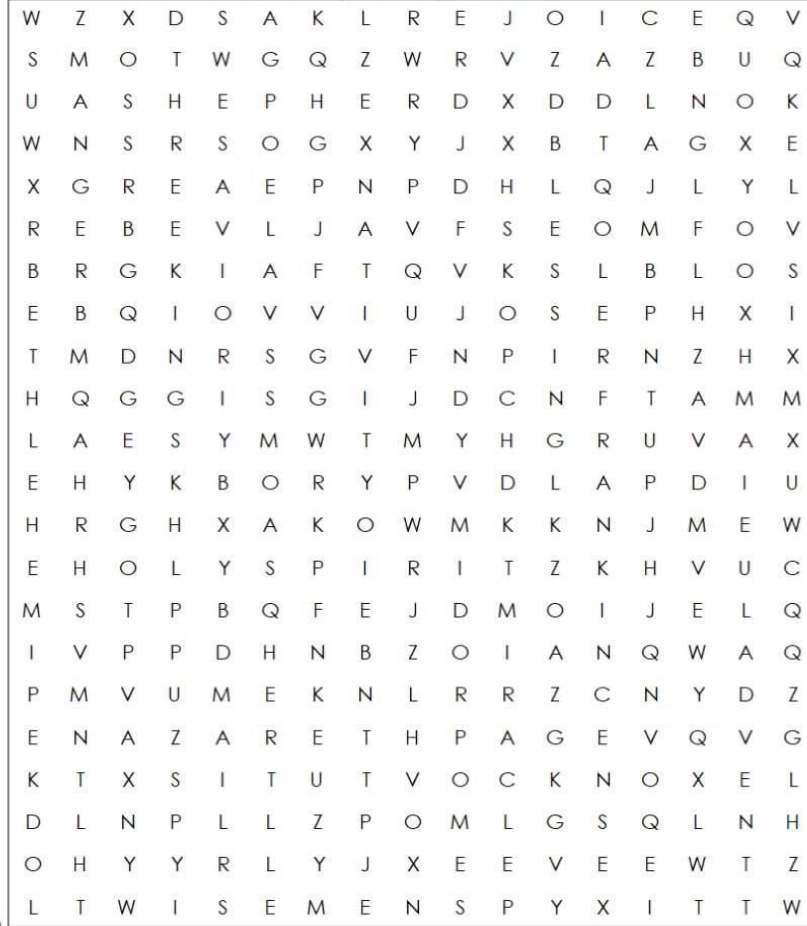
SPECIAL THANK YOU

Thank you to Andrea Clark and her crew for the beautiful Christmas decorations and wonderful job decorating our church!



Name: _____

Christian Christmas Word Search



WISE MEN	BLESSING	MIRACLE
FRANKINCENSE	NATIVITY	REJOICE
HOLY SPIRIT	NAZARETH	JOSEPH
THREE KINGS	SHEPHERD	MANGER
BETHLEHEM	ADVENT	SAVIOR

© Monsterwordsearch.com

Novice



WELCOME! If you are visiting for the first time, we are Glad you are here. If you are a returning visitor Welcome Back. Please complete the Welcome card located in the pew pocket in front of you and place it in the offering plate. Should you have a prayer request, please complete the back side and place in the offering plate.

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE

Don't forget that we now have online giving! It is available now by downloading Vanco Payment Solutions onto your mobile device by going to the app store or Google Play and search for "GivePlus Church". The download is free. We also have a button on our website that will also take you to the Vanco site. This service is available for your convenience!



- Please keep the following people in your prayers: Vern Luedeke, Janet Keller, Verneda Fark, Cheryl Kline, Harold McCune, and Shirley Huckeriede. Also, pray for all of our military, medical, and emergency services.
 - Remember to pray for our shut-ins and for their caregivers that take care of them.
 - All prayer requests shall be given to the lead person of our Prayer Team, Carol Schmidt: cschmidt@stpaulsuccsm.com or you can call or text her at 419-305-6164.
-
- The **2021** Altar Flower Chart and the Liturgist sign-up sheets are located here in the sanctuary on the bulletin board by the sound system equipment.
 - **We need Liturgists!** Please take a moment to sign up. Thank you.



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24 ~ CHRISTMAS EVE 7:00 P.M. ON THIS SPECIAL NIGHT OF COMMUNION AND CANDLELIGHT the fifth candle, the **Christ** candle proclaiming Jesus as the Light of the world is lit on Christmas Eve.

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ!

- ✚ **NURSERY AND PRE-SCHOOL TODDLER CARE** - For your convenience, we have a staffed nursery located in the educational building. Should it become necessary for you to leave the sanctuary during worship, you can view the morning service on the TV in the nursery. **PLEASE NOTE** - Only Newborn to Kindergarten age children are permitted in the Nursery during our morning worship service to allow safety for the newborns and toddlers. Children 1st Grade and older need to remain in the church. Thank you for your understanding
- ✚ **HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE** rest room is located on the sanctuary level near the elevette room and it also contains a baby changing table.
- ✚ **ENLARGED BULLETINS & HEARING DEVICES** - Available if needed (consult an usher).
- ✚ **TELEVISED WORSHIP SERVICE** - Our worship service here at St. Paul's is shown on **TSC cable - Digital channel 1** or **non-digital channel 2**, every Sunday at 10:30 am and also on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm. There is a one-week delay of the service shown.
- ✚ **WORSHIP SERVICE ON THE INTERNET** – If you do not have TSC cable, you can watch our service on our church web page at www.spuccsm.com or on YouTube.
- ✚ **RECYCLE YOUR BULLETIN** - On the registers at the North and South entrances you will see a tray where you can place your bulletin to be recycled (if you do not wish to take it home). Thank you!

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Today	9:15 am	Sunday School/Confirmation
	9:15 am	Choir practice
Wed.	10:30 am	Fourth Sunday in Advent – worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer
	9:00 am	Quilting
Fri.	7:00 pm	Advent Service
	Noon	Office closes
Next Sun.	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
	9:15 am	Sunday School/Confirmation
	9:15 am	Choir practice
	10:30 am	Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer

**THERE IS COFFEE AND TEA AVAILABLE
IN THE ELEVETTE ROOM**



Isaiah 12:2-6
New Revised Standard Version

² Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the LORD GOD^[a] is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴
And you will say in that day:
Give thanks to the LORD,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known^[b] in all the earth.
⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal^[c] Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Luke 3:7-18
New Revised Standard Version

⁷ John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?
⁸ Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.
⁹ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”
¹⁰ And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?”
¹¹ In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”
¹² Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?”
¹³ He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.”
¹⁴ Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”
¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah,^[a]
¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with^[b] the Holy Spirit and fire.
¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”
¹⁸ So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.