

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

<u>December 24, 2021</u>	<u>Christmas Eve</u>	<u>7:00 p.m.</u>
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Order of Service

PRELUDE	<i>"He Is Born"</i>	French Carol
CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP		
LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES		

CHORAL ANTHEM	“Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?”	Robert Lau
WELCOME		

(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 #182** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: The people who once lived in darkness have been given a great light!

People: Praise be to God who has heard our cries.

Leader: Our souls sing out God's praise!

People: God has brought us a light of Hope and Peace, Joy and Love.

Leader: Tonight, in this place, the Light of God's Love is given for us all!

People: And we shall see that light and let it shine through our lives. AMEN.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES AND THE CHRIST CANDLE Greg and Joni Leffel

This year our prayer for Christmas is that everyone will know, recognize, and experience the coming of the Christ child in the many and varied circumstances of their lives.

***HYMN #185** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

UNISON PRAYER

God of surprising love and hope, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. Open our hearts tonight and guide us by the Light of Jesus Christ, that we may truly feel the power of your Hope, your Peace, your Joy and your Love, to all we meet. In Jesus' Name, we pray. AMEN.

CHORAL ANTHEM “Come, Follow That Star” Nancy Price and Don Besig

THE OFFERTORY CHRISTMAS PRAYER

CHORAL ANTHEM “Bethlehem Town” Mary Kay Beall and John Carter

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN #184 “What Child Is This?”

THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-20

SERMON “The Promise of Emmanuel” Rev. Rhonda Hainer

SPECIAL MUSIC “It Was A Starry Night” David and Bonnie Huntsinger
Duet by Lucy Spencer and Jim Huckemeyer

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts and debtors)

LIGHTING CANDLES *(Please keep everyone safe: when passing the flame, dip 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 candle to receive light from you.)*

***HYMN 186** “Silent Night”
(On the last verse, please lift your candle high)

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FLAME BUT NOT OF THE LIGHT

***HYMN #179** “Joy To the World”

***CHRISTMAS EVE BENEDICTION**

Leader: Go forth from this place to live the story, to tell of the Hope that is being born among us this Christmas, to share the Love of the season with the world, to be agents of Peace in times of trouble, to sing songs of deep and abiding Joy. Amen.

POSTLUDE	<i>“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”</i>	Spiritual
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***Denotes those who are able are invited to stand in body and in spiritDepart to serve**