

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

December 24, 2022 **Christmas Eve** **7:00 p.m.**
Order of Service

PRELUDE "Angels We Have Herard on High"

CHIMES CALL US TO WORSHIP

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

WELCOME
(Those of you who are new among us this evening, please fill in the Yellow 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.

THE OFFERTORY *DOXOLOGY *PRAYER OF DEDICATION
"Jesu Bambino"

SPECIAL MUSIC "The Christmas Shoes" by Newsong Howie Spencer

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

HYMN #184 "What Child Is This?"

THE GOSPEL LESSON Luke 2:1-20

SERMON "A Child Is Born" Rev. Rhonda Hainer

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

***HYMN #223** "Star Child"

LIGHTING CANDLES *(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 candle to receive light from you.)*

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

EXTINGUISHING OF THE FLAME BUT NOT OF THE LIGHT

***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 be agents of Peace in times of trouble, to sing songs of deep and abiding Joy and to share the Love of the season with the world. Amen.

POSTLUDE "Joy to the World"
***Denotes those who are able are invited to stand in body and in spirit** Depart to serve

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Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer, Pastor
Cynthia Hanover, Choir/Church Pianist
Ann Vogel, Organist
Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director
Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant
Rich Spencer, Audio and Video
Becky Anderson, Church Pianist, and
Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music

Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss, Children's Ministry Coordinators
Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher
Andrea Spencer, Organist
Madeline Frankenhauser, Children's Music Director
Brad and Nam Gehrlisch, Custodian
Tracy Winget, Sunday Nursery Supervisor
Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary

Please join us for Christmas Day worship tomorrow morning at 10:30 a.m.

