

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

December 4, 2022 **Second 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 *(If you are new among us today, please fill in the Welcome card located in the pew rack and drop it in the offering plate.)*

PRELUDE "Silent Night" arr. Mark Hayes

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH “Peace” Allie Long, Avery Dieringer, Ava Winget, Maya McDonald, and Asher Craft

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: A shoot soon comes from Jesse's stump, and a branch shall spring from roots.

People: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.

Leader: A leader soon comes who will lift the poor with righteousness around his waist.

People: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children. Let all the people give God praise.

Leader: A child soon comes from an innocent place. With wisdom and might he'll lead the way.

People: Rejoice! Rejoice! All God's children.

Leader: Let all the people give God praise.

*INVOCATION

God of the waiting wanderers in the wilderness, We enter this moment of worship expecting that when we leave this hour of prayer, we will be full of the courage needed to stand as a signal. We come to the mountain to feel closer to your presence, O God. May the mountains yield prosperity for your people. May righteousness flourish and peace abound. You, alone, are the God who does wondrous things. May your glory fill this place as we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

***HYMN #203** "Away in a Manger"

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Announcements | Joys and Concerns of our Church Family |
| Introduction of Guests | Birthdays |

ON THE STEPS WITH THE CHILDREN

***PASSING OF THE PEACE** Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.
 People: **And also with you.**
 (People offer God's peace to those nearby with whatever you are comfortable with)

WE OPEN UP TO GOD

SPECIAL MUSIC “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” arr. Mark Hayes
pianist Leslie Hullinger

OUR OFFERINGS TO GOD *DOXOLOGY PRAYER OF DEDICATION
 “The First Noel” arr. Greg Howlett

HYMN #192 “Mary, Did You Know?”

GOD SPEAKS TO US

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10
THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 3:1-12

SERMON: "Stay Fruitful" Rev. Rhonda Hainer

WE RESPOND WITH FAITH AND COMMITMENT

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

***BENEDICTION**

WE GO FORTH TO WITNESS AND SERVE

POSTLUDE "Ding! Dong! Merrily on High" arr. Mark Hayes

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

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|--|---|
| Rev. Rhonda A. Hainer, Pastor | Joan Leffel and Jane Nuss, Children's Ministry Coordinators |
| Cynthia Hanover, Choir/Church Pianist | Amy Keller, Confirmation Teacher |
| Ann Vogel, Organist | Andrea Spencer, Organist |
| Nick Frankenhauser, Youth Director | Madeline Frankenhauser, Children's Music Director |
| Carolyn Garrison, Administrative Assistant | Brad and Nam Gehrlisch, Custodian |
| Rich Spencer, Audio and Video | Tracy Winget, Sunday Nursery Supervisor |
| Becky Anderson, Church Pianist, and | Jeanette Tangeman, Back Bay Missionary |
| Volunteer Coordinator of Special Music | |

LiturgistOllie Chisholm
AcolytesMiddle School Youth
Children's offering.....Sunday School Youth
Missionaries.....Members of our Congregation

Our Giving to God, November 27, 2022
Current - \$7211.00 / Mission - \$845.00
Attendance – 83

The loose offering today is designated to the Organ Fund
Next week, the loose offering is designated to the Current Fund

The altar flowers today are from Carolyn Garrison, in memory of her father, Robert VonAschen

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE: On Sunday, December 11th, following the children's Christmas program, there will be a Congregational Meeting. At this meeting we will be voting/approving the 2023 Church Budget, 2023 New Consistory Members, and potential change to Article VIII-Consistory of the Constitution of St. Paul's. Information on these three items will be included in your December Communicator. Please plan on reviewing the documents as well as attending the meeting on December 11th.

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL and COLLEGE youth: The youth will be going to Back Bay Mission in June 2023. **A \$150.00 deposit is due Dec. 11, 2022** to secure your spot. Contact Sarah Walter for information and payment. 419-305-1952.



Samaritan Sisters are planning a dinner out at JT's restaurant on Monday, December 5th at 5pm! We are inviting all women of the church to join us. Please let me know, or you can contact the church office by Sunday, December 4th. Hope to see you all! ~Kris Vanderhorst

NOTICE OF DATE CHANGE:

The HEAL Group that meets on the third Thursday of each month has changed the date for December only. The group will now meet on December 8th at 1:30 pm in the library

TAKE NOTE: Children's Christmas program is Sunday, Dec. 11 during the 10:30am worship service. We will be having program rehearsal on Saturday, December 10 from 9am to 11am. Please bring your kids to the Gathering Room. Nursery children do not need to come on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Grab your roller skates or rent your roller skates! We are having an all-church roller-skating party! Wednesday, December 28 from 6-8pm at Grand Lake Skating on Celina Road. Admission is \$1 which includes skate rental. Concessions are open, but would be at your expense. Put us on your calendar now! Entertainment for the kids during Christmas school break. Might be another way for the adults to "roll away" the calories from Christmas. And if you don't skate, then just come and enjoy church fellowship (no admission cost). Questions? See Amy Keller, Joni Leffel or Jane Nuss.

Reminder there is no Sunday School December 25 and January 1. We will resume on January 8.

Advent - Week 2 Word Search

G O Y E F I L G N I T S A L R E V E E G Y I A M
S E G E T I H W H C H D F Z T B N C F M X N J F
C O X V J C G Z P R E P A R E B X E I O N M T P
H R W E F E O Z S X Z O Y O J K J T O O T E M N
R P X Q X J L J X K B L O I M Z Z N U I K X C R
I U C K N Z V L M U R A Y S O N P N P Y J R M U
S J E O T G I F E E T V L P E I C I A V K E L T
T G L D C O R J M N N I E G N E D P H P K T P E
S G E I P A D Q M N S R J S M P T M R S I G V R
B W B L X E P L A H X R K E F G I N B P R O R S
I R R O T V A F N O X A N X X W N J G Y K O S T
R S A V O O L C U P M T P A T X M R G X F H W S
T E T E W I H Y E E Z M E V F N Q X C D O T Y I
H L E B E U V W L H J K N I P O E N B A U R L R
X P S L E G N A X D B A V C Y L J V A A R R R H
B R T C P O U G L F Z W Y O K X O J D X W T S C
I U S N W N B E J P H Z T U Q O J R A A E T B J
O P X Y Y Y N A W C H R I S T M A S F X E D B R
O O A T V H T P A P W X U Z X J K B V A K M F Y
S E L D N A C R U O F B O V L J W U Z A S N D T
D V E M C F N I H T A E R W N E E R G R E V E I
D Y L O H P I I W F Q S T D L X O D F H A B Z J
C Z L I S S X L K D E Y J W Z P Q L T Z O Q B G
F A V O F K B M S C Q X C H R I S T M A S E V E

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| ADVENT | ANGELS | ANNOUNCEMENT | ARRIVAL |
| CELEBRATE | CHRISTMAS | CHRISTMAS EVE | CHRISTS BIRTH |
| CHRISTS RETURN | EMMANUEL | EVERGREEN WREATH | EVERLASTING LIFE |
| FOUR CANDLES | FOUR WEEKS | HOLY | HOPE |
| JOY | LOVE | PEACE | PINK |
| PREPARE | PURPLE | WHITE | WORSHIP |

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 "Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement" 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!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please keep the following people in your prayers: Carol Schmidt, Cheryl Kline, John Hall, Diana Prichard, Shirley Harold, John Long, and Vern Luedeke. Also, pray for all of our military, medical, and emergency services.
 - Please keep Tami Sanford and her family in your prayers. Tami's father passed away this past week.
 - Please keep Ruth Griesdorn and her family in your prayers. Ruth's husband, Robert, passed away this past week as well.
 - 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 **2023 Altar Flower Charts, 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 (on the bulletin board by the soundboard) or call the church office to sign up. Thank you.

Quiet Bags have new fun pages in them for all ages. Hidden pictures, stories to read, some coloring pages. Check them out!

TAKE NOTE:

- **Next Sunday, December 11th - End of Life Series with Jeff Dieringer 9:15 a.m. in Heritage Hall**
- **The Middle School Youth will be performing a skit during the December 18th worship service.**

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** restroom 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. This is now shown LIVE on Sundays and shown a day later on Mondays.
- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **EMERGENCY AED** – There is an emergency AED Unit located on the wall behind the soundboard in the Sanctuary.
- ✚ **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

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| Today | 9:15 am | Sunday School |
| | 9:15 am | Adult Forum |
| | 10:30 am | Worship with Rev. Rhonda Hainer/2 nd Sunday of Advent |
| Mon. | 5:00 pm | Samaritan Sisters Ladies Dinner at JT's |
| Tues. | 5:30-6:30 pm | Bingo at Otterbein |
| Wed. | 6:00 pm | Christian Ed & Nurture Mtg. – Heritage Hall |
| | 7:00 pm | Advent Midweek Worship Service |
| Thurs. | 1:30 pm | HEAL Group - Library |
| | 6:00 pm | Church staff Christmas dinner |
| | 6:00 pm | Personnel Meeting (rescheduled from last week) |
| | 7-8:30 pm | Bell Choir practice |
| Sat. | 9-11:00 am | Christmas Program rehearsal – Gathering Room |
| Next Sun. | 9:15 am | Sunday School |
| | 9:15 am | End of Life Series – Jeff Dieringer |
| | 10:30 am | Children's Christmas Program/3 rd Sunday of Advent |
| | 11:30 am | Congregational Meeting immediately following worship |

Isaiah 11:1-10

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Peaceful Kingdom

- 11** A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow^[a] out of his roots.
- 2** The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
- 3** His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
- 4** but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5** Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
- 6** The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed^[b] together,
and a little child shall lead them.
- 7** The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- 8** The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- 9** They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Return of the Remnant of Israel and Judah

- 10** On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Matthew 3:1-12

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Proclamation of John the Baptist

- 3** In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, **2** “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”^[a] **3** This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,
“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight.’ ”
- 4** Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.
- 5** Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him,
6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.
- 7** But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his^[b] baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?
8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance,
9 and do not presume 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.
- 10** Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.
- 11** “I baptize you with^[c] water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with^[d] the Holy Spirit and fire.
- 12** His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”