



*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

*December 24, 2017*

*9:00 p.m.*

No matter who you are,  
No matter where you are  
On life's journey,  
You are welcome here.

*Worship begins with chimes.*

*The prelude is a time of reflection and preparation for the worship of God.*

***Please silence cell phones.***

*Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.*

#### THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"God became a child. Wait a minute! Don't speak! Stand still before this statement!  
*God became a child.*"

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

#### PRELUDE

*Sospiri*

Edward Elgar

Monty Adams, flute; Phyllis Adams, harp;  
Kevin Dierzawski, organ

#### *Sure On This Shining Night*

Samuel Barber

Breanna Coe, mezzo-soprano; flute, and harp

Sure on this shining night  
Of star made shadows round,  
Kindness must watch for me  
This side the ground.  
The late year lies down the north.  
All is healed, all is health.  
High mystery holds the earth.  
Hearts all whole.  
Sure on this shining night  
I weep for wonder, wandering far alone

Of shadows on the stars.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

*Toccata* from Symphony V  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Charles Marie Widor

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN    *O Come All Ye Faithful*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, forever be Thy name adored;  
Word of the One God, now in flesh appearing!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

\* WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

\* Please stand if you are able to do so.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The prophets have proclaimed it and the  
angels have announced it: Unto us a child is born. Unto us a savior is  
given. Glory to God in the highest!

**All: And on earth peace, goodwill.**

One: Go tell it on the mountain.

**All: Go tell it in the city.**

One: This is good news of great joy.

**All: Jesus Christ is born!**

CHOIR

*Soon And Very Soon*  
Chancel Choir  
Nathan Streeter, tenor

Andraé Crouch

Soon and very soon,  
We are goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah,  
We're goin' to see the King.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

THE PROPHECY FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

CHOIR

*El nacimiento* Ariel Ramirez  
from *Navidad Nuestra*

Kris Hansen, tenor and Alex Hansen, drums

*Noche anunciada, noche de amor,  
Dios ha nacido, pétalo y flor,  
todo es silencio y serenidad,  
paz a los hombres, es Navidad.*

*En el pesebre mi redentor  
es mensajero de paz y amor,  
cuando sonrío se hace la luz  
y en sus bracitos crece una cruz.*

*Angeles cantan sobre el portal*

*Dios ha nacido, es navidad*

*Esta es la noche, que prometió  
Dios a los hombres y ya llegó,  
es Noche Buena, no hay que dormir  
Dios ha nacido, Dios está aquí.*

Night foretold,  
Night of love,  
God is born, petals and flowers.  
All is silent and serene.  
Peace on earth at Christmas.

In the manger, the Redeemer from above brings news of peace and love.  
In Christ's smile a radiance glows.  
And his tiny arms form a cross

Angels are singing above the scene.  
God is born. It is Christmas.

This is the night that God has promised,  
God's gift to all and we see it unfold.  
It's Christmas Eve; you don't need to sleep.  
God is born. God is with us.

#### THE FULFILLMENT IN THE GOSPEL

CONGREGATION

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by:  
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of the heavens;



Chancel Choir

Text-Edvard Evers

English-Norman Luboff

*Jul, Jul, strålande jul, glans över vita skogar,  
Himmelens kronor med gnistrande ljus,  
Glimande bågar i alla Guds hus,  
Psalm, som är sjungen från tid till tid,  
Eviga längtan till ljus och frid!  
Jul, Jul, strålande jul, glans över vita skogar!*

Peace, peace, wonderful peace, Peace to the world is given.  
Hushed are the angels, so still is the night.  
Then in the East shone a heavenly light.  
Join in the chorus, His praises sing!  
Glory to God, to the newly born King!  
Peace, peace, wonderful peace, Peace to the world is given!

CONGREGATION

*The First Nowell*

The first Nowell, the angels did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel!

And by the light of one bright star,  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel!

THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI

CHOIR

*Mary Had a Baby* African-American Spiritual  
Nancy Pifer, soprano arr. William Dawson

Mary had a baby, My Lord!  
Where was he born?  
Born in a manger.  
What did they call him?  
King Jesus.  
He is called King Jesus, Mighty Counselor,  
King Emanuel, Mighty God, Everlasting Father.  
Mary had a baby, My Lord!

SERMON "Not to have your questions answered, but to feel tiny fingers clutch"  
Matt Fitzgerald

\* CONGREGATION

*Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King:  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ:  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love, And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

CHOIR

*Wexford Carol*

arr. Gary Fry

Monty Adams, flute; Phyllis Adams, harp  
Nancy Pifer, soprano; Nathan Streeter, tenor;  
and Lee Lichamer, bass

Good people all this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind,  
What our good God for us has done, in sending his beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep,  
To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Arise and go," the angels said, "To Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
"For there you'll find this happy morn, "A princely babe, sweet Jesus born."

With thankful heart and joyful mind, and as God's angels had foretold,  
They did our Savior Christ behold. within a manger He was laid,  
And by His side, the virgin maid, as long foretold, upon that morn  
There was a blessed Messiah born.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

Sarah Garcia

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

SOLO

*Largo* from Sonata No. 3 BWV 1005 J.S. Bach

Rachel Barton-Pine, violin

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*The pastors will light the candles of those seated on the aisle. Worshipers will pass the light to each other down the row.*

CHOIR

*Stille Nacht*  
Chancel Choir

Franz Grüber

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
Nur das traute, hochheilige Paar  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

\* CONGREGATION

*Silent Night*

Silent night, holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright,  
'Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant, so tender and mild;  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

\* BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Pat-a-pan*  
*Alegria*  
Monty Adams, flute;  
and Phyllis Adams, harp

Burgundian Carol  
Traditional Puerto Rican

***Yes, There is Room at the Inn.  
Tonight's offering will save lives.  
Text: 773-825-6816***

We are giving this evening's offering away. Every dollar collected will be given to the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. LPCS is a home for those who are experiencing homelessness. Seventy percent of LPCS guests graduate to permanent housing. LCPS saves lives, finds strength and sees dignity. Saint Pauls was the first home of LCPS, opening our doors during the frigid winter of 1985. Since then our congregation and the shelter's guests have been close. LPCS will soon move to a new home and expand its impact. Please give generously through the offering plate or by texting 773-825-6816 with the dollar amount you would like to contribute (example: 250 -- no dollar sign). You'll then be sent a link. Click on it to complete your gift and receive a receipt.

*A poem for Christmas*

Imagine striking a match that night in the cave:  
use the cracks in the floor to feel the cold.  
Use crockery in order to feel the hunger.  
And to feel the desert - but the desert is everywhere.

Imagine striking a match in that midnight cave,  
the fire, the farm beasts in outline, the farm tools and stuff;  
and imagine, as you towel your face in the towel's folds,  
the bundled up Infant. And Mary and Joseph.

Imagine the kings, the caravans' stilted procession  
as they make for the cave, or rather three beams closing in  
and in on the star; the creaking of loads, the clink of a cowbell;  
(but in the cerulean thickening over the Infant  
no bell and no echo of bell: He hasn't earned it yet.)

Imagine the Lord, for the first time, from darkness, and stranded  
immensely in distance, recognizing Himself in the Son,  
of Man: homeless, going out to Himself in a homeless one.

-Joseph Brodsky (translated from Russian by Seamus Heaney)

### **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:**

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, Cheryl Kennedy, Becca Brown, Doug Clark

**Acolytes:** Samantha Fayhee, Rebecca Fayhee, Greta Schmahl, Maria Schmahl, Isaiah Fitzgerald, Hannah Fitzgerald

**Head Greeter:** Greg Mooney

**Special Accommodations:** Dodd Brown

THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS A CHRISMON TREE - The white and gold ornaments represent the glory and majesty of Christ. Each one is a symbol or monogram of Christ and has been made by members and friends of St. Pauls. The tree itself is a gift to the church from the Crowley and Opp-Ekdahl families. Thanks to Lorne Frank, Greg Basil, Fernando Diaz, Jill Minetz, Kres and Doug Roewer, Liz Raiman, Kirk Chernansky, Beverley Petrunich, Gretchen Althen, Barb Kaiser, and Jan Bail.

### **CHRISTMAS CALENDAR**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**New Years Eve**

10 a.m. Worship. No Church School.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 14**

**Polar Peace March**, 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary/Gym

Join us for the 4th annual march that supports UCAN'S work for non-violence and honors the legacy of MLK.

## SAINT PAULS PRAYS

- For Stacie B., sister of Mark P., for strength as she deals with her diagnosis of an incurable auto-immune disorder.
- Larry Simpson, with the death of his spouse, Ed Zasadil.
- For Aylmer Gifford's close friend, Mario Dominis, who is facing difficult health challenges.
- For Robin Scott's friend, Michelle, for her physical health and mental well-being.
- Al Cerkan and family, at the loss of his sister-in-law, Maureen.
- For Bruce and Betty who need prayers for their uncle Victor in the hospital.
- For Rod Robert, brother of Susanne Baker, and brother-in-law of David Baker, as he recovers from difficult health challenges.
- Jan Bail's friend, Genel Daley, starting a second round of chemotherapy.
- Dale Martin and his family.
- For young people who struggle to do the right thing but are surrounded by those who seem to benefit from wrong-doing.
- Bobbi Gannello, diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Amy Newman's sister Linda, being treated for cancer.
- Sandra Benedict, recovering from surgery.
- Carole Knuti undergoing treatment for cancer.
- Carole Crowley recovering from a stroke.
- All those struggling to conceive.
- Sylvia Pine's grandfather, Terry Barton, recovering from strokes.
- Candi Huber's niece, Kathryn, continuing treatments for cancer.
- Michelle's friends Michael, Chris and Jerry, all sick with chronic illnesses.
- Lorri Gunn Wirsum, for her husband, Karl Wirsum, and her brother, Jim, who is recovering from transplant surgery.
- Mary Train and her nephew Carl and family.
- Jonah, Sean, and Kevin and all homeless individuals with mental illness living in this city.
- For those struggling with mental health issues.
- For all those touched by violence in Chicago.
- Steve Warsh, undergoing chemotherapy.
- Tom Palkon being treated for cancer.
- Pat Kirby, recovering from heart attack and complications.
- Those killed and injured in terrorist attacks around the world and all refugees.

NEARLY 1 IN 5 ADULTS STRUGGLE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE. Contact one of the pastors today for information about mental health care advocacy and resources that can help you and your loved ones. Contact information for the pastors is at the back of this Bulletin.

