

Third Sunday of Advent
Service of Readings and Carols
December 12, 2021

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

There is no Sunday School this week. Children are invited to stay in worship.

The Nursery is open for children ages 0 to 2.

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

Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.

Please silence cell phones.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Remembrance is sufficient of the beauty we have seen."

Caroline Sergeant

PRELUDE

A Cradle in Bethlehem

Al Bryan & Lawrence Stock

Nancy Pifer, soloist

St. Arbucks Quartet

Sing sweet and low, a lullaby

'Til angels sing amen

A mother tonight is rocking

A cradle in Bethlehem.

While wise men follow through the dark

A star that beckons them

A mother tonight is rocking

A cradle in Bethlehem.

A little child

Shall lead them

The prophet says of old

In storm and tempest even

Until the bell is tolled.

Sing sweet and low, ...

CHIMES

CHORAL INTROIT

Advent Introit
Chancel Choir

Chant

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Peace

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice!

**All: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy
which shall be for all people.**

One: Good will visit us! Day will dawn upon us!

All: A child shall be born unto us!

One: Christ the Lord, the light of the world!

All: It is almost Christmas! The candle of joy has been lit!

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

* HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

Solo: Lee Waldschmidt

The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The lyrics are: Solo 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a
Choir 2. He came down to earth from heav - en, who is
All 3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, dai - ly
All 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a
like us lived and grew, Je - sus, lit - tle, weak and
own re - deem - ing love; And that child so dear and
ba - by, in a man - ger for his bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew. Je - sus
gen - tle is our Lord in heav - en a - bove; And he
was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly, lived on earth this Sav - ior low - ly.
feels our pain and sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.
leads his chil - dren on to the place where he has gone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Benny VanDerburgh

**When we allow darkness to overcome the light,
forgive us, Lord.**

**When we reduce Christmas to plastic and tinsel,
have mercy on us.**

**When hardness of heart keeps us from seeing
and hearing and touching the needs of others,
let your grace consume us, O God.**

When the wars around us are of no concern,
 forgive us, and move us to compassion.
 When our caring is not extended to action,
 move us to seek justice for our brothers and sisters.
 Remove all barriers that divide us,
 and let there be no obstacle to our love for you
 and for one another.
 Through the grace of Jesus, Amen.

RESPONSE

O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;
 Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;
 O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

SCRIPTURE

Luke 1:26-48

Erin Fitzgerald

Director of Little Lights

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

CAROL

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2. Our God tran - scends all heav - en, earth, and its do - main;
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4. What_ can I of - fer, poor_ as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when Christ comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the mid - night air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 But his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 sov - ereign God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what I can I of - fer: all my heart.

SCRIPTURE

Benny VanDerburgh

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.

STORY

"Santa and God"

Erin Fitzgerald

CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



1. It came up - on — a mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old, —
2. And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold; —
who toil a - long the climb - ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow, —



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy — we bring."
Look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on — the wing; —



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing. —
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing! —

SCRIPTURE

Matt Fitzgerald

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

* CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — “Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav’n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild — God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!”
Late in time be - hold him come, Off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings,



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — Join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; — Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty, —
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — Born that we no more may die, —



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, “Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!”
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to — give us sec-ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry — to the new-born King!”

STORY

“Daily Oral Language”

Benny VanDerburgh

CAROL

Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear


1. "Gen - tle Jo - seph, Jo - seph dear, stay with me, for the
 2. "Glad - ly Mar - y, Mar - y mine. I will cra - dle the
 3. "Peace to all and God's good - will," heav'n and earth with this

ba - by's near; God will sure - ly your good - ness hear, as
 child di - vine; Here will heav - en and earth com - bine, for
 song will fill; Soon will God, in the eve - ning still, be

you will love this new - born child," says Mar - y.
 you will bear God's child, O dear - est Mar - y."
 born in Beth - le - hem, the child of Mar - y.

SCRIPTURE

Jeff Carlson

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL

The First Nowell

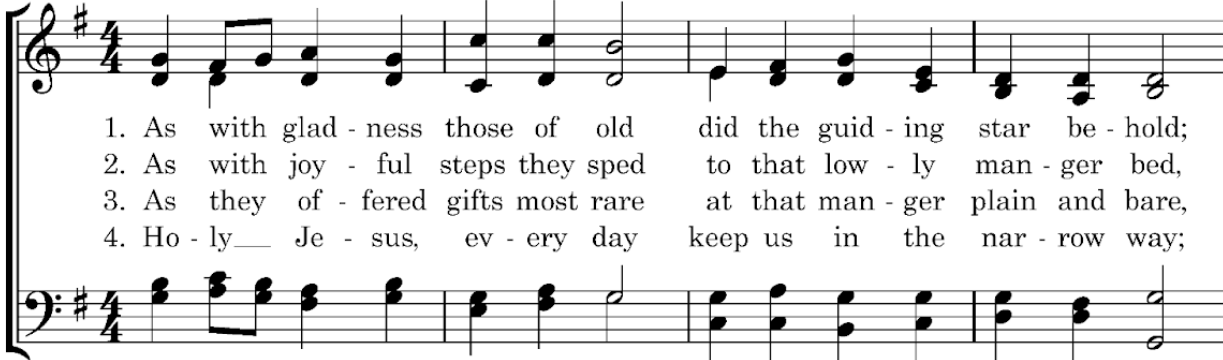
The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In
fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
night that was so deep. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
ell, Now - ell, Born is the king of Is - ra - el.

STORY

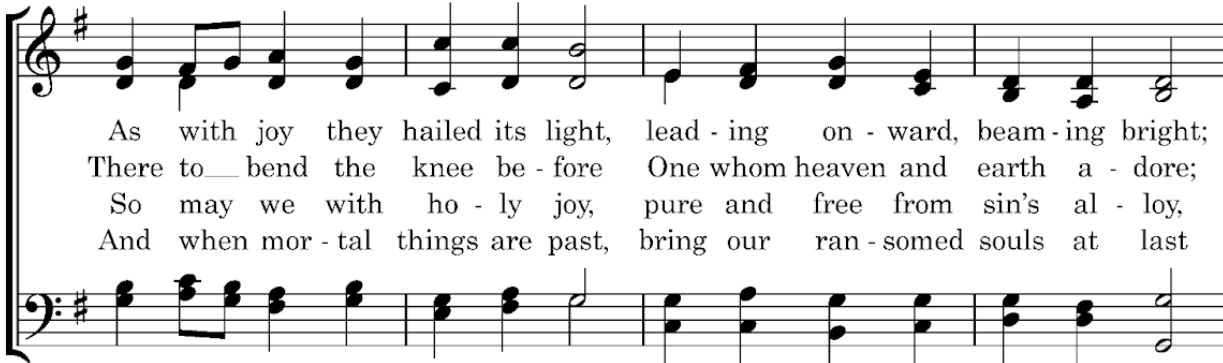
"The Dog and the Dog Together"

Matt Fitzgerald

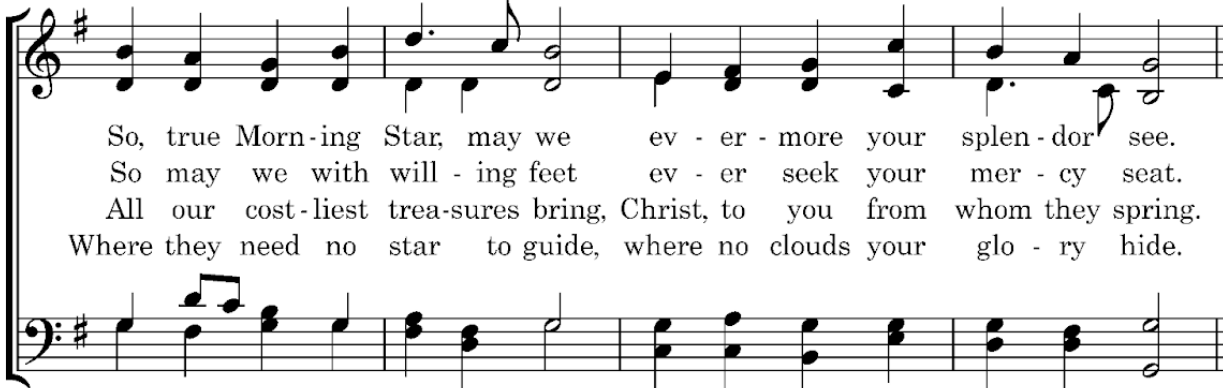
CAROL

As With Gladness Those of Old

1. As with glad - ness those of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2. As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger bed,
3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger plain and bare,
4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore One whom heaven and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when mor - tal things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last



So, true Morn - ing Star, may we ev - er - more your splen - dor see.
So may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo - ry hide.

SCRIPTURE

Erin Fitzgerald

Matthew 2:1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary, his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

STORY


“A Christmas I’ll Never Remember”

Jeff Carlson


* CAROL

Go, Tell It on the Mountain


Refrain




Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hill and ev - ery - where.



Go tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born!



1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er sil-lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when lo! a - bove the earth
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born,



Be - hold through - out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

to Refrain

GIVING MOMENT

Matt Fitzgerald

OFFERTORY

Priidite poklonimsya (Come Let Us Worship) Sergei Rachmaninov
(Sung in Old Church Slavonic)

Lee Lichamer and Nathan Streeter, cantors

Chancel Choir

Deacon -bass - Blessed master.

Priest -tenor - Glory to the Holy One in being with the Father, Life-Creating,
and Undivided Trinity, now and forever, and unto the ages of ages.

Choir - Amen - Come let us worship God, our Sovereign.

Come let us worship and fall down

Before Christ our King and God.

Come let us worship and fall down

Before the true Christ our King and God.

Come let us worship and fall down before Him.

from Psalm 96: 6 with additions

You can give to St. Pauls online by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,
At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,
Or through Zelle to giving@spucc.org.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jeff Carlson

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.**

* HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice___ with heart and soul and voice;___
2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice___ with heart and soul and voice;___
3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice___ with heart and soul and voice;___



now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the
God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for -
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -



man - ger now. Christ is born to - day,___ Christ is born to - day!
- ev - er - more. Christ was born for this,___ Christ was born for this!
- last - ing hall. Christ was born to save,___ Christ was born to save!

* BENEDICTION

Benny VanDerburgh

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -

- ceive her king; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, —

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And

sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard On High

French carol

St Pauls Brass and Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

arr. Lloyd Larson

If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the Postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.

*Following Worship, all are invited to shop the Advent Market in the gym and/or join Pastor Matt in the Social Hall for Advent Poetry!
Social Hour in the gym will resume next week.*

ADVENT WREATH

Each week during Advent we light another candle in our Advent wreath to anticipate the coming of Christ, the light of the world. These candles symbolize the gifts of hope, love, joy and peace that Christ's coming brings.

PINK CANDLE, WHY? - This is *Gaudete* (Rejoice) Sunday. Both Advent and Lent are considered penitential seasons, but the early church leaders decided that each of those seasons need an uplifting break. That is why on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday in Advent, the liturgical color changes from purple to pink or rose before returning to purple on the fourth Sunday.

The Cultivation of Christmas Trees by T.S. Eliot

There are several attitudes towards Christmas,
Some of which we may disregard:
The social, the torpid, the patently commercial,
The rowdy (the pubs being open till midnight),
And the childish — which is not that of the child
For whom the candle is a star, and the gilded angel
Spreading its wings at the summit of the tree
Is not only a decoration, but an angel.

The child wonders at the Christmas Tree:
Let him continue in the spirit of wonder
At the Feast as an event not accepted as a pretext;
So that the glittering rapture, the amazement
Of the first-remembered Christmas Tree,
So that the surprises, delight in new possessions
(Each one with its peculiar and exciting smell),
The expectation of the goose or turkey
And the expected awe on its appearance,

So that the reverence and the gaiety
May not be forgotten in later experience,
In the bored habituation, the fatigue, the tedium,
The awareness of death, the consciousness of failure,
Or in the piety of the convert
Which may be tainted with a self-conceit
Displeasing to God and disrespectful to children
(And here I remember also with gratitude
St. Lucy, her carol, and her crown of fire):

So that before the end, the eightieth Christmas
(By “eightieth” meaning whichever is last)
The accumulated memories of annual emotion
May be concentrated into a great joy
Which shall be also a great fear, as on the occasion
When fear came upon every soul:
Because the beginning shall remind us of the end
And the first coming of the second coming.

TODAY'S MUSIC

A Cradle in Bethlehem was made popular by Nat King Cole (1919-1965). Elbridge "Al" Bryant (1939-1975), one of the two composers, was one of the original members of the Temptations. Lawrence "Larry" Stock (1896-1984) was a prolific American songwriter. Among his most popular songs, he co-wrote *Blueberry Hill* with Fats Domino and Al Lewis.

Once in Royal David's City became popularized as the traditional processional of the Festival of Lessons and Carols broadcast each year from King's College Chapel at Cambridge in England. The text was composed in 1848, not long after the founding of our St. Pauls, by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), the wife of the bishop of Ireland. She wrote many hymn texts specifically for children. The tune, IRBY, was composed in 1849 by Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876). Gauntlett became the organist at his father's church, and after beginning a career in law, he gave it up to become a full time church musician. He even held patents on organ mechanical parts.

The poetry for ***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** has a wonderful story. Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), an American, took a trip to Israel in 1865 at the close of the Civil War. The Reverend Brooks spent Christmas in Bethlehem in 1866, and this poem poured forth in 1868 as a result of that visit. ST. LOUIS, which is the tune most Americans know, was also composed in 1868 by Louis Redner (1831-1908), a Sunday school superintendent in Philadelphia. It was composed the night before it was sung at his church and it is the only one for which he is remembered.

The Bleak Midwinter text was written by Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830–1894) in 1872. She was a prolific English poet. The tune; CRANHAM, is by Gustav Holst (1874–1934), who is best known as the composer of *The Planets*.

The words for ***It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*** were written in 1849 by Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876). He was born in this country and moved to England in 1838. Ill health forced him to retire to a quiet life of literature. The well known music, CAROL, was composed in 1850 by Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900). He was an American composer particularly drawn to creating hymn tunes.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing is easily among the most well-known Christmas carols. The text was written by the famous Methodist clergy Charles Wesley (1749-1788) in 1739 and was altered to its present version in the same year by George Whitefield (1714-1770). The tune name, MENDELSSOHN, takes its name from its famous German composer, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), who was much beloved in England. The melody is borrowed from a larger work, *Festgesang, Op. 68*, composed in 1840.

The text for ***Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear*** is relatively new, 1993. It is a paraphrase by Carol Birkland (b. 1945) of an older translation of the German. Written specifically for our New Century Hymnal, JOSEPH LIEBER, JOSEPH MEIN, the tune title, takes its name from the first words of the 15th century German carol. There is also an alternate Latin tune name, RESONET IN LAUDIBUS, which means “ring in praise.”

The author of the text for ***The First Nowell*** (or Noel) is anonymous and dates from 1833. The tune, THE FIRST NOEL, is a traditional English carol. Nowell is a more common spelling of the word. Noël is the French word that many of us see more often and means Christmas.

As With Gladness Those of Old is set to the tune DIX, which was composed by W. Chatterton Dix (1837–1898). Mr. Dix also composed the original lyrics. He was a Scottish insurance company manager who also published a number of volumes of hymns.

Go Tell It on the Mountain is not attributed to any composer; however, John W. Work (1872-1925) “curated” this and many other Black American spirituals and folk songs. Work was a graduate of the Historically Black College, Fisk University in Nashville. He returned to his alma mater to direct the world famous Fisk Jubilee Singers. This arrangement was inspired and sung for many years by St. Pauls member and Chancel Choir alto section leader Muzette Morgan.

Priidite poklonimsya (Come let us worship) is the first movement/motet of the 15 motets that comprise the *All-Night Vigil Op. 37* composed in 1915 by Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943). It uses Psalm 95:6 as an expanded refrain for three stanzas or repetitions. Each stanza begins with great vigor and ends in soft reverence. The Vigil is introduced by liturgy sung by a bass deacon and a tenor priest, which we recreate here. Old Church Slavonic has a similar relation to modern Russian as Latin does to Italian. Slavonic has been retained by the Russian Orthodox Church as a true connection to its roots. Rachmaninov felt so deeply about this work that he asked to be buried with a copy of the score in his hands. The choir’s Old Church Slavonic was coached by Karina Kontorovitch.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice is a translation of the original Latin by John Mason Neale (1818-1886). He was born into an evangelical home, became an Anglican clergy, but had real sympathies for Catholicism. IN DULCI JUBILO, which means “in sweet rejoicing,” is an early undated folk dance.

The text for ***Joy to the World*** was written in 1719 by the famous British poet and theologian, Issac Watts (1674-1748). Watts' great contribution was setting the entire Book of Psalms poetically. This is a paraphrase of both Psalms 98 & 96. One of his most well beloved texts is *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*. ANTIOCH was composed by George Friderick Handel (1685-1759), who also composed *Messiah*, and was adapted as a hymn by Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Mason is often referred to as the father of American church music for his contributions.

Angels We Have Heard on High is originally an 18th century French Noël (carol) freely translated by James Chadwick (1813-1882), an Irish Catholic priest. GLORIA is from the text of the joyfully cascading Latin refrain. Lloyd Larson is a church musician and full time composer with many published works. He is also an elder in his church in Minnesota.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson, Benny VanDerburgh

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

Scripture/Storyteller: Erin Fitzgerald

St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Doug Clark

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Streaming Service Team: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Jose Cruz, Brian Hafner, Chuck Kent

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

WE WELCOME ST. PAULS BRASS this morning: Jeanine Woodman and Jim Brandt, trumpets; Nancy Pifer, tenor horn; Rick Peterson, French horn; Mark Swanson, trombone; and Chris Bettler, tuba.

BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

We give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.

Dec 12 John Crouch, Jake Gentzen
Dec 13 Heidi Gillmore, Julia Mercer, Tom Palkon, Holland Emmrich
Dec 14 Candy Lohnes, David Baker
Dec 16 Carrie Bruggers, Tyler Raiman
Dec 17 David Mussatt, Tiscia Eicher, Elizabeth Gillmore
Dec 18 Irene Beck, Michelle Jarzebowski, Susanne Baker, Brooke McGuire,
Clark Tavas

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

SUN, DEC 12 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT, LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY
10 a.m. Worship, Readings & Carols, St. Pauls Brass, Sanctuary
11:30 a.m. Advent Market, Gym
11:30 a.m. Advent Poems, Pastor Matt, Social Hall

TUE, DEC 14 SUFJAN'S CHRISTMAS(ES)
7 p.m. Join Benny in contemplative enjoyment of these classic
Christmas song covers, Sanctuary

SUN, DEC 19 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT, LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE
10 a.m. Worship, St. Pauls Brass, Sanctuary

TUE, DEC 21 TUESDAY EVENING ADVENT PRAYER
8 p.m. Join members, friends, and a pastor for a time of prayer
RSVP here for the Zoom link:
spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1093556

FRI, DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
5 p.m. Family Service, Sanctuary
9 p.m. Candlelight Service, Sanctuary
Christmas story, carols, candles, and choir

SUN, DEC 26 WORSHIP - 10 a.m., Sanctuary

SUN, JAN 16 POLAR PEACE MARCH
10 a.m. Worship, Sanctuary
11:15 a.m. March to support UCAN's work for non-violence, and honor
the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY: ADVENT MARKET

Come shop our treasure trove of new and gently used regiftable items such as jewelry, candles, frames, handmade items, Christmas decorations, toys, and much more! Proceeds from the Advent Market will help fund the Polar Peace March.

TODAY: ADVENT POEMS WITH PASTOR MATT

After worship we'll meet in the Social Hall to read a few Advent poems. We'll enjoy poems from Jane Keynon, Denise Levertov and others. I hope you'll join me for this exciting hour, especially if you don't "get" poetry. Exciting poems? Yes!

REFUGEE FAMILY UPDATE

The apartment team met on December 7 to get to know each other and plan our work. If anyone has a truck we could use on short notice in January, please let us know. Also, we still have room on that team for folks to move furniture. So, if you can help us with either of these things, please contact Mark Pellegrino jjmarkp@yahoo.com. Thank you!

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY will resume in January.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Did you know that synthetic fibers from clothing are a significant contributor to microplastic pollution, especially in waterways and oceans? Fleece is a big offender. Read tags before buying. Go back to nature - wool, cotton, silk, bamboo and hemp. If you haven't already, switch to reusable water bottles and use reusable bags at grocery stores and elsewhere. Remember, plastic doesn't go away. Plasticware takes up to 1,000 years to decompose. A styrofoam cup can take more than 500 years to biodegrade.

The Green Team welcomes your input, participation and ideas! Help us as a congregation live out what we say in our Statement of Faith: God calls us to care for creation. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro are co-chairs. If interested or to offer suggestions, email Jan at jan.fraccaro@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Don't miss our Advent & Christmas Calendar!

DEC 13 - COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO, PART 2, DISCUSSION - 7 p.m.

The Long, Classic Novels Reading Group will discuss part two of Alexandre Dumas' page-turner adventure novel. Fast readers have time to catch up! RSVP: Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org. Feel free to email Jeff with your nominees for next year's reading list.

JAN 16 - POLAR PEACE MARCH - Following 10 a.m. Worship

After the service, join our friends and neighbors as we honor the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and show the city how all of our streets are connected. Help UCAN achieve its mission of violence prevention and treatment for traumatized youth in our communities. Register at: polarpeacemarch.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWERS – Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers! Sign up at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1078968

CHURCH CENTER – spucc.churchcenter.com is our new portal for the Saint Pauls community. See our calendar, register for events, update your contact information, join and view our photo directory, manage your online donations, see your giving history, and more!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP) – We are seeking **CEP Laundry volunteers on Saturday mornings**. One volunteer is needed each week to greet street-based guests and launder their clothes on site at St. Pauls from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you have any interest in **cooking in-person** meals for homeless neighbors in the coming months, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com.

CONNECTORS reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. Membership is open to all who have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com.

EMAIL SIGN-UP – Are you new to St. Pauls and want to get more connected? You can go to spucc.org to fill out our virtual fellowship card to begin receiving our weekly email and special congregational emails, introduce yourself and request more information about our programs!

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS – The Emergency Contact Form developed by the Connectors has been updated. You may follow this link for additional information and to consider whether this form could be useful for you:
spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271.

FAITH & PUBLIC ISSUES – Help us connect our faith to critical public issues. Do you wish you knew more from a faith perspective about current issues that are important to our public life? Racism, climate change, immigration, to name a few? FPI programs provide opportunities to ask questions, help us understand issues in depth, and discuss possible action. The FPI Task Force plans these programs and we could use your ideas. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for information about meetings.

GREEN TEAM – Help us as a congregation live out what we say in our Statement of Faith: God calls us to care for creation. The Green Team welcomes your input, participation and ideas. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro are co-chairs. If interested or to offer suggestions, email Jan at jan.fraccaro@gmail.com.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We are now accepting applications for 2021. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

OUTREACH & BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls O&B Committee would love you to join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information, contact Jennifer Kew, JenniferLKew@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

SAINT PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerksen at jenluerksen@yahoo.com. Subscribe to the distribution list at eepurl.com/gQ4Eg1, or look out for future events announced in the bulletin calendar.

SAINT PAULS TOGETHER – Our Facebook Group, “Saint Pauls Together,” is for St. Pauls Members and Friends to connect and share uplifting thoughts and stories. Check out our Facebook Page to request an invitation if you’re a member or friend!

SARAH'S SIBS are back and gather every Wednesday morning to make and distribute 40 bag lunches to our homeless neighbors. You are most welcome to come to the church kitchen at 9:30 a.m. and lend a hand.

SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the 10 a.m. in-person worship service each week to read the scripture passage of the day. Learn more and sign up here:

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1079008

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS – If you're in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you're feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

SUNDAY SCHOOL – If you plan to have your child participate in Sunday School this year, we ask that you please register them. This is a one-time registration to let us know that you intend to have your child participate so we can prepare the correct staffing and activities, spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/985445

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – Meeting every Wednesday at noon via Zoom. Newcomers are always welcome. Increase your faith and your knowledge of the Bible. RSVP: Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org to get the Zoom link.

YOUNG ADULTS – A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. All are welcome! Volunteers needed! Any ideas for future events? Email them at youngadults@spucc.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's bulletin or Friday email to chiggins@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

Verbal announcements are due by Wednesdays at noon.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

SAINT PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email.

Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it.

If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.

- Joe JaQuay being treated for an infection in his leg.
- Marty, sister of Jan Bail, who is now in hospice care.
- Cameron and his family, family friends of Juanita Barlow, managing his brain damage after an accident.
- Rejoicing the birth of Ruth Lydia Bryant to parents Hannah and Caleb Bryant.
- Ken Travers and family at the loss of his younger brother, Leroy.
- Mikey Olawski, nephew of Terry Hansen, with undiagnosed medical issues.
- Dean, friend of Nathan Streeter, at the loss of his 18-month-old son, and his mother and grandmother in the last six months.
- Sister-in-law of Nathan Streeter, with complications from a breakthrough of Covid.
- Jana O'Brien, recovering from surgery.
- Loved ones of Ann, mother-in-law of Erin Fitzgerald, at her passing.
- Bob Kuba as he is challenged by some significant health issues.
- Peter Doerr's mother, Annette, recovering from injuries from a car accident.
- Mary Frances Winking's parents facing health and quality of life obstacles.
- Michelle Rodriguez, on the death of her aunt.
- Adé, a young Chicago artist and bicyclist who was struck by a car and is in a coma in critical condition. Prayers are needed for him, his family and ICU caregivers.
- Friends and family of Steve Stack at his death. For service details, see stevestack.org.
- Wes Salsbury and Marcia Knudson as Wes continues to develop strength after a months-long hospitalization and rehab stay occasioned by a fall.
- Bruce and Betty Voice are now living with her son Raymond. Cards are welcome at 2763 Peach Orchard Road, Anderson, MO 64831.
- The many who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine, to get it before it's too late. May we all find our role in helping this happen.
- Al Cerkan, recovering from major back surgery.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. If you or someone you love is feeling completely alone or like life doesn't matter, reach out for help. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.

ABOUT ST. PAULS
Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ people.

From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, over the past 178 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org
Pastoral Associate Benny VanDerburgh, bvanderburgh@spucc.org
Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry, emeritushenry@gmail.com

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
Please visit spucc.org/contact

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
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(773) 348-3829 www.spucc.org



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are an Open and Affirming church.

We welcome all.

We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.