



SAINT PAULS UCC  
*making a joyful sound in the city*

Advent Service – Winter Solstice

December 21, 2022

7:00 PM

## THOUGHT FOR THIS EVENING

The labyrinth is a spiritual tool meant to awaken us to the deep rhythm that unites us to ourselves and to the Light that calls from within. In surrendering to the winding path, the soul finds healing and wholeness.

Dr. Lauren Artress

## PRELUDE

Jeff Carlson

## INTROIT

*O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright*

Sarum plainsong

Kurt R. Hansen, tenor

O splendor of God's glory bright.  
From light eternal bringing light;  
O light of light, light's living spring,  
O day of days illuming.

## WELCOME

Kurt R. Hansen

## \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: On a night of great darkness, those long before us circled sacred fires on holy sites and common grounds.

**All: Help us to walk the circled path from darkness into the light.**

One: In the midst of holiday lights, there are dark corners of our souls dimmed by despair, cynicism, fear, sickness, and loss.

**All: Help us to bring the light of hope to our darkest corners.**

One: Love is the light of hope.

**All: Hope is the promise of redemption - a child born of a woman conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

One: Receive the eternal gift of light in Christ.

**All: We welcome the eternal gift of light in Christ. Amen.**

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

\* HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

vv. 1 & 2



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2. O come, O Wis - dom from \_\_\_\_\_ on high, and or - der all things  
3. O come, O come, O A - - do - nai, who came to all on  
4. O come, O shoot of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's  
5. O come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide your  
6. O come, O Day-spring, come \_\_\_\_\_ and cheer our spir - its by our



Is - - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -  
far \_\_\_\_\_ and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, and  
Si - - nai high, And from its peak a sin - gle law pro -  
tyr - an - ny, From depths of hell your peo - ple save, and  
heaven - ly home; Make safe the path to end - less day, to  
ad - vent here; Love stir with - in the womb\_ of night, and



- til the Child of God \_\_\_\_\_ a - pear.  
help us in that way \_\_\_\_\_ to go.  
- claimed in maj - es - ty \_\_\_\_\_ and awe. *Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -*  
give them vic - tory o'er \_\_\_\_\_ the grave.  
hell's de - struc - tion close \_\_\_\_\_ the way.  
death's own shad - ows put \_\_\_\_\_ to flight.



- man - u - el Shall come to you, O Is - - ra - el!

SCRIPTURE - from THE HEBREW BIBLE

Liz Nickerson

*Isaiah 9: 2-4, & 6; NRSV*

The people who walked in darkness, have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people rejoice when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken. For a child has been born for us, a son is given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

v. 3

See the previous insert

SCRIPTURE - from THE GOSPEL

*John 1: 1-5, & 14; NRSV*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being with him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

v. 4

See the previous insert

PRAYER

Liz Nickerson

One: Gracious God, walk with us on twisted paths.

**All: Be our guide and light.**

One: Let us walk your path with our siblings.

**All: Be our guide and light.**

One: Jesus, Child of Grace, help us to reach out and bring any that are estranged with us.

**All: Be our guide and light.**

One: Holy Spirit, be the light in each one of us. Let us celebrate that light in each other and the Supreme Light from whence it comes.

**All: You are our guide and light. Amen.**

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

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

vs. 5 & 6

See the previous insert

WALKING THE LABYRINTH

*Take an unlit candle into the Labyrinth with you. As you move toward the center, bring to mind all that you are leaving behind from the previous year. When you enter the center, light your candle from the Christ Candle. You may wish to stay in the center of the Labyrinth to pray for illumination for the coming year. Then walk back the way you came, bringing with you the Divine Light. As you leave the Labyrinth, please take a seat around the outside until all have completed the meditation. Candles will be extinguished after the Benediction.*

LABYRINTH MUSIC

Pamela Woll, harp

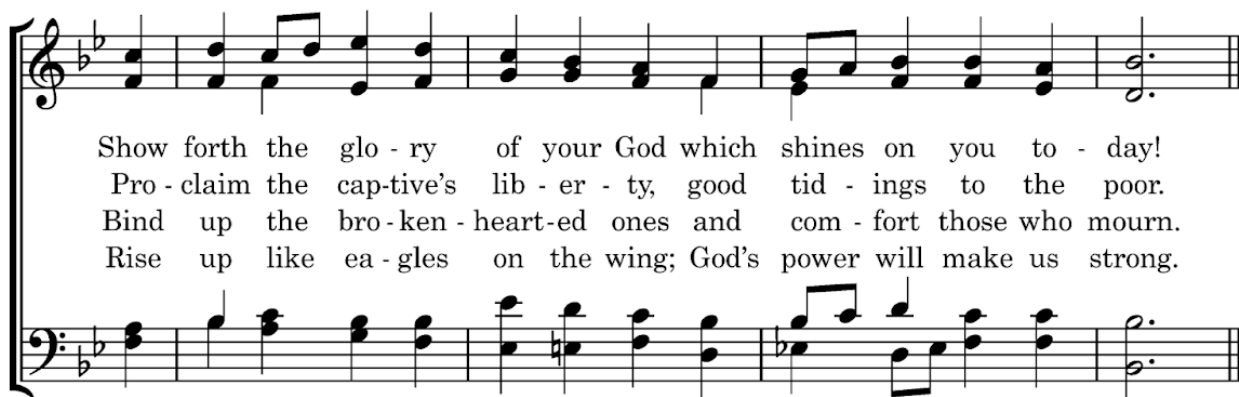
\* BENEDICTION

Liz Nickerson

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Arise, Your Light Has Come*



1. A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2. A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3. A - rise, your light is come! All you\_ in sor - row born,  
4. A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song!



Show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day!  
Pro - claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
Bind up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Jeff Carlson  
Pastor Liz Nickerson  
Kurt R. Hansen  
Pamela Woll

## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CALENDAR**

- SAT, DEC 24      CHRISTMAS EVE  
5 p.m. - Family Service, Sanctuary  
9 p.m. - Candlelight Service, Sanctuary  
Christmas story, carols, candles, harp, flute and choir
- SUN, DEC 25      CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP  
10 a.m. - Worship  
The Pine and Barton Family Trio will play an Italian Christmas Concerto, brass will play with Nancy Pifer and Sylvia Pine; and the congregation will have a key role musically too.
- SUN, JAN 1      NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP  
10 a.m. - Worship  
Guest youth choir from St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston, TX.



## **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.