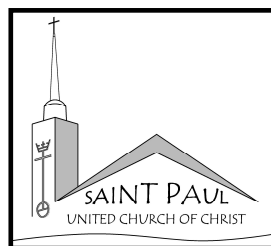




The life was the light of all people
John 1

CHRISTMAS EVE WITH ST. PAUL UCC



“No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
on life’s journey,
You are welcome here.”

Welcome to Worship

at St. Paul UCC

We are glad you are here!

4:30 pm Worship ~ online

Information for our friends ~

- Our **9 am Virtual Worship Service** is inspired with hymns, scripture and a uplifting, theological based sermon and can be seen on Facebook and stpauluccorg (our website-and then watched at your convenience), and heard on **KSTL-690 AM radio** & streamed on Jubilee690.com at 9am Sundays & 9pm.
- Our **4 pm Virtual Worship Service** is our non-traditional service energized with unique music, scripture, conversation, sermon and can be seen on Facebook stpauluccorg (and then watched at your convenience).
- Please send prayer requests by email to tlakehopper@stpaulucc.org or call the church office at 618-233-3303.
- We want to know that you are listening / watching online!
Please call, email or message us!
- If you would like a call or know someone who might need a call, please let us know.
- To continue your offering during this difficult time, go to stpaulucc.org for online giving or contact the church office to set up automatic withdrawal.
- When you or a loved one is admitted to a hospital, please ask the hospital to notify the church office. If you have a new addition to your family, if your address or phone changes, please contact the church office so we can keep our records current.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor.....	Rev. Michelle Torigian
Director of Faith Formation & Care.....	Craig Bielke
Music Director	Dr. Bill Wade
Director of Non-Traditional Music.....	John Posth



Like us on --
*St Paul United Church of Christ,
Belleville, Illinois*



Watch videos on YouTube:
[https://www.youtube.com/
stpauluccbelleville](https://www.youtube.com/stpauluccbelleville)

OT = Old Testament

NT = New Testament

† Please stand if able

*St. Paul
United Church of Christ
Christmas Eve*

December 24, 2020 4:30 pm

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Greensleeves (From Four Carol Preludes)
Richard Purvis (1913-1994) Guest Organist: Paul Vasile

POEM

Hush, from "Alive Now" Lucinda Hynett
Read by Mimi Llamas

ENTRY INTO WORSHIP

On this eve of Christ's birth,
as night blankets the sky
and stars of divine dreams enlighten our journey,
may the breezes of God's Spirit
encircle us with hope and peace,
and pave our paths to the birth with joy and love.

INVOCATION

Like the stars stretched across the sky on the night Jesus was born,
we too are scattered from home to home.
Yet, like the stars present at the birth of Christ,
we are present with one another and you, God of Light.
May we recognize that we are part of the same sky

as we reflect the light of Christ on this celebration of his birth. Amen.
OPENING HYMN *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (ADESTE FIDELIS)

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O come
 2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing,
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je -

ye; O come ye to Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him,
 of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be -
 all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all
 sus, to thee be all glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther,

Refrain
 born the King of an - gels!
 got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let
 glo - ry in the high - est!
 now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

Verses 1, 3, and 4

Text and Music by John Francis Wade, c. 1743 Descant and harmonization by David Willcocks, 1961

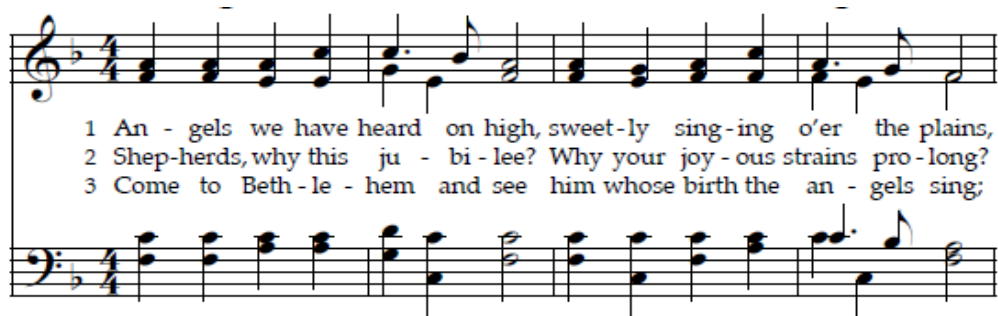
SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:26-38

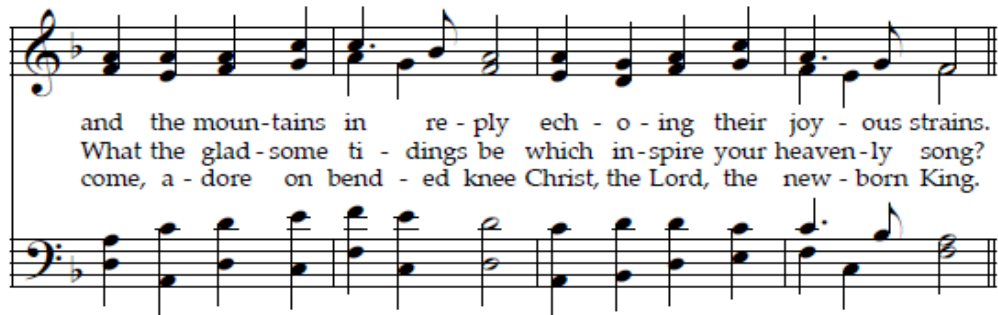
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of



the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro-long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some ti - dings be which in-spire your heaven-ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - ri - a



in ex-cel-sis De - o! Glo -

Continues on next page



CAROL

Text: French carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1860 Music: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937

POEM

Angels We Have Heard on High (GLORIA)

Christmas Stars by Marie Irish

Read by Colette & Lisa

CHILDREN'S CHAT with Craig Bielke



SPECIAL MUSIC

Silent Night (Stille Nacht)

Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863) arranged by Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

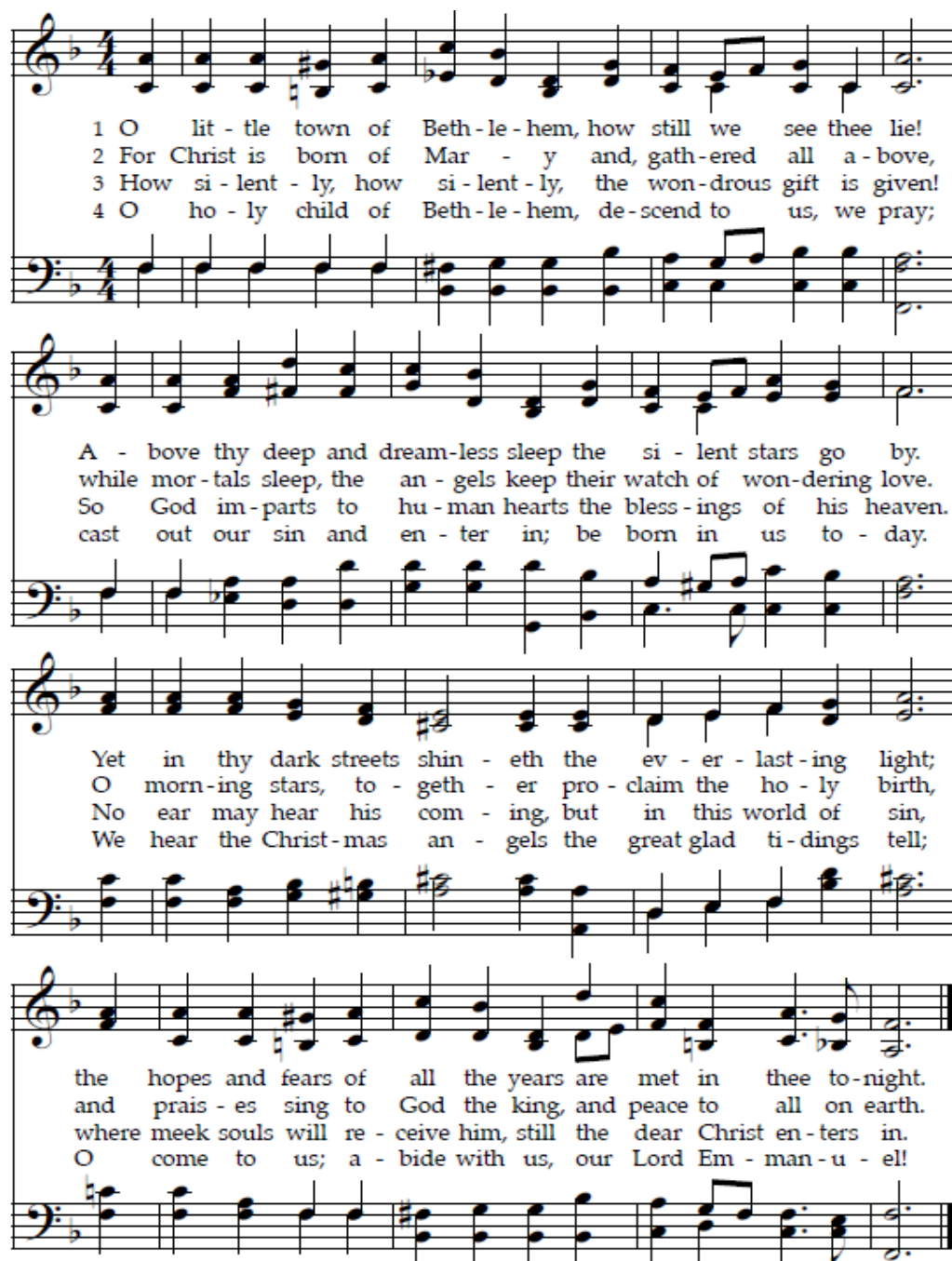
And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'



And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.



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

2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,

3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!

4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ST LOUIS) Verses 1&2

Text: Phillip Brooks, 1868; Music: Lewis Henry Redner, 1868

SCRIPTURE READING

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 (Kir-in-ee-us) 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.



LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Reading by Carly

A warm glow spreads throughout our world declaring that God is with us. The light which extends from the farthest reaches of our earth to the neighbor next door alerts us that we are not alone throughout these long winter nights.

Tonight we proclaim the hope that inspires us to keep moving forward on our journeys. We recognize the peace that extends from our souls into the world. We celebrate the joy that fills our spirits with excitement. And we herald the love passed between the Christ and us and between our neighbors and us.

As the Christ Candle and its companion candles are kindled, we celebrate the compassion which will overcome hatred and the kindness which will overcome isolation.

May the light seen tonight fill our souls throughout the new year and beyond, enlivening our spirits throughout eternity.

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re - ceive
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their songs
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na -

her king; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heaven and na - ture sing,

and
 sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,

Amen.

CAROL

Joy to the World! (ANTIOCH) Verses 1,2&4

Text: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: Attr. George Frederick Handel, 1742

POEM

Let the Stable Still Astonish Leslie Leyland Fields

Read by Craig Bielke

INTERPRETIVE DANCE

Performed by Avery

Music: *Still Still Still* Arranged by: Mark Hayes

SCRIPTURE READING

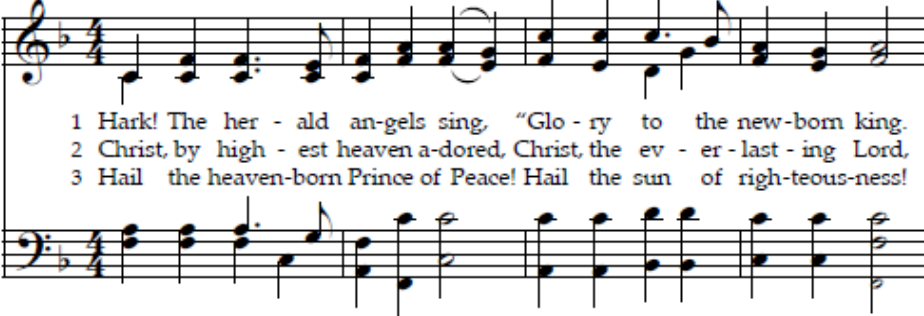
Luke 2:8-20

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!’

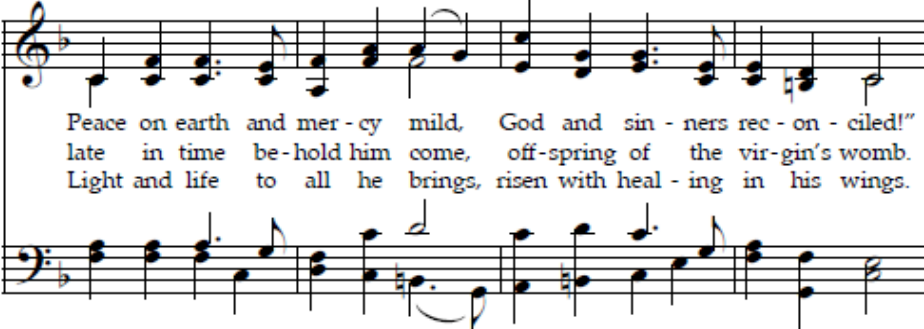
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at



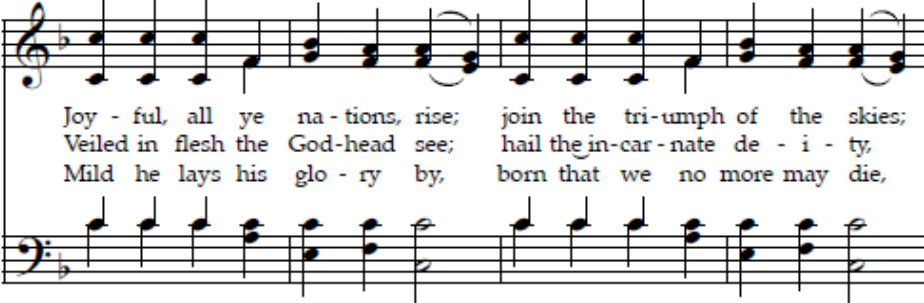
what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and



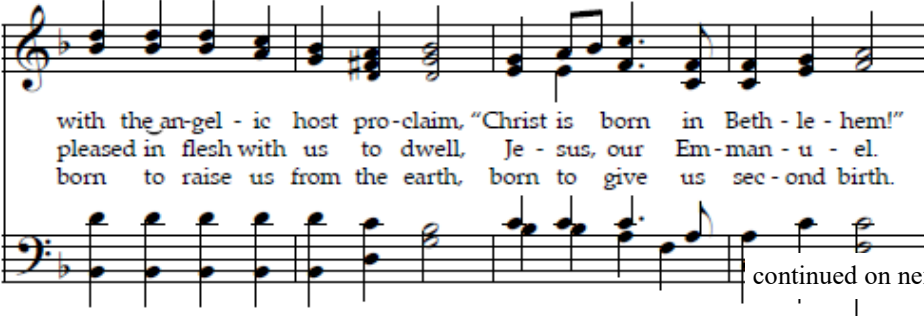
1 Hark! The her - ald an-gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2 Christ by high - est heaven a-dored, Christ the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



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 vir-gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

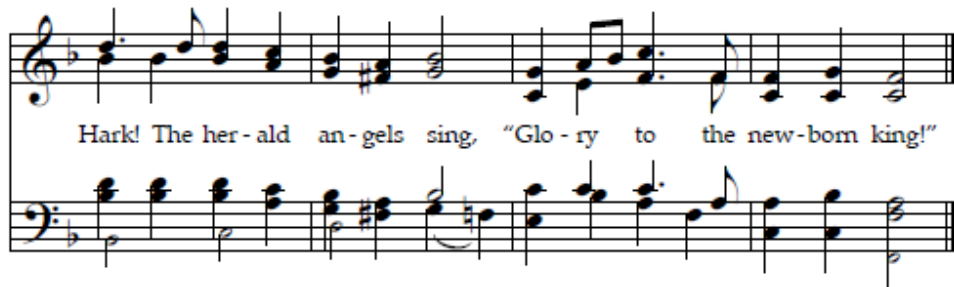


Joy - ful, all ye na-tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh 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.

continued on next page



praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

SERMON

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (MENDELSSOHN)

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739; Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840, arr. William Hayman Cummings, 1853 Descant and harmonization by David Willcocks, 1961

RELECTION OF GIVING

In this season of light and love, we share our gifts of time, talent and treasures, knowing that everything we do makes a difference.

We pray together:

Loving God, Holy Light, your gifts make the world stronger. Through the light that we have seen in Christ, we are excited contribute our gifts. May they build your kingdom, your realm here on earth. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

O Holy Night

(Cantique de Noel)

Adolphe Adam, 1847

Mark Grizzard, Music Director - First Baptist Church Peoria, IL
John Posth, Non-Traditional Music Director - St. Paul UCC Belleville, IL

SHARING OF THE LIGHT

Where has light come into your life in 2020? Each day, the sun rises, attempting to break through clouds and warm our



earth. Each year, the Christ is born, sharing God's light in a world that
 can be chilly at times. Jesus told us that we are the light of the
 world. We have the opportunity to hold the light of Christ and share

GERMAN

2 *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!*

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight;
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light;
 'round yon vir - gin moth - er and child! Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing "Al - le - lu -
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing
 with the an - gels let us sing Al - le - lu - ia to our
 mild, sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 ia: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born!"
 grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 King: Christ the Sav - ior is born; Christ the Sav - ior is born.

it with our siblings across our world. Where has light come into your life in 2020? And how will you share it in 2021?

CAROL

Silent Night! (STILLE NACHT)

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1816; Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

Verses 1 in English then in German, verses 2 and 3 in English.

POEM

I Will Light the Candles This Christmas Howard Thurman

SCRIPTURE READING

John 1:1-9

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 through 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.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

In these shorter days when the days are gradually becoming longer,
the light of Christ is shining bright in our world.
Shine bright through this season of winter.
Shine bright - even in unusual circumstances.



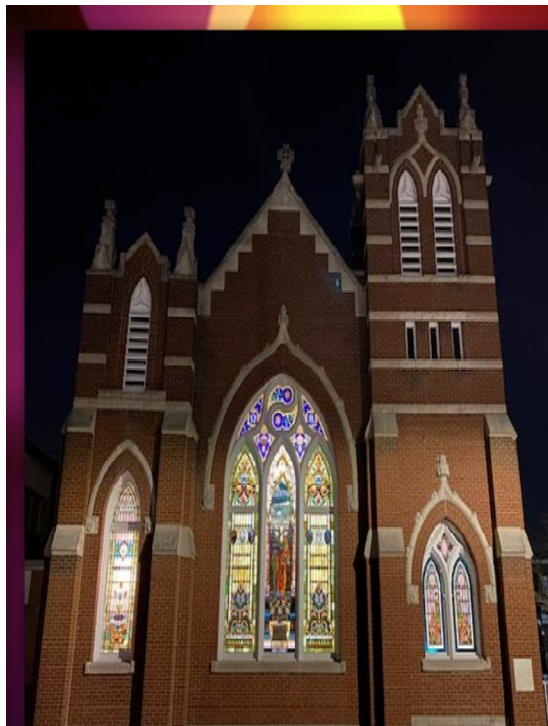


Welcome

We're glad
you're here!

News & Notes

stpaulucc.org



St. Paul United Church of Christ

Lights of Heritage Hall

5:30pm - 10pm
nightly through Jan 6th

Drive by Heritage Hall on
'B' Street and view the beauty
of the front stained glass
windows lit up at night



St Paul United Church of Christ

Heritage Hall Bookmark

On sale through the
St. Paul Church Office
\$3 each or 2 for \$5

Bookmark comes in plastic sleeve with blue tassel

stpaulucc.org

618-233-3303

115 West B Street, Belleville, IL 62220

 SAINT PAUL
AND COMMUNITY OF CHRIST

Our ongoing way to help

Items Needed:
Cleaning supplies
such as: bleach,
clorox wipes, etc.

PPE : masks, gloves,
kids masks.

Cleaning Supplies for Kindercottage

Bring to church or call 618-233-3303
Financial donations always welcome

Flamingo Flock Fundraiser Christmas Edition

Here is a fun way to give some holiday cheer, & maybe a little grief, to your neighbors & friends is the Flamingo Flock Fundraiser - Christmas Edition! Here is how you can help support St. Paul students and keep the flamingos moving along their journey south.

- 🦩 Flock Stop - Make sure the flock stops in someone's yard - \$10 suggested donation
- 🦩 Flock Unfrock - Removal fee to keep flock from moving on to the next yard - \$10 suggested donation
- 🦩 Flock Block - Insurance to make sure that not matter how many times the flock stops in your yard, you never have to pay for them to move on - \$5 suggested donation

Contact Craig Bielke, Director of Faith Formation & Care, 210-383-0385 or email cbielke@stpaulucc.org to schedule a Flock Stop for your friends and neighbors, schedule a Flock Unfrock, or purchase Flock Block.

Funds raised will go to support the St. Paul Students Ministry. If you would like to support St. Paul Students by making a donation, or do not want to participate in this game, just give Craig a call.

Made with PosterMyWall.com



St. Paul Postcards

**St. Paul UCC is proud to selling
12 postcards for \$12
by St. Paul UCC Artists
Proceeds go to St. Paul UCC**

**Contact the church office
to arrange pick up or mailing**



**St. Paul United Church of Christ
115 West B Street
Belleville, Illinois 62220
618-233-3303
stpaulucc.org**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

Christmas Gifts

In Memory Of.....

In memory of my husband, Paul Bauza, from Stephenie Bauza.
In memory of my parents, Bob & Louise Bauder, from Stephenie Bauza.
In memory of my husband, Royce Braden, from Jolene Braden.
In memory of my parents, John & Emma Eiff, from Jolene Braden,
Bob & Kelly Trentman, Clinton, Evan & Emma Trentman, Ted Trentman, & Drew Panico.
In memory of our grandson, Brett Cankar, from Jean & Ray Chamberlin.
In memory of Henry & Gladys Caughman, from Wayne Caughman.
In memory of our dear parents, Allan & Verena Frerking and Erwin & Olive Renth,
from Bobby Lee & Sandy Frerking.
In memory of my husband, Leroy Kirsch, from Dolly Kirsch.
In memory of my husband, David Klingel, from Ruth Klingel.
In memory of my husband, William W. Lindauer, from Marlene Lindauer.
In memory of my husband, Don Llamas, from Mimi Llamas.
In memory of my parents, Allan & Louise Wiatt, from Mimi Llamas.
In memory of my loving wife, Marsha, from Mac McCoy.
In memory of my parents, Walter & Marcella Peter, from Eileen Peter.
In memory of Elmer Perschbacher, from Elgee & Jeanette Phillips.
In memory of my husband, Lee Riesio, from Betty Riesio & family.
In memory of my husband, Russ Schiebel, from Mona.
In memory of our Papa, Russ Schiebel,
from Isabella, Amia & Abram Schiebel, & Stili Teodosiev.
In memory of Great Grandpa & Great Grandma, Rosemary & Marvin Henke,
from Isabella, Amia & Abram Schiebel, Stili Teodosiev, & James McEvilly.
In loving memory of Kenneth & Annalee Sauerwein, from Terry Lee, Carlene, & David Voss.
In loving memory of John & Beulah Komeshak, from the Wagner & Florek families.
In loving memory of Wayne & Rene Wagner, from the Wagner & Florek families.

In Honor Of...

In gratitude, appreciation, & celebration of Dr. Bill Wade & John Posth for sharing
their wonderful gifts of music, from Rusty & Sandy Wagner.
In honor of the St. Paul Staff, from Alec & Karen Zaber.

Poinsettias

In honor of Michelle & Aaron's wedding, from Laureen Torigian & family.
In memory of Vincent Torigian, from Laureen Torigian & family.
In memory of David Sutherland, from Paul & Sue Sutherland.
In memory of our parents, Richard & Esther Brightwell and Millard & Margaret Rosenzweig,
from Beverly Brightwell & Dana Rosenzweig.
In memory of Arthur & Helen Burgott, from Louis, Caroline, Jamie, & Dr. Julie Ryseff.
In memory of Lillian & Jacob Ryseff & Kurt Jacob Mueller,
from Louis, Caroline, Jamie, & Dr. Julie Ryseff.