An angel of the Lord appeared...

Sunday, December 26, 2021
Christmas 1

“No matter who you are,
No matter where you are on life’s journey,
You are welcome here.”
INVOCATION (UNISON)
God of All Times, may we sit in Your time, Kairos time, for a while. May we not be worried about chronology, the turning of pages on a calendar and years in our lives. For a moment in this in-between time, this last week of 2021, may we sit with You and grow in Your wisdom. May we know that You have plans for us, plans for a future with hope as you spoke to Jeremiah all those years ago, though our plans and futures are far different. It is the hope we cling to, that somehow things will turn out better than they have been. But may we sit in this Kairos time, O God, and remember Your faithfulness to us in all times, in all days and months and years and seasons, and know You are present with us, now and always. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN  Joy to the World! (ANTIOCH)
    Text: Charles Wesley; music: Rowland H. Prichard; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams  (see page 4)

*PRAYER OF REFLECTION
Here we are, Most Patient God, at the beginning of our Christmas journey. You alone know how that journey is going. Did we, at the beginning of the season promise to make this Christmas different? Did we promise in our heart of hearts to prepare ourselves spiritually to receive the gift of your Son? We, so easily, have given into the expectations of people and situations around us. We allowed the times of quiet we promised for you to slip away. Help us renew our preparations for your presence. Continue to be with us, Divine Source of Joy, as we learn to wait with you. Amen.

CHILDREN’S CHAT  Bette Rotert
ANTHEM (by request): Happy Birthday, Dear Christ Child
Text: Phyllis Fairbanks
Music: Chet Gierlach
Soloist: Caetlyn Van Buren

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25 & 2:1-12

CAROLS

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Page 5, verses 1, 3, 4)
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (Pages 6 & 7 verses 1 & 5)
O Little Town of Bethlehem (Page 8 all verses)
Hark, the Herald Angels Sing! (Page 9, all verses)
Angels We Have Heard on High (Page 10, all verses)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

*CLOSING HYMN On This Day, Earth Shall Ring (PROMISED ONE)
Text: Willard F. Jabusch (1930-2018)
Music: Israeli folk song; arr. John Ferguson (b. 1941)
(Page 11)

*BLESSING OF THE GIFTS (UNISON)
Holy God, you crossed every conceivable barrier by becoming one of us and teaching on behalf of the outcast and poor. We are called to respond in kind by your grace. May the gifts offered today aid truly your work of reconciliation and peace in our world. Amen.

*BENEDICTION
Go forth and whatever you do, do it according to the heart of Jesus, our Sovereign. Teach children, and let children teach you, cultivate wisdom and gratitude, and mend the earth in the name of the Triune God. Amen.

POSTLUDE Echo Noel
Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)
OPENING HYMN

Joy to the World

1 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,

2 Joy to the earth, the Savor reigns! Let all their songs
employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest
the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nature prove the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love.

and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,

Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy.

found, far as, far as the curse is found.

love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

heaven and nature sing,
O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

2 True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born gotten, not created! O come, let us adore him;

3 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, glory in the highest! O come, let us adore him;

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, born in the city of David! Christ, the Lord!

Refrain

born ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, and all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all sus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father,
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
2. Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
4. And you, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
5. For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,

from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world:
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,

“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing:
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
(It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, continued)

the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!
O, rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.
O Little Town of Bethlehem

1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
4 O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!
HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847
Setting by Robert J. Powell

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
   Christ, the everlasting Lord!
   Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
   “Glory to the new-born King!”

   Mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
   Hold him come, offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
   Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph
   Veiled in flesh the God-head see;

   Christ is born in Bethlehem!
   Jesus, our Emmanuel!
   Hark! The herald
   Angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

2. Christ, by highest heav’n adored;
   Late in time behold thy reign declared!
   Light and life to all who dwell
   Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

   Christ, the everlasting Lord!
   Late in time behold thy reign declared!
   Light and life to all who dwell
   Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
   Peace on earth and mercy mild;
   God and sinners reconciled!
   All he brings, rising with healing in his wings.

   Christ, the everlasting Lord!
   Late in time behold thy reign declared!
   Light and life to all who dwell
   Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

   Angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”
   Angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”
   Angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”
Angels We Have Heard on High

French carol
Tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London, 1862

Gloria
18th-century French carol

1. Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing:

And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
What the glad some tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.

Refrain: All in Harmony

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.
CLOSING HYMN  On This Day Earth Shall Ring

1 On this day earth shall ring with the song
2 His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came
3 God’s bright star, o’er his head, wise men three
4 On this day angels sing; with their song

Children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to
down to earth Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass be-
to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts be-
earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven’s King, born on earth to

Refrain

save us; him the Father gave us.
side him from the cold would hide him. *Id-e-o-o-o,
fore him, praise him and adore him.
save us; peace and love he gave us.

id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o glori-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!
In the mid 2,000’s the church staff included a position entitled “Volunteer Coordinator”. Who held this position?

**This Week**

<table>
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<th>Sundays</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Traditional</td>
<td>Coffee Hour postponed until further notice.</td>
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Here is how to stay in touch with St. Paul:

1. **Watch the services and check for event updates on FACBOOK** - Like us at *St. Paul United Church of Christ Belleville, IL*
2. **Go to stpaulucc.org**
   - and you will find: videos of services, sermons, archives, and much more!!
3. **Listen to the radio! 690am**
   - 9am Live Sundays & repeat at 9pm
4. **Sign up for the eNews**

**For Your Prayers**

Gus Kuether        Bev Juenger
Lori Coleman      Karen Zaber
Al Stahl          Audrey Krummrich
Carol Hotz         Joyce Maurer
Shirley Martin    Lev Reynolds
Scott Schmidt, brother of Steve Schmidt
The family of Frank Foree, brother of Ruth Klingel

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please send prayer requests to pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org or call 618-233-3303

*Praying for your health and well being!*

**Mary Gentile**

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

Watch videos on YouTube:
https://www.youtube.com/

**Weekly Attendance**

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<th>Dec 12, 2021</th>
<th>Dec 13, 2020</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9am</td>
<td>98 + Online Participants</td>
<td>All Virtual</td>
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Offering for 12/12/2021 - $7,809

**General Fund**

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>$8,082</td>
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