

December 17, 2023 ~ 3rd Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music ~ Mark Handford

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude and Procession of the Elements of Communion ~ *“Come All Ye Shepherds”*
(arr. M.L. Thompson) ~ Celebration Ringers

Call to Worship ~ *responsive*

Leader: Joyful, joyful we adore you.

People: For you are the God of glory, Lord of love.

Leader: Melt the clouds of sin and sadness and drive the dark of doubt away,
O Lord.

People: Giver of all immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day! Amen.

**you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Responsive Chorus #627 ~ *“I Love You, Lord”* (x2)

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you; O, my soul, rejoice.

Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

The Jesse Tree

“O Holy Light” ~ A Cantata for Christmas by Mary McDonald
presented by the Celebration Choir and Committed from Grace Bible Chapel
Advent Wreath Candle Lighters - Judy McGregor and Susan Paluchniak

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture ~ Isaiah 12

Christian Scripture ~ Hebrews 12:1-3

Message ~ “Joy”

“All Belong Here”~ (L. Rand/H. Rand) as recorded by The Many

Come and remember who you are here. Do this to remember who I am.

Come and remember you belong here. All belong here.

At this table come as you are, broken and bleeding's ok.

At this table eat and be filled, come and drink in this grace.

*Come and remember who you are here. Do this to remember who I am.
Come and remember you belong here. All belong here.*

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ~ *responsive*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn #121 ~ "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

*Benediction

Choral Response #100 ~ "Canticle of the Turning" (verse 1 and refrain)

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

Postlude

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#505455650

Next Sunday, December 24 is the 4th Sunday of Advent as well as Christmas Eve.

The Advent Service will be at 10:15AM and the Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:00PM.

St. Paul's will be closed on December 25, December 26 and December 27.

THANK YOU to those who have made a 2024 Stewardship commitment. And if you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider making a pledge as soon as possible so that the 2024 budget may be prepared. Goal: \$225,000.00.

To date: General Fund: \$105,708.00; BIF: \$25,460.00

ALL offerings and special donations to be credited and deposited for 2023 **must be received no later than December 28**. There is a secure mailbox at the church where donations can be dropped off. **REMINDER: ALL** donations to the Board of Deacons, **INCLUDING THE UPCOMING OFFERING ON CHRISTMAS EVE**, or the Foundation must be made by **separate check** payable directly to the Deacons or Foundation.

Their accounts are SEPARATE from the St. Paul's accounts.

A note from Ron and Joyce Cieslak... Dear Friends, The truck is packed and will pull away

tomorrow morning for delivery to **Crossroads Farm in Reading, Michigan**. Whatever your part was - shopping for hygiene items, **baking 400 dozen cookies, packaging those cookies**, shopping for socks, wrapping books, wrapping socks, wrapping gloves and hats, knitting, sewing, making oatmeal packs, signing cards, making fudge or nut bread, or donating money to purchase gift bags and gifts for the young men and women, assembling hygiene kits - it's all on the truck as of Friday night. **The truck is parked in our driveway and will pull away tomorrow morning. It goes with our prayers that the students at Crossroads Farm will sense the love of God for them through Christ, and will heartily receive that love.**
Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your part!! Merry Christmas!!

From Kathy Potter...Joyce served as the organist at St. Paul's some years ago and Ron served on the board at Crossroads Farm. They coordinate this effort every year and this shows that St. Paul's is just one part of this very great effort! **And...St. Paul's Giving Tree 2023 will be supporting the Oakland County Foster Closet that supports foster children and needy families in Oakland & Wayne County. Collections began Sunday, December 3rd & will run through Sunday, January 7th. Items needed are listed & flyers are available in the lobby. Age specific items for infants through teens: FULL SIZED 3 in 1 shampoo/conditioner/body wash, lotion, and deodorant, as well as toothbrushes, diapers, pull-ups, and feminine hygiene products.**

SOUP FOR A CHANGE to support Redford Interfaith Relief has updated their dates and menu. Copies are available on the lobby table.

Mark your calendar - All are invited to a Congregational New Year's Party on Saturday, January 20, 2024 at noon, hosted by the Board of Deacons. Details will follow.

Please hold those listed in prayer... and REVIEW and REPORT updates, PLEASE!

*In Our Thoughts
& Prayers*

Bill Garvey, Mike Graham, Janet Frank, Grace Erwin
August and Faith Kornowicz, Karen Bright, Steve Boyak, Sheldon Davis, Pam Phillips
Suzanne Tabaka, Jim Roye, Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell
Susan Grant, Bruce Phillips, Anna Richardson, Nate Statly (MSU shooting victim) ~ friend of Joey Nicholas
Kris Purdy ~ niece of Grace Erwin; Julie Newell ~ cousin of Pam Phillips
Elizabeth ~ sister-in law of Pat Garvey and Andy ~ nephew of Pat Garvey
Linda Thompson and her sister, Shirley Kircoff
Joan Velis and family; John Branch ~ father of Christie Piastowski
Dave Schulz ~ nephew of Carol and Mike Graham
Cousins of Terry Earnley and Jennifer Speiles ~ friend of Terry Earnley
Lois Wludyka and John Candiloro ~ friends of August Kornowicz
Ray and Mary Clark ~ neighbors of Don and Meta Tulley
Richard Rosenberg and Mike Hyatt ~ friends of Judy McGregor
Sarah and Mason Young ~ family of Judy McGregor
Ben Abela ~ son-in-law of August and Faith Kornowicz
Macaylah Whitlock ~ daughter of the Rev. Kellie and Marc Whitlock
Pamela Serene ~ daughter of the late Marilyn Allen, Nicole Snead ~ daughter of Bill VanEck
Nancy Kreipke ~ mother of Christian; Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean
Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit; Phyllis Badman ~ niece of Georgia Hunt

Christie Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright; Joe Duksay ~ friend of Mike and Carol Graham
Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of the late Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda Seymour
David Bonandrini ~ son of Ben; Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook
Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips; Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling and Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron and Janet Frank
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon and Marion Davis
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