

December 24, 2023 ~ 4th Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music ~ Mark Handford

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude and Procession of the Cross and the Elements of Communion

"Light One Candle" (N. Sleeth)

Light one candle for love, one bright candle for love,

He brings love to every heart, He comes, He comes.

He brings love to every heart, He comes, He comes. (repeat)

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ Kathleen and Brent Warren

Call to Worship ~ *responsive*

Leader: Rejoice, for I bring good tidings of great joy.

People: Today in Bethlehem a Savior has been born.

Leader: He is Christ the Lord, He is Immanuel, God with us.

People: Let us go together then and worship our Savior and King! Amen.

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

**Hymn #88 ~ "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (v. 7)*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession ~ *in unison*

Jesus, you call us to love, but often we fall to hate and harm those around us.

You call us to love and care for the downtrodden, but through apathy or fear we disdain them. Show us again the true meaning of love so that we may change our hearts and lives. Amen. (A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Responsive Chorus #630 ~ *"Fairest Lord Jesus"* (v. 4)

Beautiful Savior! Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

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.

Offering Prayer

Offertory #82 ~ *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

The Jesse Tree

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture ~ Isaiah 53:10-11

Special Music ~ *“The Christmas Lamb”* (P.Mock) ~ Celebration Choir

Christian Scripture ~ Romans 5:6-8

Message ~ “Love”

*Hymn #147 ~ *“The First Noel”* (v. 1,2,6)

A time for sharing the joys and concerns of our community.

Congregational Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer ~ *in unison*

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.

“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 #133 ~ "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (v. 1,3,4)

*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

The Christmas Eve Service will be at 4:00PM.

St. Paul's will be closed on December 25, 26, and 27, 2023 and January 1 and 2, 2024.

Newly elected officers will be installed and reception of a new member on
Sunday, January 14, 2024.

The **Christmas Eve Offering**, along with the offering at Thanksgiving, supports the ministries of the **Board of Deacons**. A designated envelope was provided in your packet. **PLEASE** make your check payable to **THE BOARD OF DEACONS** as their account is separate from St. Paul's.

Thank you!

From Pastor Nate...Announcing the birth of Jude Arnold Achterhof

December 16, 2023 at 9:49AM ~ 8lbs.12oz; 20.25 in.

Katie and I have started a meal train. Link: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/gkk82m>

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 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.

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: \$110,958.00; BIF: \$25,725.00

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. Please sign up in the lobby.

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



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 Ducsay ~ 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