

December 4, 2022 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music ~ Leigh Emmett

Welcome and Announcements ~ Don Tulley, liturgist

Prelude ~ “*Carol for Advent*” (D. Besig) ~ Celebration Choir

“*Light One Candle*” (N. Sleeth)

Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.

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

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ Marelyn Davis and Andy Foy

Call to Worship ~ *responsive*

Leader: Come let us worship and bow down.

People: Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our neighbor.

Leader: For he is our God who loves and cares for us.

People: And we are the sheep of his pasture, called to follow and serve where the Lord leads.

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

***Hymn #826 ~ “*Lift High the Cross*” (v. 1,3,4)**

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession ~ *in unison*.

God, you call us to seek your face and follow in your ways. When we stray you call us back to you. Lord, help us to let go of our sins and selfishness and turn our hearts and minds to you. Remembering always that when we confess our sins you will forgive us. Amen. (A time of silent, personal prayer).

Assurance of Forgiveness

Responsive Chorus #88 ~ “*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*” (refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Passing the Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Responsive Chorus #123 ~ “*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*” (v. 1)

***It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:***

***“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.***

Offering Prayer

Offertory #658 ~ *"God Is So Good"*

*Good is so good; Good is so good; God is so good; God's so good to me.
God loves me so; God loves me so; God loves me so; God's so good to me.*

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture ~ Isaiah 11:1-10

Special Music ~ *"Welcome Christ the King"* (P. Choplin)

Christian Scripture ~ Matthew 3:1-12

Message ~ *"Coming Soon: More Powerful One to Baptize"*

*Hymn #128 ~ *"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"*

Community at Prayer

Prayer Preparation ~ *"Hear Our Prayer, O Lord"*

*Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord;
Incline Thine ear to us, And grant us Thy peace.*

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.

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

"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.*

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Prayer after Communion

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

*Benediction

*Choral Response #113 ~ "Angels We Have Heard on High" (refrain)
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Postlude

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#505418919

Coffee Hour following worship TODAY!

All are invited to the Redford Civic Symphony Holiday Concert which will be held in the sanctuary today at 3:00PM.

The annual Presbyterian Men's Advent Communion Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 10 at 7:30AM at Kirk in the Hills. Please visit the Presbytery of Detroit website for ticket information.

A Meeting of the Congregation is called for Sunday, December 11, 2022, immediately following worship, for the purpose of the election of officers.

From Kathy Potter...**"ROMANS 12:4 : Cookies for Crossroads Farm, NEXT SUNDAY, December 11, following worship!** We will gather for a meal, Christmas carols & packaging 125 Christmas cookie decorating kits for the rural youth served by Crossroad Farms in western Michigan! Lunch will be provided by the Faith Formation Committee. Everyone is invited! We will be requesting assistance from anyone who would be willing to bake large, plain sugar cookies to be bagged by the dozen in gallon ziploc baggies. They can be Christmas shaped or round, but NOT decorated, as we are making cookie-decorating kits for the youth to decorate themselves! **We need 125 dozen. Cookies are to be brought in Sunday, December 11th, bagged & ready to be boxed & included in the kit.** Please sign up by Tuesday, December 6th in the church lobby or by responding to this invitation. Indicate how many will be participating on Sunday, so we can plan for the meal. Also indicate if you will be willing to bake and how many dozen you can provide. We will also need large boxes to transport the kits to the delivery point. These can be brought in on the 11th also. If baking isn't your thing, **Gordon Food Service has Christmas shaped sugar cookies ready to bake in boxes of 6 dozen!!!** No mixing! Just bake, cool & bag! On Sunday, the 11th, we will be boxing cookies, bagging sprinkles, and assembling the decorating kit for gifting! Crossroads Farm is a Christian ministry to at-risk rural youth in Western Michigan. These cookie decorating kits are added to other gifts donated by a variety of groups and individuals to form a Christmas package given to each of the youth served by this ministry at their annual Christmas party. We always have a wonderful time of fellowship & service as we prepare to bless and encourage these youth.
I hope you will plan to join us!"

The silk poinsettias on the table in the lobby are surplus and the Deacons have made them available for a donation of \$4.00 or 3 for \$10.00. All proceeds will be dedicated by the Deacons to the 2022 Giving Tree Project.

2022 Giving Tree: The collection of NEW children's books for COTS in Detroit beginning Sunday, November 27th through Sunday, January 8th. The books can be left in or near the baskets in the lobby by the fireplace Christmas tree display! These will not be delivered to COTS until mid-January, so Christmas/seasonal books are not our focus for this collection. We will be collecting books for infant - elementary aged children. Give the gift of reading this season!

The Adult Forum offers a four week Advent Video Series: Lee Strobel's *The Case for Christmas*, which began November 29th on Tuesday mornings at 9am online and in person at the church! All are welcome to participate! Join us online at: eet.google.com/ofb-mozw-shc or by phone: 513-818-1609 PIN: 389 490 359# or in person in Room 11! Prepare the way to Christmas and beyond with fellow believers following in God's way!

"The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus" ~ a charming story by L. Frank Baum, the author of "The Wizard of Oz" and adapted for Readers' Theatre, presented by Livonia Community Theatre. Recommended for adults and for children age 8 and above. Free admission! Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00PM at the Livonia Public Library at 32777 Five Mile Rd., Thursday, December 15 at 7:00PM at the Livonia Senior Center at 15218 Farmington Rd., and Saturday, December 17 at 2:00PM at the Senior Center.

The 2023 Stewardship Commitments were dedicated on November 20 and St. Paul's is grateful to all who submitted a pledge. If you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider a pledge to St. Paul's. You may bring your commitment card to worship, mail it, or drop it in the secure mailbox outside the church.

There is a gold box in the Narthex where you may submit your suggestions to Pastor Nate for his upcoming "Fireside Chat" series. Or you may email your suggestions to sppcemail@stpaulspresbyterian.church and they will be given to Pastor Nate, anonymously, of course.

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



Bill Garvey, Mike Graham, Janet Frank, Grace Erwin, August Kornowicz, Karen Bright
Sheldon Davis, Doris Knecht, Joyce Barton, Pam Phillips, Suzanne Tabaka, Jim & Joanna Roye, Jerry Stone
Beverly Dearth, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell, Susan Grant, Bruce Phillips
Sister-in law and nephew of Pat Garvey, Linda Thompson & her sister, Shirley Kircoff
Joan Velis and family; Westin ~ infant grandson of Jeanne Sinclair
John Branch ~ father of Christie Piastowski
Dave Schulz ~ nephew of Carol & Mike Graham
Rita Czanko ~ cousin of Terry Earnley
John Candiloro ~ friend of August Kornowicz

Ray & Mary Clark ~ neighbors of Don & Meta Tulley
Sarah & Mason Young ~ family of Judy McGregor
Chris O'Neill, Tracey Ford, Phil Decker & Vickie McVeigh ~ friends of Judy McGregor
Ben Abela ~ son-in-law of August & Faith Kornowicz
Macaylah Whitlock ~ daughter of the Rev. Kellie Whitlock
Rosemary Iaquina ~ sister of Cathy DeSautel; Pamela Serene ~ daughter of the late Marilyn Allen
Glenn Ellan Rubright ~ sister of Mike Graham; 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
Janet Kusuhara ~ cousin of Meta Tulley; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike & Carol Graham
Mark Osborne ~ son of the late Janet
Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda & Bob 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 & Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron & Janet Frank
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon & Marion Davis

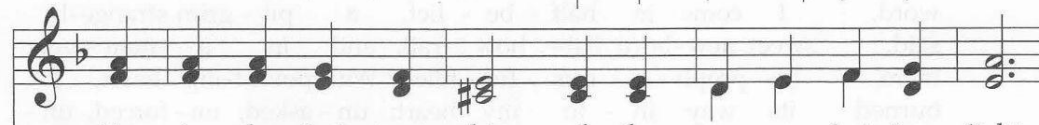
121 O Little Town of Bethlehem



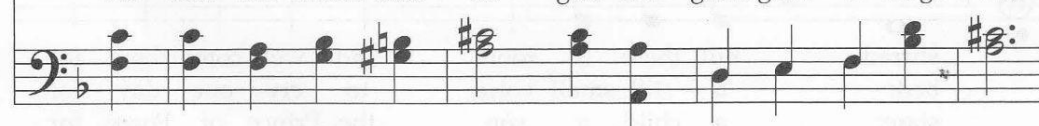
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Mar - y and, gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



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!



Though he was famed during his lifetime as a great preacher, no sermon Phillips Brooks ever preached has been heard or read by as many people as have sung this carol he wrote in December 1868 for the Sunday School children of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.

Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!
 Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!

The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6-20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means "He lies in a cradle" or "In manger lying."

Lift High the Cross

826

Refrain

Descant

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name. *Fine*

till all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

to Refrain

the Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
 your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

This majestic hymn celebrates the paradox that for Christians a means of painful death has been transformed into a symbol of renewed life; a sign of defeat has become an emblem of victory. With the cross traced on our foreheads at Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever.

