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SAINT PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Fleetwood, Pennsylvania
Third Sunday of Advent
December 16, 2018

GATHERING PRAYER

Almighty God, by the power of your Holy Spirit open our eyes, ears, hearts and our very lives to your presence this day. As we worship you this day, may our lives be a healing remembrance of your love to all the lives of those we touch. Amen

INTROIT

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN “*We Hail You God’s Anointed*” #104

Pastor: We gather in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit!
People: **(Singing) Amen!**
Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Let us share signs of Christ’s peace with one another.

(The congregation may be seated.)

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

CENTERING

PRELUDE (8:55) Christmas Medley- Children’s Program

The 1st Noel

Emmy Laucks and Jenna Landis - violin duet

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Kassidy Hill - Piano

O Holy Night

Kayla Laucks - Trumpet

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Penny Wentz. - Saxophone

Manger Medley

Elizabeth Saylor and Kate Mileschosky - Cello Duet

Joy to the World

Krystal Hill - Violin

The 1st Noel

Jamin Valick - Bass Clarinet

(10:25) “*Ding, Dong Merrily on High/ O Sanctissima*” arranged by Mark Hayes

The Third Sunday in Advent

8:55 a.m. – Gillian Agnew, Erin Goldman, Barb Hoffman

10:25 a.m. – Lorraine Bell and Deb Reinert

Leader: God is making the final preparations for an amazing thing! Now is the Advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope,

our Prince of Peace, our leader of love. We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of the Advent candles. We are a people of hope. The first Sunday of Advent we lit the first candle—the frail light of a single candle of hope. We are also a people of peace. Last Sunday we lit the second candle—the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire, the one that lets in God’s deep and calming Spirit.

Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely describes what we know of our God.

Advent Scripture-John 1:1-5; 3:16

Leader: We relight our first Advent candle, which reminds us that we are a people of hope. *(Light the first candle.)*

We also relight last week’s candle, remembering that we are also a people in search of peace—a peace that is the fullness of blessing for all. *(Light the second candle.)*

Now we light today’s candle—the candle of love. We give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we await the dawning of God’s never-ending love once more this Christmas season. *(Light the third candle.)*

Choral Response:

Voice

Light three can - dles May they e - ver glow May your Good News calm our

fears. Give us flo - wers and not sor - row o - live oil in place of tears. Lord, You

heal the bro - ken heart - ed We are cap - tive, give re - lease. Light three can - dles. Let them

bright - ly burn. May our Joy in You in - crease.

Leader: Let us pray: God of love, warm our hearts this Advent season with the fire of human compassion. Help us to reflect the love that you have for us, and may others know that we are truly Christian by our love. Amen

4
PENITENCE

(Congregation Standing)

Pastor: Surely God is our Salvation! We will trust and not be afraid!
For God is our Strength and Song—and our only Salvation.
**People: With joy we will draw water from the Wells of Salvation.
And we will say in that day— “Give thanksgiving to God!”**
Pastor: Call upon God’s Name! Make known God’s deeds among all the nations—
Proclaim the Power of God!”
Pastor: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

~written by Jann Cather Weaver

**People: God, we confess that we are an impatient and selfish people.
When you offer us the promise of a new future,
we complain that you don’t get there fast enough.
When you provide for our needs, we complain that it isn’t enough.
And when our bad attitudes and negative out looks cause us to stumble, we
blame you.**

(Silent reflection)

Holy God, forgive our sinful ways. Teach us to be patient.
Instruct us to be grateful. Guide us to be responsible and humble.
As we turn ourselves around and look to the cross,
let us experience your grace and your gift of new life.
In the name of Christ our Savior, we pray. Amen. ~ written by Amy Loving

*All (singing) Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

Pastor: Let us say again what it is that we believe.
**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe
in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of
the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third
day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of
the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe
in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the
forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(The congregation may be seated.)

WORD

5
CHOIR ANTHEM (10:25) “Come, Christ of God”

Pethel

Come, Christ of God, come today
to wipe our tears of pain away.
In compassion, Lord, send your Son.
Come Christ of God, O come.

O come, o come Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here—
until the Son of God appears.

Come, Christ of God, come and heal.
O come and heal the hidden scars ours souls
conceal.
Mend in us a heart undone.
Come, Christ of God, O come.

Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel.

Hope for the hopeless, rest for the weary,
our Savior will soon be at hand.
Yet, as He tarries, Lord, we are praying
Send down your Christ to heal our land!

Come, Christ of God, come and shine
your light of hope for we are blind.
Open eyes to see the shining sun.
Come, Christ of God, O come.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT	Isaiah 12:2-6	OT pg. 641
SERMON TEXT	Philippians 4:4-7	NT pg. 199
GOSPEL	Luke 3:7-18	NT pg. 60

(The Congregation stands)

All (singing):

prano

Let's wor ship and a dore Him, let's wor ship and a dore Him, let's

wor ship and a dore Him - Christ the Lord.

(Congregation may be seated)

SERMON	(8:55) (10:25)	Children’s Christmas Program “Why the Multitudes Came”	<i>see insert</i>
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(The Congregation stands)

RESPONSIVE HYMN	““It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”	#131
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*(The Congregation may be seated.)***PASTORAL PRAYER****LORD'S PRAYER****GIVING****OFFERTORY SENTENCES****OFFERTORY** *"O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings"* Handel**DOXOLOGY**

All (singing) **Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER**SENDING****THE RECESSIONAL HYMN** *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"* #126**THE BENEDICTION****THREE FOLD AMEN**

A - men, a - men, a - men.

CHIMES**POSTLUDE** *"Carol of the Bells"* Leontovych**MISSION STATEMENT**

As Followers of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves to:

- Enthusiastically proclaim and teach God's love through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Share God's love with neighbors near and far.
- Live as a Christian community of hope, acceptance, and encouragement in a rapidly changing world.

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S

- If you are visiting and would like to know more about St. Paul's please fill out the visitor's card located in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. One of our pastors will contact you.
- There are assisted listening devices for the hearing impaired available at the sound board in the rear of the church.
- **Adult Sunday school is held at 9 a.m. - Generations Class in the Lounge off the Narthex. Also, Adult Bible Study is held Wednesday mornings. See Announcement sheets in the bulletin for details.**
- **Bible Study is held on Wednesday's at 10:00 a.m. in the Lounge**
- Children are always welcome in our worship space (as are the joyful noises that they sometimes add). For those moments when it might be needed, we do have a nursery room in the rear of the church that anyone with younger children is welcome to use. The room is equipped with a speaker that will allow you to continue enjoying the service. Please ask an usher if you need any assistance.
- Activity bags for children can be found on a rack in the Narthex.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Lynda Shenk in celebration of Dakota and Wendy Milyo's Birthdays.

The **Bulletins** are sponsored by Dale and Debra Dietrich and family in loving memory of Debra's parents, Pearl and Elwood Noll.

The **Upper Room Publication** for this month is sponsored by Anna Mae Weiss in loving memory of her niece, Karen B. Shollenberger who passed away December 12th, 2017.

Coffee Time Sponsor: Women's Guild

Readers: 8:55- TBA

10:25- Jason Crockett

Acolytes: 8:55- Colin Snyder, Katelin Pytleski

10:25- Stella Koch, Cassandra Batz

Ushers: 8:55- Cindy Rothenberger, Ro Wolf, Bob Wolf, Christoph Snyder

10:25- Jim Goldman, Bill Thomas, Steve Wentz, Marie Richdale

Attendance: December 9th, 2018

8:55 a.m. – 140

10:25 a.m. – 105

	Income	Expense	Difference
October			
General Acct	\$ 33,625.27	\$ 32,832.50	\$ 792.77
Other Accts	\$ 2,759.00	\$ 4,366.34	-\$ 1,607.34
Year to date			
General Acct	\$330,776.30	\$370,119.03	-\$ 39,342.73
Other Accts	\$ 62,823.76	\$ 62,445.85	\$ 377.91