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SAINT PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Fleetwood, Pennsylvania
Service of Holy Communion
Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 23, 2018

GATHERING PRAYER

Stir up your power, O God, and come to set us free by the righteousness of your birth in our midst, by the light of your face shining upon us, and by becoming our brother, our friend, our salvation. We pray this in the name of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

INTROIT

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” No. 43

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 peace with one another.

(The Congregation may be seated.)

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRELUDE (8:55) “Emmanuel” Bob McGee

(10:25) “O Holy Night” Kathi Fry. Vocal Soloist

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:55- TBA

10:25- TBA

Leader: This is the fourth Sunday in Advent, the culmination of our years of waiting. We have lit the candles of hope, of peace, and of love. In the glow of their light we feel the warmth of deep and quiet joy. Let us sing in the name of Christ who offers us hope in the prison of despair, Peace in the chaos of life, and God’s love—graciously, silently, vulnerably offered. Today we light the candle of joy.

Advent Scripture Luke 2: 9-11

Lighting of the Candles

Leader: We relight our first Advent candle, the candle of hope.
(Light the first candle.)

Leader: We relight our second candle, the candle of peace.
(Light the second candle.)

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Leader: We relight last week’s candle—the candle of love.
(Light the third candle.)

Leader: Now we complete our circle lighting the candle of joy. We are filled with joy as we proclaim Christ’s coming, and that we are now willing to let Christ enter our hearts.

Voice

Light four can - dles May they e - ver glow All the hum ble sing a
loud. There is mer cy for all those who know And God scat - ters all the proud. God gives
good things to the hun gry But the rich are sent a way Light four can dles. Let them
bright ly burn. Oh, Lord Je sus come to day.

Leader: Let us pray: Gracious God, our time of waiting is almost over. We pray that we have prepared well for Christ’s coming and that we are now willing to let Christ enter our hearts and live. Amen.

(The congregation may stand.)

THE ACT OF PENITENCE

Pastor: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness—on them has light shined.

All: For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

Pastor: Authority rests upon his shoulders, and his name will be called

All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:2,6

Solo (Kathi Fry): Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o’er the plains, And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

GLORIA

All (singing): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Solo (Kathi Fry): Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav’nly song?

All (singing): Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

All: God our Savior, we ask for your mercy. Though we have heard Mary's song,
we still seek security in pride and power and possessions.
Though we know your story, we resist the costs of following you.
We pass by those considered lowly in this world.
We turn away from hungry people who still wait to be filled.
Forgive us, we pray. Help us to work for the justice you intend.
Make us messengers of the peace you bring.
As we wait for you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

Silence

*Solo (Kathi Fry): Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.*

GLORIA

All (singing): Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

(The congregation may be seated.)

SPECIAL MUSIC (8:55) "O Holy Night" Kathi Fry. Vocal Soloist
ANTHEM (10:25) "Emmanuel, Expected Jesus" Arranged by Schram

O Come, O Come Emmanuel, and ransom
captive Israel. That mourns in lonely exile
here, Until the Son of God appear.

Let us find our rest in Thee.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to Thee o Israel.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art
Dear desire of every nation, hope of every
longing heart.

Come Thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free.
From our fears and sins release us,

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel,
Shall come to Thee O Israel.
Come, O Come, expected Emmanuel.

THE WORD

COMMUNION TEXT

Luke 1:39-45

NT pg. 57

COMMUNION MEDITATION

(All who are able please stand.)

RESPONSIVE HYMN

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

No. 128

(The congregation may be seated.)

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

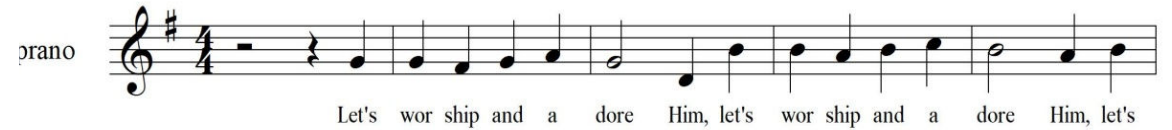
OFFERTORY SENTENCES

THE OFFERTORY (8:55) "Behold and See If There Be Any Sorrow" G.F. Handel
(10:25) "Sarabande" Bach Graham Cullen. Cello

(All who are able please stand.)

THE DOXOLOGY

Response:



Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them to the Lord!

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God,

All: For the Lord is good, and God's love is everlasting.

Pastor: We thank you, O God, that from the very beginning your Word has been the light
and life of the world. Through your Word all things were made, and by your Word
we shall be made new.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor: We remember that in every age you have called patriarchs and prophets, apostles and
martyrs to bear witness to the light of your Word, that all people may believe.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor: We rejoice that your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth,
and that, beholding the incarnation of your glory, we all have received grace upon
grace.

All: Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor: We remember that by becoming flesh of our flesh, Christ sanctified all of life from
birth to death, and to redeem us he took upon himself the whole range of our human
existence.

All: Christ was born, Christ has died, Christ has risen, and Christ will come again!

Pastor: Through the powerful benediction of your Holy Spirit we ask you to come and to
transform us and these gifts of bread and wine that we offer with our praise and
thanksgiving, that we may be fed with these holy mysteries and be so united with
Christ until we finally eat at his table in the heavenly realm.

All: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

(The congregation may be seated.)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

(When invited by an usher, you will go down the center aisle, take the wafer and dip it in the cup. If you so desire, you may go to one of the pastors on the sides with your prayer request. Along the window ledges there are votive candles that you may light in memory of loved ones or in acts of thanksgiving.)

(All who are able please stand.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: In Bethlehem, the place of bread, you came, O Jesus, incarnated in the body of a helpless child and wrapped in the diapers of our own common humanity to be fully God with us.

All: Come again, Emmanuel!

Pastor: At the Bethlehem of this table you have come to us today in the midst of a common meal of everyday bread and wine to feed us with mysteries beyond our imagining.

All: Come again, O Bread of Life!

Pastor: To the Bethlehems of this world where there is no peace and holy places are desecrated by the machines of violence, and people yearn for just a morsel of heaven,

All: Come again, Lord Jesus! Come!

THE SENDING OUT

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN *“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”* No. 131

THE BENEDICTION

CHORAL SENDING

Soprano

Al-le - lu - ia, Al-le lu ia, Al-le lu ia, Al le lu ia. Al-le

S

lu ia, Al le lu ia, Al le lu ia Al le lu ia.

THE POSTLUDE *“In Dolci Jubilo”* Gordon Young

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 Peter and Sharon Koller in honor of Sharon’s Father’s birthday on December 18th.

The **Bulletins** are sponsored by James and Kathi Fry in honor of their Wedding Anniversary.

The **Upper Room Publication** for this month is sponsored by Anna Mae Weiss in memory of her sisters Erma S. Gift, and Jean E. George, as well as Jean’s husband Harvey D. George.

Coffee Time Sponsor: Pastor John

Readers: 8:55- Tom Hoch 10:25- Jim Goldman

Acolytes: 8:55-Aidan Strohl, Chase Reifsnnyder 10:25- Ian Miller, Megan Eberly

Ushers: 8:55- Caroline Blickley, Melissa Blickley, Chris Vojtasek

10:25- Heidi Pierce, Jason Crockett, Bob Wolf, Ro Wolf

Attendance: December 16th, 2018 8:55 a.m. – 164 10:25 a.m. – 59

	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