

SAINT PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Fleetwood, Pennsylvania
4th Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2017

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 “O Come, All You Faithful” #135

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) “He is Born, the Divine Christ Child” French traditional

Risa Cullen, Viola Graham Cullen, Cello

PRELUDE(10:25) “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming” Risa Cullen, Viola Graham Cullen, Cello

The Fourth Sunday in Advent

8:55 a.m.

10:25 a.m. The Hoffman Family

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. Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! Let us sing to the glory of God!

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:9-11

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

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

We relight last week’s candle—the candle of love.

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.


Congregational Response)

Score


Christmas Hallelujah

Cohen/Cloverton


Week 4

Soprano 

A Star shown bright up in the east to Beth le hem the wise men three came ma ny miles and

7 

S jour neyed long for You. And to the place at which You were their fran kin cense and

13 

S gold any myrhh they gave to You and cried out Hal le lu jah Hal-le-lu-jah Hal-le-lu jah

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..

PENITENCE

All: (singing) O come, O come, Emmanuel!
Redeem thy captive Israel
That into exile drear is gone,
Far from the face of God's dear Son.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Pastor: God our rock and our salvation
 so much of faith is waiting
 like a pregnant woman waiting in hope
 like a people under siege, holding out till relief comes
 like the soul lost in the darkness,
 unable to see even a glimmer of light
 yet stumbling through the night because somewhere out ahead,
 day will surely break
 God be with us in our waiting.

Re: Worship

*All(singing): O come, O come, thou Dayspring bright!
 Pour on our souls thy healing light;
 Dispel the long night's lingering gloom,
 And pierce the shadows of the tomb.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

People: **Living God, keep us awake in faith,
 faith that acts; when our faith grows weary, strengthen us
 when our faith grows fearful, give us courage
 when our faith grows despairing, give us witnesses
 and when the faith of others falters,
 may we be a light in their darkness.**

Re:Worship

*All (singing) O come, Desire of Nations, bind,
 All peoples in one heart and mind;
 Make envy, strife and quarrels cease;
 Fill the whole world with heavens peace.
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
 Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Pastor: Lets us affirm our faith as we boldly proclaim;

All: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
 the Maker of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
 Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, dead, and buried;
 He descended into hell.
 The third day He arose again from the dead;**

**He ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
 from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Ghost;
 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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT Psalm 148 OT pg. 582

EPISTLE Roman 16:25-27 NT pg. 165

SPECIAL MUSIC (8:55) "Hymn to Hope" Loveland
 Graham Cullen, Cello David Cullen, Guitar Jill Haley, Piano
 CHANCEL CHOIR (10:25) "When Will We See God's Son?" Stevens

When will the promise of heaven be given?
 When will the little one come?
 When will the hope of all the ages be born?
 When will we see God's Son?

When will the light brightly shine in the darkness?
 When will the Holy One come?
 When will the kingdom of God's love be revealed?
 When will we see God's Son?

Will it be when springtime flowers are blooming,
 Or in the summer sun?
 Will it be when winter snow has fallen?
 When will we see God's Son?

When will the promise of heaven be given?
 When will the little one come?
 When will the hope of all the ages be born?
 When will we see God's Son?
 When will we see God's Son?
 When will we see God's Son?

SERMON TEXT

6
Luke 1:26-38

NT pg. 56

(The Congregations stands)

Alleluia

Choral Response:

7
Be Near Me Lord Jesus

SERMON

“you don’t always get what you want”

(The Congregation stands)

RESPONSIVE HYMN

“What Child Is This”
(The Congregation may be seated.)

#148

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in the heavens,
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 the evil one.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory
Forever and ever. Amen

GIVING

OFFERING INVITATION

THE OFFERTORY(8:55) *“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”* Traditional
Risa Cullen, Viola Graham Cullen, Cello

THE OFFERTORY(10:25) *“Hark, the Herald Angels Sing”* Emma Bigg, Piano
(The Congregation stands)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE *“O Come Let Us Adore Him”* (refrain)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SENDING

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

#129

THE BENEDICTION

CHORAL SENDING

Four fold

CHIMES

POSTLUDE *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*



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 Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings. See Announcement sheets in the bulletin for details.**
- 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

(For the week of December 24, 2017)

The **Altar Flowers** are sponsored by Dennis and Donna Wanner in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ the real reason for Christmas.

The **Organ Arrangement** is presented by Tom and Cathy Hoch in honor of Hali’s graduation from Penn State University.

The **Bulletins** are sponsored by Grace Shollenberger in memory of her husband George Shollenberger.

The **Upper Room Publication** for this month is sponsored by Anna Mae Weiss in loving memory of her niece, Karen Shollenberger.

Coffee Time Sponsor:

Ushers: 8:55 a.m. – Allen Crockett, Steve Wentz, Chris Vojtasek, Cindy Rothenberger

10:25 a.m. – Donna Rader, Heidi Pierce, Jenn Hoffman, Linda Schaeffer

Readers: 8:55 a.m. – Tom Hoch **10:25 a.m.** – Jason Crockett

Acolytes: 8:55 a.m. – Alex Scheffler and Parker Milyo

10:25 a.m. – Emma Ertel and Jade Vojtasek

Attendance:	December 17, 2017	8:55 a.m. – 241	10:25 a.m. – 82
November	Income	Expense	Difference
General Acct	\$35,157.13	\$28,402.30	\$ 6,754.83
Other Accts	\$19,960.50	\$ 9,373.81	\$10,586.69

Year to date			
General Acct	\$366,817.28	\$433,392.09	-\$66,574.81
Other Accts	\$142,648.89	\$132,434.00	\$10,214.89