



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

A welcoming Christ-centered community...

Christmas Eve

Dec 24, 2025
4:00pm Worship

We're Glad You're Here!

Welcome: *St. Paul's creates experiences of joyful fellowship where children, youth, adults, and the elderly build open and honest relationships of mutual support. In welcoming the ongoing transformative power of the Holy Spirit, we find freedom from social stigmas and shame. This in turn empowers us to address isolation and marginalization in ourselves and in our wider community.*

Today's Scripture Readings

Luke 2:1-20

Worship Leaders

Ministers of the Gospel – All Who Gather for God's Worship

Worship Leader– Rev Deborah Parker-Hill

Reader – Janeen Adil

Ushers – Paul & Wanda Druzba

Accompanist – Barb Moyer

Acolyte – Doug Johnson

Flower Dedication

Poinsettias in memory, or honor, of the congregation's loved ones

Join us for Sunday Morning Music & Worship

9:30 – 10:30am Sunday In-Person / Zoom Worship

Connect online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86359317508>

Or by phone to listen to the service:

Call 1-646-876-9923 and when prompted, enter the meeting ID: 863 5931 7508

300 West First Street, Birdsboro PA 19508

610-582-8461 + office@stpaulsbirdsboro.org +

www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org

Church wifi: StPauls / havefaith

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

(please rise, in body or in spirit)

Call to Worship

Leader: On this holy night, we come,

All: dazzled and awe-struck, ready to sing alongside the angels.

Leader: On this holy night, we come,

All: eager and hopeful, ready to journey alongside the shepherds.

Leader: On this holy night, we come,

All: quietly and tenderly, ready to wonder alongside Mary and Joseph.

Leader: On this holy night, we come,

All: singing, trusting, believing, proclaiming: good news is louder than fear!

Leader: On this holy night, we come,

All: ready to worship Emmanuel, God-with-us. Let us worship God together!

Carol: “O Come All Ye Faithful” WHM #133, all verses

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O Come, All Ye Faithful

"Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful."
 —1 Corinthians 4:2

ADESTE FIDELES

Latin: John F. Wade
 Tr. by Frederick Oakeley

John F. Wade's *Cantus Diversi*
 Descant by Fred Bock

1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O come ye, O
 2 Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion, O sing, all ye
 3 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this hap-py morn-ing, O Je-sus, to

1 come ye to Beth-le-hem; Come and be-hold Him, born the King of an-gels;
 2 cit-i-zens of heav-en a-bove; Glo-ry to God, all glo-ry in the high-est;
 3 Thee be all glo-ry given; Word of the Fa-ther, now in flesh ap-pear-ing;

Descant

O come, O come,
 O come, let us a-dore Him, O come, let us a-dore Him,

O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ, the Lord. A-men.
 O come, let us a-dore Him, Christ, the Lord. A-men.

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JESUS CHRIST: HIS BIRTH

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Reader: In a fearful world, where do you see the presence of God?

People: We see God's fingerprints all around us.

We see God in the beauty of the stars.

We see God in the love of this community.

We see God in the dreams we hold for a better world.

Reader: You are right. Even in a fearful world, God is here. God is all around, within, and among us. On this holy night, we light the Christ Candle as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, God's love is all around us.

(acolyte lights the Christ candle)

Carol: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" WHM #137, verse 1

***Hark! The herald angels sings,
"Glory to the newborn King:
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sings,
"Glory to the newborn King."***

(please be seated)

Prayer for Transformation and New Life

Leader: Friends, on the night of Jesus' birth, a crowd of angels appeared before a group of lowly shepherds to tell them the good news. The angels could have gone to Herod's house. The angels could have sung in the city square. The angels could have shared the good news with the most important and powerful, but instead they told a group of back-country shepherds. The angel's message was clear: this is good news of great joy for all people. The good news of this night is for you too – no matter who you are. So join me in drawing closer to God who has already drawn close to us. Let us pray:

All: God of angel choruses, you hang the stars in the sky, but we do not notice them. You fill the night with angelic song, but we do not hear it. You send shepherds to tell the good news, but we do not believe them. You bring love into the world, but we do not seek it. Quiet the fear in us that works to rationalize, minimize, and distract from the good news you put forth into the world. Tune our hearts back to your song. With hope we pray...

(a moment of quiet reflection)

Words of Grace

Leader: When the angels arrived in the field that night, the shepherds were afraid. But the angels said: "Do not be afraid. I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people." The good news is: grace radically extended, welcome always offered, belonging never restricted, love freely given, embodied in the one whose birth we celebrate. Friends, we are seen, loved, forgiven and welcomed.

People: Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.

We Listen For God's Word: Scripture

Prayer for Illumination

Luke 2:1-7 [page #44]

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Carol: "Away in a Manger" WHM #128, verse 1

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky all looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

Luke 2:8-14 [page #44]

8 Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Carol: “Angels We Have Heard on High” WHM #132, verse 1

*Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.*

*Glo-ri-a
In excelsis De-o,
Glo-ri-a
In excelsis De-o.*

Luke 2:15-20 [page #44]

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. 17 When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, 19 and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” WHM #143, verse 1

*O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light:
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*

Sermon: Good News is Louder than Fear

Carol: “Go Tell it on the Mountain” WHM #139, all verses

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159 Go, Tell It on the Mountains

"Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying . . . concerning this Child."—Luke 2:17

John W. Work
Unison

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAINS
American Folk Song

Go, tell it on the moun-tains, O-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;

Go, tell it on the moun-tains That Je-sus Christ is born!

Harmony

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night, Be-
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a-bove the earth Rang
3 Down in a low-ly man-ger The hum-ble Christ was born, And

1 hold through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho-ly light.
2 out the an-gel cho-rus That hailed our Sav-ior's birth.
3 brought us God's sal-va-tion That bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Evening Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Creator,

All: 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.

Offering

Carol: "What Child is This?" NCH #148, all verses

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What Child Is This

148

William C. Dix, 1865; alt.

Luke 2:7-14, 25-32; Matt. 2:11; John 1:14;
John 19:16b-18, 34

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?
2 Why lies the Child in man - ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3 Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.

This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;

Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!

William Chatterton Dix, manager of an English marine insurance company, wrote a number of fine hymns. This one is always sung to the tune Greensleeves, which first appeared in England in 1580 and is mentioned in one of Shakespeare's plays

Tune: GREENSLEEVES 8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7. with refrain
English traditional melody, 16th century

Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Communion Prayer —The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: God is with us!

People: We are not alone!

Pastor: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to God!

Pastor: Let us give thanks.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: O God of wonder, we come to this table to be surrounded by the mystery of heaven's radiance. Lift us from the ordinary, that we may be touched by things extraordinary this night, and with the choirs of angels join in praising:

All: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among all people!

Pastor: We praise you for coming to humankind in ways we humans can grasp, for being born a Child for all children.

All: For a child has been born to us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Pastor: We thank you for Jesus' life among us, living as the human One for all humankind, and the promise of new life always.

All: And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Words of Institution

Words of Consecration

Sharing the Meal

Communion will be served by intinction this evening.

Please come forward to the chancel area as you feel moved.

One-by-one accept the bread and then move to the cup. Dip the bread into the chalice and consume. One chalice contains wine (dark) and the other grape juice (light). All of the bread is gluten-free. If you are unable to come forward, let an usher know and Communion will be brought to you.

Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

All: Most gracious God, source of all blessing, we give you thanks for inviting us to share this meal as your family. Grant that the angels' song may be continually on our lips and Christ's light may radiate in our lives, that we may bear the good news of your love in a dark and waiting world. Amen.

Candle Lighting

Pastor will light the ushers' candles from the Christ candle. Ushers will pass the light from their candles to persons at the end of each pew along the center aisles. Pass it on to the next person in your pew. Persons receiving light tilt candle toward person giving light.

Do not tilt the lit candles! Please be careful with the flame.

We will listen to the instrumentalists play "Silent Night" through once and then we will join in singing.

Guitar: Paul Rahn

Piano: Barb Moyer

Hymn: "Silent Night" WHM #151, all verses

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Silent Night, Holy Night

151

Joseph Mohr
Tr. by John F. Young

"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given."—Isaiah 9:6

STILLE NACHT
Franz Grüber

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep-herds quake at the sight.
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

1 Round yon vir - gin moth-er and child. Ho - ly in-fant so ten-der and mild,
2 Glo - ries stream from heav-en a - far, Heav-en-ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
3 Ra - dant beams from Thy ho-ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

1 Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
2 Christ, the Sav - ior is born! Christ, the Sav - ior is born!
3 Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

JESUS CHRIST: HIS BIRTH

Benediction

Hymn: “Joy to the World” WHM #135, all verses

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Joy to the World!

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."
—Psalm 30:5b

ANTIOCH

George Friedrich Handel
Arranged by Fred Bock
and Ralph Carmichael

Psalm 98

Adapted by Isaac Watts

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re-
2 Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

1 ceive her King; Let ev - ery heart pre - pare Him
2 songs em - ploy; While fields and flocks, rocks, hills, and
3 fest the ground; He comes to make His bless - ings
4 na - tions prove The glo - ries of His right - eous -

1 room, And heaven and na - ture sing, And heaven and na - ture sing, And
2 plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
3 flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
4 ness, And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of His love, And
And heaven and na - ture sing,

And heaven and na - ture

1 heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
2 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
3 as, far as the curse is found.
4 won - ders, won - ders of His love. A - men.

sing,

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JESUS CHRIST: HIS BIRTH

Postlude

Liturgy adapted from:

“What Do You Fear? Insisting on Hope this Advent,” © 2025 A Sanctified Art,

www.sanctifiedart.org

Come to the Table: Communion Liturgies of Invitation to Celebrate and Experience the Love of God, © 2020 Michelle Henrichs, Life in the Labyrinth LLC.

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Announcements

Pastor Deb will be on vacation from Dec 25th through Jan 1st. Any concerns, please reach out to Doug Johnson.

The Pension Boards – Donate to The Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Please consider making a donation.

“...when they saw the STAR, they were filled with JOY...” Matthew 2:10

The Southeast Berks Ministerium provided gift cards from Redners and Boyers to the Daniel Boone School District to give to families for a Christmas dinner. St Paul’s UCC Birdsboro donated 7 gift cards in the amount of \$100 each.

Thank you all for your generosity.

Our Daily Bread for December/January/February 2025-2026 has arrived! Pick up your copy today!

“Prayers of the People” – Our current Elders will be holding meetings on the 4th Thursday evening of each month at 6pm via Zoom. All are welcome including phone participants. Contact Pat Babel at 484-949-5033 to be included in the email distribution. Thank you!

St Paul's Weekly Calendar

Sun, Dec 28	Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm
Tues, Dec 30	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
Wed, Dec 24	Disciple Bible Study (CE)	9:30am-10:30am
	Christmas Eve service	4pm
Thurs, Dec 25	Christmas Day	
	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	5:30pm-7pm
	Currently Sober (CE)	6:30-7:30pm
Fri, Dec 26	Beginners Meeting (CE)	7pm- 8pm
Sat, Dec 27	Nancy Moyer Counseling (CE-LL)	8:30am –2pm
Sun, Dec 28	Worship (C)	9:30am
	New Millennium (CE)	7pm-8pm

This Week: Church Office Hours

Tues, Wed, & Fri 9:00am-1:00pm

This Week: Pastor Deb's Office Hours

away on vacation from 12/25/25 to 01/01/26

Tues/remote 9:00am-1:00pm

Wed/in-office 9:00am-1:00pm

Thurs/remote 9:00am-1:00pm



Wanda & Paul Druzba	In honor of our children and grandchildren In memory of family that passed
Dave & Diane Johnson	In honor of Esther Woomer In memory of Roy Woomer, Clyde and Frances Johnson, & Donna Hinks
Barb & Barry Kerper	In honor of our grandchildren In memory of Barb and Joe Kerper & Joseph McCalicher
Paul & Debbie Rahn	In memory of Rev Paul and Janice Rahn, & Nate Clemens
Nancy Dragan & family	In memory of Kenny Dragan
Nancy & Stewart Hughes	In honor of Bill & Ethel Hughes In memory of Charles & Fern Mountz
Paul & Debbie Rahn	In memory of Rev Paul and Janice Rahn In memory of Donald and Mary Jane Hunsberger
Doug Johnson	In memory of Clyde & Frances Johnson, & Donna Hinks
Janeen & Tom Adil	In memory of our parents
Pastor Deb Parker-Hill	In honor of Laura Schwartz and Eloise Schwartz In memory of Maj. Frank C Parker III