



December 27, 2020 10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

25 W. Springettsbury Ave., York, PA 17403

Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

www.stpaulsyork.org

www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

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WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us today, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

Thank you for your faithfulness in sending your offering through the mail, by using online options from your financial institution, or through the “Donate” now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul’s and our ministry partners.

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Face masks are required inside, Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.

Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

While in the Nave:

Please wear your mask. Please sit in designated pews only. You may sit together as a family.

We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.

Communion Procedure:

- *Ushers will direct you. The pulpit side (left) of the nave communes first followed by the font side (right).*
- *Wearing your face mask, come to the chancel step taking your place at one of the five positions marked on the chancel floor with a green cross.*
- *Your entire household may gather at a position marked by the green cross.*
- *Extend your arms and cup your hands together to receive the host.*
- *Please do not reach out to take the Host from the minister.*
- *Once the minister has moved to the next group, then remove your mask, receive the host, replace your mask and return to your pew by the closest side aisle. There is no need to hurry.*
- *We are receiving communion in one kind only (bread/host).*

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul’s. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, Dr. Martha Thomas, and Tim Yakim for their dedication and service.

A Service of Lessons & Carols

10:30 AM & 5:00 PM

PRELUDE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Craig Phillips

Stand

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful (LBW 45) Stanza 1



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;



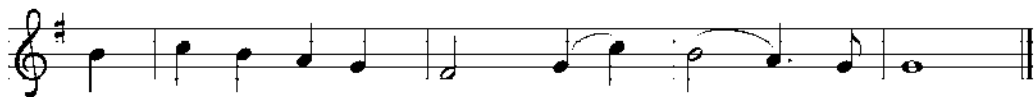
come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

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



ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of Jesus Christ who came to share our humanity, and who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

PREFACE

Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the prophet Isaiah spoke to the people of the ancient Jewish nation. As Isaiah spoke, the people faced some of the darkest days of their long history. Spiritual decay and political corruption had spiraled out of control to the point where the northern kingdom of Israel had been conquered by the neighboring Assyrians, and many of the Jewish people had been taken captive and led away into exile in Assyria. And now the southern Kingdom was being threatened by the Babylonians.

Those were fearful days, and the long-ago promise of a Messiah first heard in the Garden of Eden, was then repeated to the great patriarch Abraham, and then reiterated by the prophets through the centuries. That promise of a Messiah, a descendent of David, who would come to save his people—that seemed a distant memory.

But in Israel's days of desperation, Isaiah was called by God to speak again of the Messiah, and so it was during that turbulent time that Isaiah spoke these words:

READING **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LBW 34)

Stanzas sung by the Cantor Congregation joins in the refrain




- 1 Oh, come, oh, come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
- 2 Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on
- 3 Oh, come, strong Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's
- 4 Oh, come, blest Day-spring, come and cheer our spir - its by your
- 5 Oh, come, O Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 Si - nai's height in an - cient times once gave the law
 tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
 heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

Refrain



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 and close the path to mis - er - y.



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

PREFACE

How could it be that a virgin would bear a child? Who had ever heard of such a thing? The ancient prophet Isaiah had foretold it, but who believed it would actually happen? Seven hundred years passed after Isaiah's proclamation, and the strange words of the prophet were all but forgotten, until the angel Gabriel appeared to a young woman in the town of Nazareth,

SECOND READING Luke 2:26-38

²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

THIRD READING**Luke 2:1-20**

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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 for them in the inn.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Stand
CAROL

Angels We Have Heard On High (LBW 71) Stanza 1

An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.

Refrain
Glo - - - - - ri - a
in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo - - - - -
- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Sit
PREFACE

The mystery of mysteries is that God, who created the world, became man and lived among us. He sought not the kings and queens of this world nor the rich and influential but instead associated with the poor and despised and diseased. He came to seek and save the lost. Jesus did not come to condemn the world but to save the world, to redeem each one of us, to restore us to our status as beloved sons and daughters of God by forgiving our sinful and selfish rebellion. He lived a mean and spare existence, with nowhere to lay his head, weeping with those who wept, rejoicing with the joyful, healing the sick, raising the dead, and forgiving all who sought reconciliation with God. History has never seen anything else like it and will not, until he comes again.

FOURTH READING John 1:1-4

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

CAROL

What Child is This? (LBW 40)

Stanza 1—All

Stanzas 2&3—Solo



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Stand

PRAYERS

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Night and day, all creation praises you, O God. Strengthen your church across nations, denominations, and traditions. Fill us with wisdom and unify our proclamation of your forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All creation is holy to you, O God. You cause the earth to bring forth its shoots and

gardens to spring up. Protect hibernating animals and frozen lands that wait earnestly for longer days of awakening and growth. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The nations are upheld by your hand, O God. Cause righteousness and praise to spring forth, inspiring leaders to serve with compassion and integrity. Send your spirit of discernment upon legislators grappling with complex decisions for the sake of the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Send the spirit of your Son into our hearts, O God. Come quickly to hearts that race with fear, hearts that break with grief, and hearts that long for wholeness (*especially*). Reveal your power to heal and to save. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Bless our elders with the peace and joy of Simeon and Anna. Strengthen those who have retired, those who work in older age, and those in need of income, food, company, or health care. Connect young and old across generations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Let us depart in peace, O God, according to your word. For (*John, apostle and evangelist, and*) all your saints, we give you thanks. Prepare our salvation in the sight of all your witnesses of every time and place. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

CAROL *O Little Town of Bethlehem (LBW 41) Stanza 3 Solo Stanza 4 All*

3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray:

So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell:

where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

COLLECT FOR THE NATIVITY

And now, dear brothers and sisters, let us join our hearts with the ancient church in prayer as we are sent out with Christ's light within us:

Look upon us, O Lord, and let all the darkness of our souls vanish before the beams of your brightness. Fill us with holy love, and open to us the treasures of your wisdom. All our desire is known to you, therefore perfect what you have begun and what your Spirit has awakened us to ask in prayer. We seek your face; turn your face to us and show us your glory. Then will our longing be satisfied, and our peace shall be perfect. (*St. Augustine, 354-430*) **Amen**

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen

Sit

POSTLUDE

Good King Wenceslas

Raymond Weidner

*Please be respectful of distancing and personal space as you leave.
Feel free to gather outside for conversation.
Please take your service bulletin with you and dispose of it properly.*

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*The Altar Flowers are presented to the Glory of God in loving memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin E. Lanning by daughter, Mrs. Richard Ault & Family.*

2021 Calendar Sale—Make sure you get your copies of the 2021 calendar! They feature the watercolor paintings of Pastor Reep. The images highlight the beautiful cottages from the grounds of the Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua NY (painted during summer 2019) and fruits and flowers still life arrangements (painted during 2020). We ask for a minimum donation of \$20. All proceeds go to the Capital Campaign. The original paintings will be auctioned at our October 16th 2021 event. Thank you for supporting this fundraising effort.



Food Pantry—January

Items needed: Stuffing, Canned beans, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats, apple sauce, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dishes and peanut butter & jelly. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a “special” envelope marked “Pantry”.

In our prayers we remember...

***Candy Hutton, Connie Reed, Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp,
Bill Troutman, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List,
Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey.***

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