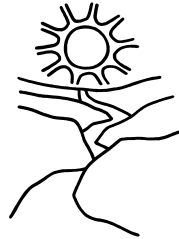


Third Sunday of Advent Children's Pageant Sunday



*December 17, 2023
10:00 am
St. Paul's Eggertsville Campus*

*Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2023*



Musician: Paul Storfer

Brief order for Confession and Forgiveness

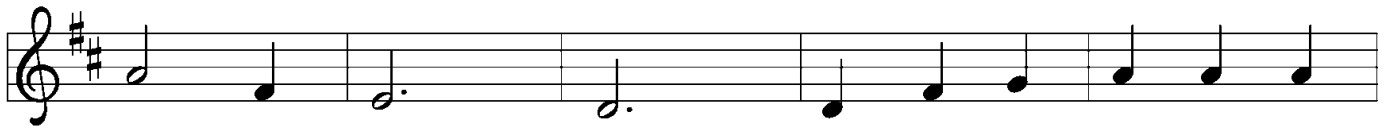
- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.
- C Amen.
- P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.
- C God for whom we wait, as church together, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.
- P God's love is unleashed into this world for all of us. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven and through the grace of Jesus, you are set free from the burdens of fear and shame.
- C Amen.

Opening Hymn: WOV 649

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

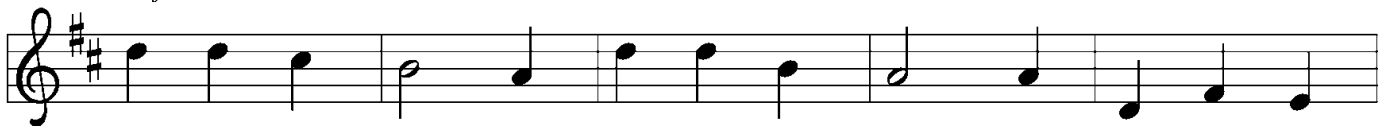


fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson

Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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Apostolic Greeting

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

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Lighting of Advent Wreath Hymn: ELW 262, sing twice



Wait for the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Text: Taizé Community

Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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Sunday School Christmas Pageant



Scene 1:

- ♦ Opening with Pastor Kristen
- ♦ Angel Gabriel visits Mary & Joseph

Scene 2:

- ♦ The narration of Caesar

Scene 3:

- ♦ Narration: It's almost time
- ♦ The road to Bethlehem

Song: Breath of Heaven: Mary and Joseph walk down the aisle

Scene 4:

- ♦ The inns are full
- ♦ The babe is born
- ♦ Angels arrive

Song: Hark the Herald Angels Sing: Congregation sings Verse 1:

Hark the herald angels sing
"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 sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

- ♦ Pastor Steve and the shepherds
- ♦ Shepherds enter the nativity

Song: Angels We Have Heard on High: Congregation sings Verse 2 and chorus:

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
 Why your joyous strains prolong?
 Say what may the tidings be
 Which inspire your heavenly song?

Chorus: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo

Scene 5:

- ♦ Narration of the Wise Men who followed the star

Song: We 3 Kings: Congregation sings Verse 1 and chorus:

We three kings of Orient are
 Bearing gifts we traverse afar
 Field and fountain, moor and mountain
 Following yonder star

**Chorus: O Star of wonder, star of night
 Star with royal beauty bright
 Westward leading, still proceeding
 Guide us to thy Perfect Light**

- ♦ Narration continues

Song: Silent Night: Congregation sings Verse 1:

Silent night, holy night
 All is calm, all is bring
 Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
 Holy Infant so tender and mild
 Sleep in heavenly peace
 Sleep in heavenly peace

Children sing: Away In the Manger: Verse 1



Apostle's Creed

A Let's join to proclaim our faith in the Apostles' Creed:

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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

Prayers of the Church

A With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration. (please kneel or sit as you are able)

Fill our mouths with laughter and our tongues with shouts of joy as we bear witness to the great things you have done. Give your church a spirit of gladness as we gather and as we are sent. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Let the trees of the field sing your praise. Protect forests, orchards, rainforests, and all wooded areas from disease and deforestation. Keep us grateful for their gifts of oxygen, food, shade, and shelter. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Bring peace and understanding to our world where we are overwhelmed with stories of war between nations, mass shootings, racial and gender hatred. Turn the tides Lord. Bless all those who are in the middle of these tragic events and use us to dismantle this hatred and evil and replace these stories with examples of justice, grace, and unity. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Give us strength to pray for our world without ceasing and provoke us toward love and good deeds for all who are in need, especially the people on our Prayer Lists and Prayer Chain, and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud. Provide for all without adequate housing, food, employment, or access to health care. Empower us as helpers and advocates. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Open our hearts to those who serve as truth-tellers in our church and in our society. Bless leaders in church and society in their task of proclamation. Amplify voices of peacemakers, advocates, and especially those whose voices are ignored or marginalized. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A With gratitude we rejoice in the saints who witnessed to your life in all circumstances, in whom your Spirit was not quenched, even in death. Through them, teach us always to hold fast to what is good. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Listen to these and all our prayers, O God of hosts, and restore us with your great and everlasting mercy.

C Amen.

Offering Music and Prayer

Ways to Give to St. Paul's

Options you can use to continue tithing to St. Paul's:

- **In-Person Worship:** Continue to put your envelopes and cash in the plate
- **Giving by Mail:** If you are not able to attend worship in person, please mail your donations payable to St. Paul's - 4007 Main Street, Eggertsville, NY 14226
- **Online:** On the St. Paul's website is a link to Online Giving which will allow you to donate either via PayPal or credit card. Click the Online Giving button and you will be taken to the site to set up an account, where to direct your donation, and the amount you want to donate.

The website is: <https://stpaulseggertsville.com/online-giving/>

P Let us pray.

C God of grace, we give you thanks for all the blessings you have poured into our lives. Thank you for the opportunities to share those blessings through and beyond St. Paul's. Use the gifts we offer here today and in our planned giving to bless the world with your hope, your presence, and your love. Amen

Dialogue and Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and proper that we should at all times and in all places, offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and speak their unending hymn:

Sanctus (spoken)

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

P In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

C 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

Holy Communion at St. Paul's: celebrated every time we gather, and is open to all. Please approach by the center aisle, receive the bread and the wine, and return to your seat via the side aisle. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Simply request it from the Assisting Minister holding the wine. Children are welcome! Those who receive elsewhere may receive here. Children who do not yet receive may come for a blessing. If you have difficulty walking, communion will be brought to you at your seat.

Communion Blessing

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

Prayer After Communion

- P Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
- C Amen.

Benediction

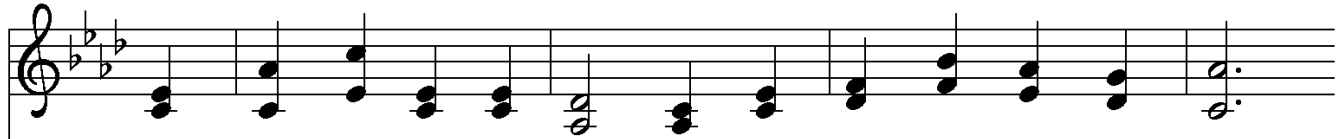
- P And now as you go on your way, may the Lord go with you. May he go before you to show you the way, behind you to encourage you, beside you to be your friend, above you to watch over you, and within you to give you peace. Go today celebrating in the name of the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all God's children said...
- C Amen

Closing Hymn: LBW 25 (on the following page)

Sharing the Peace and Sending

- P Go in peace to serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God.

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening This Week at St. Paul's: December 17-24, 2023

- TODAY:** 9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at ALC
10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: Worship, Communion, and Children's Christmas Pageant
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
- Monday:** 4:30-5:30 pm: Daily Bread Food Truck Meal Share
- Tuesday:** 10:00 am: Bible Study
5:00-6:30 pm: Recovery on Main Meeting (NA)
6:00 pm: Burrito Project
- Wednesday:** 8:00 pm: AA Meeting
- Thursday:** 3:00-6:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
6:00 pm: Emotional Sobriety II
- Saturday:** 9:00 am-12:30 pm: Tiger's Den Food Pantry Open
9:00 am-3:00 pm: Peniel Haitian Church at ALC
5:00 pm: *Christmas Eve Eve Worship and Communion at ALC*
- Sunday:** 9:30 am-1:30 pm: Western New York Church at ALC
10:00 am: Church Unleashed: YouTube, Facebook, and MeTV
10:00 am: *Christmas Eve Morning Worship and Communion at SPEC*
1:00 pm: Ray of Hope
7:00 pm: *Christmas Eve Evening Worship and Communion at SPEC*

Altar Flowers: Are given for the glory of God.

Prayer List: Shut-Ins (indicates new names or changes added this week)*

Ruth Blank: 2330 Maple Road, Apt. 374, Williamsville, NY 14221
Neal DeLeo: Bristol Village, 8455 Clarence Center Road, #105, Clarence Center, NY 14032
Marilyn Emerson: 33 Northfield Drive, Snyder, NY 14226
Jan Isaacs: 6 Bush Gardens, Three Rod Road, Alden, NY 14004
Omar Jenson: The Maplewood, 100 Daniel Drive, Webster, NY 14580
Dave Lampe: Ashley Woods, Room 8, 400 YMCA Way, Penfield, NY 14526
Elaine Masman: Doseberg Campus, Room 120, 2700 North Forest Rd., Getzville, NY 14068
Ralph Mast: 150 Bissel Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14211
Dorothy Menth: Elderwood at Basset Park, 245 Bassett Rd., #54, Williamsville, NY 14221
Wilma Nantka: Fredonia Place, 201 Reist Street, #238, Williamsville, NY 14221
David Wolf: Solstice, 6363 Transit Road, #244, East Amherst, NY 14051
Ron Wolfe: 324 Village Park Drive, Williamsville, NY 14221

Deacons: 12/17: Sara Gallagher; 12/24: Sara Gallagher/Barbara Walter

Ushers: 12/17: Mimi & Scott Fierle; 12/24:

Prayer List: In our congregational and extended family: Lorry Goldhawk (Tiger's Den volunteer); Jennifer Hoehn (Sandy Hoehn's daughter); Stephen Hehr (Jan Isaacs' friend); Thomas Maier

Bulletin Prayer List : Names will appear in the printed Bulletin for three weeks and then be moved to the Prayer Team list for continuing prayers. In this way, we will be able to continue praying for each person and provide specific requests for each one. If you are interested in becoming part of the Prayer Team, please see below.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In-Person Worship: St. Paul's has two in-person worship services: Saturday evening at 5:00 pm at the Amherst Lutheran Campus, and Sunday morning at 10:00 am at the Eggertsville Campus. Please be respectful of people around you regarding distancing and their comfort levels. The Sunday 10:00 am worship service is also livestreamed on St. Paul's YouTube page.

Church Unleashed: If you cannot join us for in-person worship, please continue to worship with us as Church Unleashed on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am on WBBZ, YouTube, or Facebook.

ALC Book Club: Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 11, 2024. The book will be *The Humans* by Matt Haig. At the January meeting we'll replenish the "reading box" with new titles to provoke interesting discussions. In January and February, stormy weather months, please be sure to check your email late on the day of the meeting in case of cancellation, or call me if you have any questions (716-689-6365 or karinej@roadrunner.com.) Thanks for your enthusiastic participation in book club which always enriches, enlightens and broadens my reading horizons. Karin

Prayer Team Ministry: The Prayer Team Ministry is up and running. Once a week you will receive an email with a list of people to pray for and specific requests for that person. We ask that you commit to praying for the names on the email. If you'd like to join us, please contact Heidi at: Heidi@stpaulseggertsville.com

Daily Bread Food Truck: The 2023-2024 Monday Meal Share is underway. If you are interested in volunteering or donating, contact the office at 716-835-0407 or dailybread4007@gmail.com

Tigers Den Food Pantry: The Food Pantry is open to anyone in need in zip code 14226 or by referral. The remaining pantry hours for December are: Thursday, 12/21 from 3:00 pm-6:30 pm; and Saturday 12/23 from 9:00 am-12:30 pm. Donations for December: pasta, granola bars, cooking oil.

christmas eve SERVICES

Saturday, December 23: 5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Eve Worship and Communion Service at Amherst Lutheran Campus

Sunday, December 24: 10:00 am: Christmas Eve Morning Worship and Communion Service at Eggertsville Campus

7:00 pm: Christmas Eve Evening Worship and Communion Service at Eggertsville Campus



Saturday, December 30: 5:00 pm: Family Blessing Service, Worship, and Communion at Amherst Lutheran Campus

Sunday, December 31: 10:00 am: Family Blessing Service, Worship, and Communion at Eggertsville Campus



BLUE CHRISTMAS

Thursday, Dec. 21 at 7:00 pm

Parkside Lutheran, Buffalo and
Zion Lutheran, Clarence Center



*+ St. Paul's Mission +
To empower others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.
We do that by: Seeking Connections, Enriching Faith, Nourishing Lives,
and Demonstrating Love in God's Name.*

St. Paul's Congregation Council

*President: Kathryn Francis
Vice-President: Robert Simpson
Treasurer: William Niblock
Secretary: Scott Vahue*

*Bob Brown Karlen Chase David Dahlberg Susan Epstein
Sara Hannon Gerri Horton Janet Schmidt Vanessa Solomon*

Pastors

*Steve Biegner (716-868-1232 - cell); Email: steve@stpaulseggertsville.com
Kristen Arends: Cell: 716-481-8728; Email: kristen@stpaulseggertsville.com*

Directors of Music

*Paul H. Storfer (SPEC)
Adam Schmidt (ALC)*

Christian Education Coordinator

June Piette

Youth Ministry

Adam Weber

Digital Ministry

Andrew Gruszka

Church Office Staff

*Heidi Ginal, Adrienne Leary, and Judy Polowy
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Website: www.stpaulseggertsville.com*