



SAINT PAUL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A safe place to be authentic and to experience acceptance,
healing, and a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

ORDINARY CHRISTMAS



HOW THE DIVINE
USES THE ORDINARY
TO DO THE IMMACULATE.

PIC-COLLAGES

Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22, 2024

864-235-3494 - saintpaulumc1107@gmail.com

Live-streaming Worship Service at 11:00am at www.facebook.com/saintpaulumcsc/

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Greer

Stay connected to your Saint Paul family

Saintpaulgreenville.org

Vimeo.com/saintpaulumc

Podcast: podomatic.com/podcasts/saintpaulumc1107

Staff

Director of Music: William H. Searcy, Jr.

Church Administrator: Melissa Campbell

Sexton: Gary Putnam

Please silence your mobile device. Thank you.

*Please stand as you are able.

Gathering

Welcome and Announcements

Chiming of the Trinity

Prelude "Away In A Manger" Murray

*Processional Hymn "Away In A Manger" Hymnal no.217

Lighting of the Candles

*Call to Worship

Leader: You could've come like a mighty storm

People: with all the strength of a hurricane.

Leader: You could've come like a forest fire

People: with the power of heaven in Your flame.

Leader: But You came like a winter snow,

People: quiet and soft and slow,

Leader: falling from the sky in the night

People: to the Earth below.

*Opening Prayer

Leader: Let us pray

All: In the ordinary that covers and fills this world, may we never forget the extraordinary things you've done, are doing, will do. May we never forget those divine words to Mary: "For nothing shall be impossible with God.". Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: Let us pass God's peace with each other. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Anthem Carol Sing Along Congregation

"O Little Town of Bethlehem" Hymnal no.230

"Silent Night" Hymnal no.239

"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" Hymnal no.240

"Once in Royal David's City" Hymnal no.250

Word and Response

Children's Sermon

Children will come forward.

Following the children's sermon, we invite our K3 to 2nd grade children to follow the designated adult upstairs for a lesson and craft. Please follow the instructions on the name tag found in the back of your pew. At the end of the Prayers of the People, the adult leaders will bring them back to the sanctuary and ensure they return to their parent/guardian.

Offertory

You can give online by using the QR codes below or by dropping your offering in the plate.



Realm



*The Doxology

Hymnal No. 95

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Between song and word, show us how you use the ordinary in your holy and perfect plan; and count us amongst that ordinary that you can use. Amen.

*Affirmation of Faith

"The Apostles' Creed"

UM Hymnal #881

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Gloria Patri

Hymnal no.70

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

*Sermon Scripture

Luke 1:46-51

NRSV (pg.53 NT)

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon Series Part 3 "Ordinary Christmas: Mary" Rev. Matthew Greer

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Response: Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The 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. Amen.

Sending

*Closing Hymn "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear" Hymnal no.218

*Benediction

Postlude "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" Traditional

Our Tithes, Offerings, and Gifts

Giving for 12/15/2024	Amount
General Fund	\$8,636.83
Other funds	\$541.98
Total Giving	\$9,178.81
General Fund Giving Goal per month	\$22,110.38
General Fund Giving Goal per week	\$5,527.60
General Fund Received this month to date	\$12,472.36

Today's Servers:

Reader: Karsyn Miller

Acolyte: Maddie Miller

Advent Candles: The Gamble family

Crucifer: Wesley Miller

Children's Worship: Lauren Searcy

Away in a Manger

217

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,
 2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes;
 close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray;

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus, look down from the sky
 bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given;
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by.
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 so God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light;
 O morn - ing stars to - geth - er, pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
 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;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!
 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Silent Night, Holy Night

239

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
 1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*
 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;
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star, lend thy light;

round yon vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold - er Kna - be mit lock - i - gem Haar,
 glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;
 st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)

MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT
 Irr.

240 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3. Hail the heaven - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right - eous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

BIRTH AND BAPTISM

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Once in Royal David's City 250

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of
 3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day, like us he
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing

shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
 all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
 grew; he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and
 love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our

man - ger for his bed; Ma - ry, lov - ing moth - er
 cra - dle was a stall. With the poor, the scorned, the
 smiles like us he knew; and he feel - eth for our
 Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
 low - ly lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

218 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous song of old,
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,

from an-gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heav-en-ly mu-sic floats o'er all the wea-ry world;
 who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,
 when with the ev-er-cir-cling years shall come the time fore-told

"Peace on the earth, good will to men,* from heaven's all-gracious King."
 a-bove its sad and low-ly plains, they bend on hover-ing wing,
 look now! for glad and gold-en hours come swift-ly on the wing.
 when peace shall o-ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,

The world in sol-umn still-ness lay, to hear the an-gels sing.
 and ev-er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless-ed an-gels sing.
 O rest be-side the wea-ry road, and hear the an-gels sing!
 and the whole world send back the song which now the an-gels sing.

*"all" may be substituted

Important Dates to Remember

Sun, 12/22	Fourth Sunday in Advent	
Tues, 12/24	Christmas Eve Service: Saint Paul	5:00pm
Wed, 12/25	Christmas Day	
12/25 - 1/1	Office Closed	

Upcoming events:

Sun, 12/29	Worship	11:00am
Tues, 12/31	New Year's Eve	
Wed, 1/1/2025	New Year's Day	

Weekly Events

Every Wednesday	Chancel Choir rehearsal: Saint Paul	7:00pm
Every Sunday	Youth Group: Saint Paul	5:30pm

From Pastor Matt

(You can always reach me at 864-421-3800 or matthewegreer@gmail.com)

I am starting out the new year with a new phone! Please take a couple of minutes to send a text to the number above with your name. Thank you!

Office Hours: We are open from 8:30am until 1:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday and 8:30 to 12:30 on Wednesday. I am available at the above contact info and/or contact the office via the church email and phone during these hours. ***The office will be closed 12/25 through 1/1/2025.***

Saint Paul Cares

Happy Birthday: MaryAnn Stephens, 12/24

Happy Anniversary: There are no anniversaries this week.

In your prayers, please remember:

Roger Barrett, Chelsea Biggers, Annette Bostic, Thomas Brown, Linda Bruce, William Bruce (Bruce/Terminato family), Jere, Byington, Ray Byington, Van Clinkscapes, Connie Cox, Darrie Crabtree, *Patsy Crabtree*, Natalie Davis, *Catherine Gilstrap*, Marie Good, Doris Goodwin, Carol Head, Sue Howard, Dot Huff, Missy Huff, Stacy & Jeff Israel, Lee Jenkinson, Carol Johnson, Jean Jones, Larry Jones, Brent Kanipe, Tinsley Lyles, Chuck McLesky, Betty McWhite, Alan Myers, Faye Mulligan, Ronnie Roberts, Diane Robertson, Beth Rogers, Joyce Searcy, Deirdra Simmons, Nancy Smith, Suzanne Sprinkle, Alicia Terminato, Barry & Karen Thomas, *Lily Thompson*, friends serving in the Armed Services,

first responders, and the leaders of the United States of America. (Bold = New, Italics = Currently in hospital or rehabilitation)

Upcoming Meetings



Trustees: Will be meeting on 1/7/2025 at Saint Paul at 7pm. Please note this is a change of day. Members are John Sprinkle, Chris Cox, Neal Franks, Marcus Stephens, Elliott Hall, Stephanie Gamble, and Tracey Biggers. All are welcome!



S/PPRC: Will be meeting on 1/13 at 8pm via Zoom. Members are Christine Hall, Steve Vaughn, Edna Patterson, John Tate, Janet Cook, Tommy Head, Eugenia Vicars, and Pastor Matt. This is a closed meeting.



Finance Committee: Will be meeting on 1/20 at 8pm via Zoom. Members are Stephen Newman, David Knobloch, Eugenia Vicars, Dot Huff and Pastor Matt. All are welcome!



Church Council: Will be meeting on 1/27. Members are Heather Storey, Camille Pool, Eugenia Vicars, David Knobloch, Stephen Newman, Christine Hall, John Sprinkle, Carol Head, MaryAnn Stephens, Bill Searcy, Edna Patterson, Debra Hampton, Mary Anne Terminato, and Pastor Matt. New members are welcome to attend. All are welcome!

Announcements & Upcoming Events

YOUTH GROUP: Join us at 5:30pm.

THE CHOSEN: We are watching *The Chosen* during the Sunday School hour. We are watching on the 3rd floor in the youth rooms. This is open for all ages to join us. The first season is rated TVPG.

STEWARDSHIP 2025: Pledge cards are available in the narthex next to the offering box.

BAG PACKING: We will be packing food bags for Greenville County students on 1/7 at 10am at MT Anderson located at 100 Blassingame at 10am. All volunteers are welcome. For more information, please see Pastor Matt.

CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



Join us on 12/24 at
5pm for our
Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service.

