



St. Paul's
United Methodist Church

Blue Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 17th, 7:00 p.m.

Gathering Music	“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”	<i>Molly MacMillan, piano</i>
Greeting		
Hymn	“Be Still My Soul”	UMH #534, v.1,3
Scripture	Luke 6: 17-23	
Hymn	“O, Little Town of Bethlehem”	UMH #230, v.1
A Litany for Losses Loss of Life Loss of Livelihood		
Hymn	“Abide with Me”	UMH #700, v.1,2
A Litany for Losses Loss of Love Loss of Liveliness		
Hymn	“In the Bleak Midwinter”	UMH #221, v.1, 2
More Light	Psalm 36: 9	
Ritual of Hope		
Special Music	“You Can Close Your Eyes” by James Taylor	<i>Molly MacMillan, piano</i> <i>Maia Finkel, vocals and guitar</i>
Closing		
Postlude	“Prelude from Cello Suite No. 1” by JS Bach	<i>Molly MacMillan, piano</i>

Christmas Eve at St. Paul's UMC, Ithaca

Join us as we retell and celebrate the birth of Jesus with Christmas carols and candles on **December 24th at 7pm**. God's love came down at Christmas in an unlikely time of the Pax Romana. It was a time in need of hope. We pray our time together may bring back hope in our times, today.

Singing and Sweaters December 28th

The Sunday after Christmas, December 28th, will be worship filled with Christmas hymns and lightheartedness. We'll celebrate the birth of Jesus and look forward to the coming of the Magi. Please join us wearing an "ugly Christmas sweater" ready to sing and celebrate!

New Study Group to Start in January

In January we'll begin a small group study, "The United Methodist Way: Living Our Beliefs." We'll explore a basic explanation of the beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church. Uncover a deeper understanding and experience of Christian faith as we embrace the United Methodist way.

Join us Mondays at 7:00pm or Tuesdays at 11:00am. To sign up, contact Dee at office@stpaulsithaca.org. For questions, email Pastor Alicia at pastor@stpaulsithaca.org.

Be Still, My Soul

1. Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side.
 2. Be still, my soul: your God will un - der - take
 3. Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain;
 to guide the fu - ture, as in a - ges past.
 when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord,

leave to your God to or - der and pro - vide;
 Your hope, your con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake;
 when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and fear are gone,

in ev - ery change God faith - ful will re - main.
 all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at last.
 sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re - stored.



Be still, my soul: your best, your heaven-ly friend
Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still know
Be still, my soul: when change and tears are past,



through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
the Christ who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.



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!

Abide with Me

1. A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3. I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour.
 4. I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 5. Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
 earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
 What but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 Heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

Help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 O Thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

In the Bleak Midwinter

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1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2. Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath-ered there,
 4. What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign.
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thron - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 but his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 Lord God Al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what I can I give him: give my heart.