



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

“A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit.”

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24th, 2025 ~ 7:00 p.m.

*Indicates a standing portion of the service. Please stand as you are able.

Gathering Music

“O Holy Night”
arr. by JM Stevens

Sondra Wayman, piano
Claire Wayman, flute

“Choral Prelude on ‘Quittez, Pasteurs’”
arr. by FD Ashdown

Sondra Wayman,
organ

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent”
arr. by LH Pederson

“Still, Still, Still”
arr. by JH Pederson

Greeting & Welcome

Centering Music

“The First Noel”

Molly MacMillan, piano
Maia Finkel, vocals
Aleta Tessaglia-Hymes, saxophone

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting

Jami & Diana Breedlove-Crouch

***Hymn**

“What Child Is This?”

UMH #219, v.1

***Opening Prayer (unison)**

**Here, at the nativity of your birth,
give us the courage to face this moment
with humility and hope.**

**Open us to new understandings of
the unfolding story of your presence among us.**

**Show us the true meaning of the kingdom on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**We pray in the name of the Child,
the One Who Reigns in our hearts and lives. Amen**

***Hymn**

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

UMH #218, v.1

Scripture

Luke 2: 1-3

Elaine Weiss

***Hymn**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

UMH #230, v.1
Sondra Wayman, organ
Maia Finkel, vocals

Las Posadas

(Lines in bold to be sung to tune of “Good King Wenceslas”)

“Knock-knock-knock”

Ascension Window Side Sing:

In the name of God, we beg: will you let us enter?

Christ Knocking Window Side Sing:

**You look dirty and you smell. Will you please keep moving?
For your kind there is no place, for our inn is decent.**

“Knock-knock-knock”

Ascension Window Side Sing:

**It is not by our own choice that today we travel.
But the emperor has said that all must be counted.**

Christ Knocking Window Side Sing:

**For your reasons we care not; every room is taken.
Can’t you see the place is full? You are bad for business.**

; “Knock-knock-knock”

Ascension Window Side Sing:

**Will the child be born tonight out on a street corner?
Can’t you find a place for him? Do you have no pity?**

Christ Knocking Window Side Sing:

**Oh, my goodness, do come in. You can use the manger.
For the rooms that we do have are for a rich trav’ler.**

ALL Sing:

**Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favor.**

Scripture

Luke 2: 6-7

Jami Breedlove-Crouch

Special Music

“What Child is This?”
arr. by Ruth Schram

Chancel Choir
Aleta Tessaglia-Hymes,
Erika St. Denis, saxophone

Children’s Message

***Hymn**

“Come You Unfaithful” (*Insert*)

Tune of UMH#234
Sondra Wayman, organ
Maia Finkel, vocals

Message

“Who Me?”

Pastor Alicia Wood

Scripture

Luke 2: 8-18

Jami Breedlove-Crouch

Hymn "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" UMH#236, v.1, 2
Sondra Wayman, organ
Maia Finkel, vocals

Offering

Offertory "Go Tell It on the Mountain" *Molly MacMillan, piano*
Aleta Tessaglia-Hymes, saxophone
Erika St. Dennis, saxophone
Grace Demerath, French horn
Maia Finkel, cajon

Prayer of Dedication *Pastor Alicia Wood*

Christmas Unison Prayer

**Holy Living One,
Child of Light,
Spirit of Resilience,
we come to you today weary of the violence of history.
We know you are with us,
for you came to our human story when we needed your message so much.
We still do.**

**We ask, "What child is this who we follow, and who are we
in the scene of this unfolding story?"
The manger heralds the truth, "We are not alone."
We thank you for your presence breaking into our lives,
showing us the light of hope, peace, joy, and love.
And we ask for the courage to step into the scene,
preparing the way for your reign.
Be with us as we seek to be the Body of Christ in the world.
Amen.**

***Hymn** "Silent Night" (by candlelight) UMH #239, v.1-4
Sondra Wayman, organ
Maia Finkel, vocals
Aleta Tessaglia-Hymes, saxophone
Erika St. Dennis, saxophone
Grace Demerath, French horn

***Benediction**

Postlude "Toccata from Symphony V" *Sondra Wayman, organ*
by CM Widor

St. Paul's Meets for Worship Each Sunday at 10:30am.
Questions can be directed to Dee in the office at: office@stpaulsithaca.org

Faith Explorers, our Sunday School meets during worship each Sunday at 10:45am.
For further details, please contact Joellyn Tuttle at jrwuttlet@gmail.com.
Faith Explorers resumes on Sunday, January 11th.

Christmas Offering

St. Paul's 2025 Christmas offering will support two causes: The Sanctuary & Organ Renovation Fund and Cornell Protestant Cooperative Ministries, an ecumenical ministry with Cornell students seeking faith development and nurturing. Your generous gifts are greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to "St. Paul's UMC" and write "Christmas Offering" on the memo line.

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.

United Women in Faith Meets January 22nd

Email Wendy Kimble Dugan at wendykaydee@gmail.com for questions and details.

LGBTQ Vow Renewal at St. Paul's on February 15th

St. Paul's and our Reconciling Team will be offering the congregation a "Vow Renewal Ceremony" for those LGBTQ couples that were married in another state, country, or outside the church. This ceremony is open to any already married same gender couple. For more info and to be included in the vow renewal, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: Breedlove.Jami@gmail.com

Mission of the Month

In January, we'll be highlighting Code Blue through donations and awareness. Please email Jami at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org for a list of needed donation items

Connections Resumes in February

Connections, our young adult group, will resume their monthly meetings on Sunday, February 1st after worship at noon. Lunch will be provided.

Coffee with the Pastor will continue on Wednesday Mornings at 9:45am in the Memorial Room. Come to pray, talk, and ask questions. All are welcome!

Our Staff

Rev. Alicia (Pastor Alicia) Wood / Senior Pastor / pastor@stpaulsithaca.org
Jami Breedlove-Crouch / Loving Care Ministries Coordinator / lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org
Dee Levine / Church Administrative Assistant & Communications / office@stpaulsithaca.org
Michelle Eells / Business & Building Ministries Coordinator / business@stpaulsithaca.org
Maia Finkel / Choral and Ensembles Director / choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org
Molly MacMillan / Pianist / pianist@stpaulsithaca.org
David Kingsley / Technical Director / dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org
Dorothy Preston / Festival Chimes Director / dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org
Sue Orzel / Custodian

What Child Is This

219

1. What child is this who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant,

lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tians, fear, for
 king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

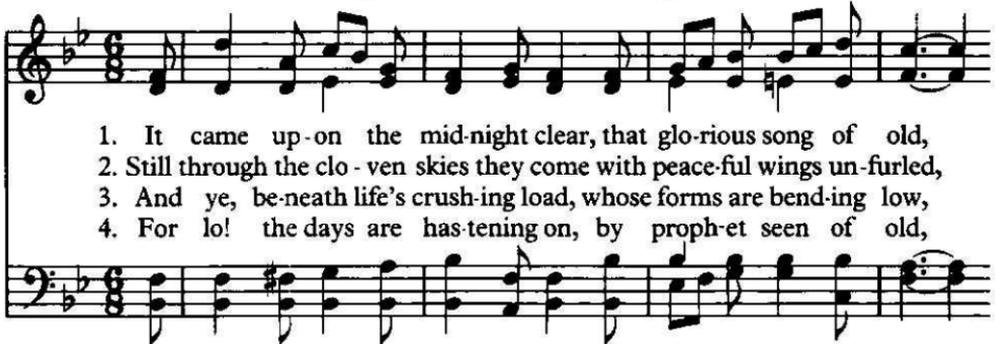
an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

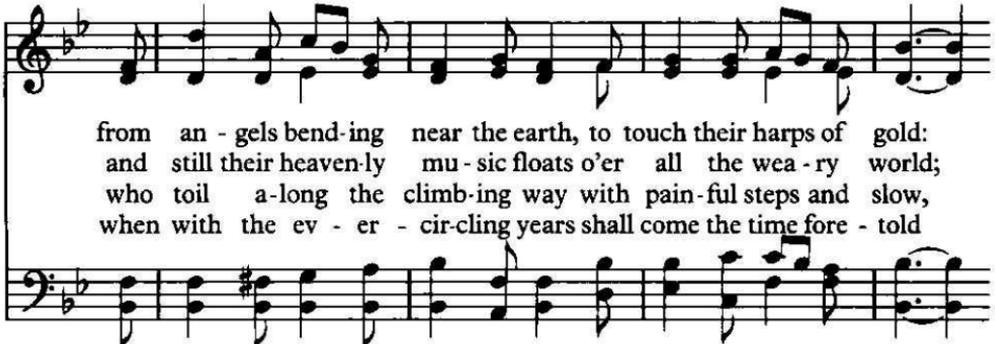
Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;

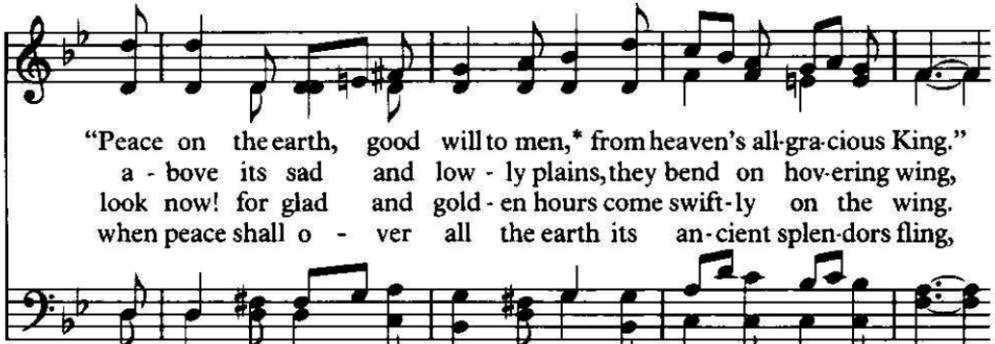
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

218 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

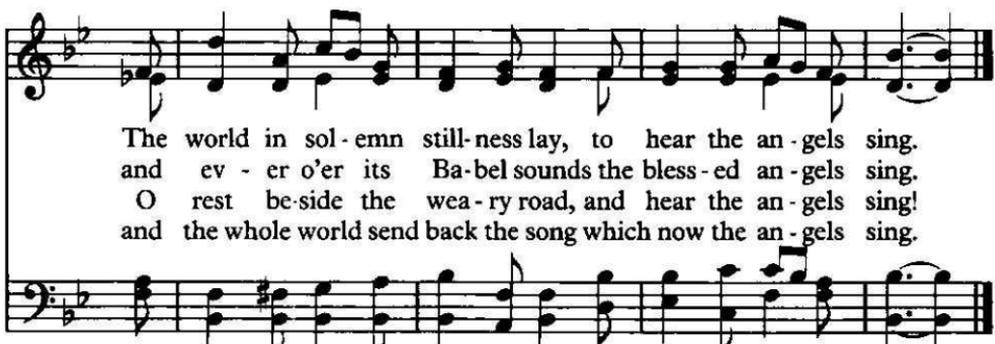
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1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-ri-ous song of old,
 2. Still through the clo-ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,
 3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,
 4. For lo! the days are has-tening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

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!

Come You Unfaithful Lyrics by Michael Boggs (adapted)

Come you unfaithful
Come all you unworthy
O Come you with nothing to offer Him
Come you unrighteous
Come you undeserving

Rejoice He came for you
Rejoice He came for you
Rejoice He came for you
Christ the Lord

Come all you anxious
Waiting and wanting
O Come if your burdens are all you can bring
Weary from silence
And questions without answers

Rejoice He came for you
Rejoice He came for you
Rejoice He came for you
Christ the Lord

Come all you prideful
Boasting in your power
O Come if you're trusting in the strength you bring
Come self-sufficient
And you with all the answers

Rejoice He came for you
Rejoice He came for you
Rejoice He came for you
Christ the Lord

source: https://www.lyricsondemand.com/michael_boggs/come_you_unfaithful

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
 1. *A - des - te, fi - de - les, lae - ti tri - um - phan - tes; ve -*
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O
 * 4. See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra - dle,

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.
ni - te, ve - ni - te in Beth - le - hem.
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Na - tum vi - de - te Re - gem an - ge - lor - um.
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,
Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,

O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.
ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, Do - mi - num.

236 While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

1. While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed
 2. "Fear not!" said he, for might-y dread had seized their
 3. "To you, in Da-vid's town, this day is born of
 4. "The heav-en-ly babe you there shall find to hu-man
 5. Thus spake the ser-aph and forth-with ap-peared a
 6. "All glo-ry be to God on high, and to the

on the ground, the an-gel of the Lord came down,
 trou-bled mind. "Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring
 Da-vid's line a Sav-ior, who is Christ the Lord,
 view dis-played, all mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands,
 shin-ing throug of an-gels prais-ing God on high,
 earth be peace; good will hence-forth from heaven to earth

and glo-ry shone a-round, and glo-ry shone a-round.
 to all of hu-man-kind, to all of hu-man-kind.
 and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:
 and in a man-ger laid, and in a man-ger laid."
 who thus ad-dressed their song, who thus ad-dressed their song:
 be-gin and nev-er cease, be-gin and nev-er cease!"



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 you 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, heaven-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!

