

December 3, 2023 ~ 1st Sunday of Advent

Gathering Music ~ Mark Handford

Welcome and Announcements ~ Don Tulley, liturgist

Prelude and Procession of the Elements of Communion

"Light One Candle" (N. Sleeth)

Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.

He brings hope to every heart, He comes, He comes. (repeat)

Lighting of the Advent Candle ~ Mike and Margaret Weber

Call to Worship ~ *responsive*

Leader: Let us magnify the Lord together.

People: Let us rejoice in God our Savior.

Leader: For a child will come from Bethlehem

People: to redeem the people of God. Thanks be to God. Amen.

**you are invited to stand in body or in spirit*

***Hymn #88 ~ "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** (v. 1)

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession ~ *in unison*

God of hope, God of love, you have brought hope into our lives and renewed our souls through Jesus Christ. For the times that we have sinned and strayed from you, forgive us. Bring us back to you in your mercy. Amen.

(A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Responsive Chorus #630 ~ *"Fairest Lord Jesus"* (v. 4)

Beautiful Savior! Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!

Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine!

Passing the Peace

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

Responsive Chorus #627 ~ *"I Love You, Lord"* (x 2)

I love you, Lord, and I lift my voice to worship you; O, my soul, rejoice.

Take joy, my King, in what you hear; may it be a sweet, sweet sound in your ear.

Offering Prayer

Offertory #82 ~ *“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”*

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture ~ Psalm 80:1-7

Special Music ~ *“Be a Candle of Hope”* (B. Slagle Mayo) ~ Celebration Choir

Christian Scripture ~ Romans 8:22-27

Message ~ “Hope”

*Hymn #123 ~ *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”* (v. 1,4,5)

A time for sharing the joys and concerns of our community.

Congregational Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer ~ *in unison*

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ~ *responsive*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

“All Belong Here”~ (L. Rand/H. Rand) as recorded by The Many
Come and remember who you are here. Do this to remember who I am.
Come and remember you belong here. All belong here.
At this table come as you are, broken and bleeding's ok.
At this table eat and be filled, come and drink in this grace.
Come and remember who you are here. Do this to remember who I am.
Come and remember you belong here. All belong here.

Breaking of the Bread and Sharing of the Cup

Prayer after Communion

*Hymn #105 - *"People, Look East"*

*Benediction

Choral Response #100 - *"Canticle of the Turning"* (v. 1 and refrain)
*My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?
My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

Postlude

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#505455650

REMINDER: THANK YOU to those who have made a 2024 stewardship commitment. And if you have not yet done so, please prayerfully consider making a pledge as soon as possible so that the 2024 budget may be prepared.

Pledges to date: General Fund: \$86,408.00. 2024 Goal: \$225,000.00.

ROMANS Cookies for Crossroads Farm will follow the service today, in the Social Hall.

The **Redford Civic Symphony** will present their *Winter Fest* concert at St. Paul's TODAY, December 3, at 3:00PM. Their annual Bake Sale will follow.

From Karen Barsy...*Holiday Moving With the Spirit* will be meeting to share movement, scripture, imagery, and fellowship on **Tuesday mornings at 10:30AM on December 5, 12, and 19** in Room 11 and online via GoogleMeet. As we move through Advent, we will celebrate the anticipation of waiting right up to the joy of the season together!!

Fee is \$15.00 payable to Karen.

The **Mission Team** has planned a ½ day volunteer opportunity at **Forgotten Harvest** on **Wednesday, December 6, 2023 from 9:00AM-Noon.**

Meet at St. Paul's at 8:30AM to carpool. Please sign up in the lobby.

Firestorm A Cappella, the group directed by Brian Haverkate which meets at St. Paul's on Thursday evenings, will present their concert in the **Social Hall on Thursday, December 7 at 8:00PM. \$5.00 cash at the door.**

A congregational meeting is called for Sunday, December 10, 2023 for the purpose of the election of officers.

From Jim Day...I wish to **thank everyone** for their thoughts, prayers, and phone calls during my time of surgery, before and after. They have meant a lot to me. I am blessed with not only a

great caregiver, who is also my best friend, but many caring Christian friends. Thank you.

From Kathy Potter...St. Paul's Giving Tree 2023 will be supporting the **Oakland County Foster Closet** that supports foster children and needy families in Oakland & Wayne County. Collections will begin **Sunday, December 3rd & run through Sunday, January 7th.**

The Session has set the Annual Meeting of the Congregation date as February 11, 2024.

Please hold those listed in prayer... and REVIEW and REPORT updates, PLEASE!



Bill Garvey, Mike Graham, Janet Frank, Grace Erwin
August and Faith Kornowicz, Karen Bright, Steve Boyak, Sheldon Davis, Pam Phillips
Suzanne Tabaka, Jim Roye, Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell
Susan Grant, Bruce Phillips, Anna Richardson, Nate Statly (MSU shooting victim) ~ friend of Joey Nicholas
Kris Purdy ~ niece of Grace Erwin; Julie Newell ~ cousin of Pam Phillips
Elizabeth ~ sister-in law of Pat Garvey and Andy ~ nephew of Pat Garvey
Linda Thompson and her sister, Shirley Kircoff
Joan Velis and family; John Branch ~ father of Christie Piastowski
Dave Schulz ~ nephew of Carol and Mike Graham
Cousins of Terry Earnley and Jennifer Speiles ~ friend of Terry Earnley
Lois Wludyka and John Candiloro ~ friends of August Kornowicz
Ray and Mary Clark ~ neighbors of Don and Meta Tulley
Richard Rosenberg and Mike Hyatt ~ friends of Judy McGregor
Sarah and Mason Young ~ family of Judy McGregor
Ben Abela ~ son-in-law of August and Faith Kornowicz
Macaylah Whitlock ~ daughter of the Rev. Kellie and Marc Whitlock
Pamela Serene ~ daughter of the late Marilyn Allen, Nicole Snead ~ daughter of Bill VanEck
Nancy Kreipke ~ mother of Christian; Rich McKenzie ~ son of Jean
Erin Lewis ~ daughter of Pattie Benoit; Phyllis Badman ~ niece of Georgia Hunt
Christie Piastowski ~ daughter of Karen Bright; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike and Carol Graham
Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of the late Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda Seymour
David Bonandrini ~ son of Ben; Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook
Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips; Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling and Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron and Janet Frank
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon and Marion Davis