

December 5, 2021 ~ 2nd Sunday of Advent

Welcome and Announcements ~ Jan Lapenta

Prelude ~ Leigh Emmett

*Light One Candle”* (N. Sleeth)

***Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.***

***He brings peace to ev’ry heart, He comes! He comes!*** (repeat)

Lighting of the Advent Candle by the VanEck Family

Call to Worship ~ *responsive*

Leader: In the Beginning was the Word.

People: **And the Word was with God and the Word was God.**

Leader: In him was life and that life was the light of all people.

People: **The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**Alleluia, Amen.**

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

*\*Hymn #366 ~ “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”*

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession ~ *in unison*

Jesus, you are the source of all life and light in our lives and world. We praise you for your loving gifts shown in your birth, life, death and resurrection. Yet Lord, we confess that we have strayed into darkness and sin. Forgive us in your mercy of Jesus. Refine us and renew us with your Spirit so that we would follow where your light and call leads us. Amen. (A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Forgiveness

Responsive Chorus #88 ~ *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”* (refrain)

***Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.***

Passing the Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Responsive Chorus #123 ~ *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”* (v. 1)

***It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:***

***“Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven’s all gracious King”:  
the world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.***

Offering Prayer

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture ~ Malachi 3:1-4

Special Music ~ Katie Achterhof

Scripture ~ Luke 3:1-6

Message ~ “Prophetic Promises: Refinement to Come”

\*Hymn #128 ~ *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

Community at Prayer

Prayer Preparation ~ *“Hear Our Prayer, O Lord”*

***Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord;  
Incline Thine ear to us, And grant us Thy peace.***

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 #143 - *"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"*

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response #113 - *"Angels We Have Heard on High"* (refrain)

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Postlude

CCLI#2342595/20863950 CVLI#504369287

Coffee Hour following worship today.

A Congregational Meeting is called for Sunday, December 12,  
for the purpose of electing officers.

Candidates: Ruling Elders: Class of 2024 - Karen Barsy and Kathy VanEck

Deacons: Class of 2023 - John DeSautel; Class of 2024 - Pattie Benoit and  
Terry Earnley

Trustees: Class of 2023 - Mike Graham; Class of 2024 - Jim Day, Jeanne Sinclair,  
and Jerry Stone

Foundation: Class of 2026 - Barbara DeLong

Nominations Committee Members: Richard Sherby and Joan Velis

Financial Review Committee: Jim Day, John Lapenta, and Kathy VanEck

Stewardship Campaign Update: 62% of the goal of \$225,000.00 has been met with  
37 pledging units committed for a total of \$140,848.00. Thank you to all who have  
completed commitment cards for 2022. If you have not yet made your  
commitment, please do so as soon as possible so that the 2022 budget  
may be set.

The Giving Tree is in the lobby, ready to receive donations. The list of  
suggestions is on the sign. Advent Devotionals are available on the lobby table.

From Kathy Potter...ROMANS 12:4 : Cookies for Crossroads Farm  
December 12, in the Social Hall, following worship

We will gather for a meal, Christmas carols & packaging up 125 Christmas cookie decorating kits for the rural youth served by Crossroad Farms in western Michigan! Lunch will be prepared by the VanEcks! There will be a freewill offering available to cover the cost of the meal. Everyone is invited!

We will be requesting assistance from anyone who would be willing to bake **LARGE, PLAIN SUGAR** cookies to be **BAGGED BY THE DOZEN IN GALLON ZIPLOCK BAGS**. They can be Christmas shaped or round, but **NOT** decorated, as we are making cookie-decorating kits for the youth to decorate themselves! We need 125 dozen. Cookies can be brought in Sunday, December 12th, bagged & ready to be boxed & included in the kit.

Please sign up by Tuesday, December 7th in the church lobby or by responding to this invitation. Indicate how many will be participating on Sunday, so we can plan for the meal. Also indicate if you will be willing to bake and how many dozen you can provide.

**If baking isn't your thing, Gordon Food Service has Christmas shaped sugar cookies ready to bake in boxes of 6 dozen!!! No mixing! Just bake, cool & bag!**

On Sunday, the 12th, we will be boxing cookies, bagging sprinkles, and assembling the decorating kit for gifting! Crossroads Farm is a Christian ministry to at-risk rural youth in Western Michigan. These cookie decorating kits are added to other gifts donated by a variety of groups and individuals to form a Christmas package given to each of the youth served by this ministry at their annual Christmas party. We always have a wonderful time of fellowship & service as we prepare to bless and encourage these youth. I hope you will plan to join us!

***"Home for the Holidays,"*** a benefit concert presented by Livonia Community Theatre on Sunday, December 12 @ 4:00PM featuring the award winning A Cappella Vocal Group *TBD*. Tickets are \$15.00 and available on the Livonia Community Theatre website - click on ***"Box Office"***

**The St. Paul's Christmas Eve service will be at 4:00PM.**

**There will be NO worship service for St. Paul's on December 26 - all are invited to worship with Grace Bible Chapel IN GENESIS HALL at 11:30AM.**

**St. Paul's will be closed December 27 and 28 and January 3, 2022.**

**From the Board of Deacons...**"Do you have someone or something to celebrate? You can share your joy with your St. Paul's family, help feed the hungry, and honor the person or object of your celebration with a tribute gift to the Board of Deacons Hunger Ministries. Tribute gifts may also be in memory of someone or something, or your donation can simply be a gift to the Hunger Ministries. An acknowledgement will be placed in the bulletin and e-Branch. No set amount is required, and acknowledgements will go in the bulletin as soon as possible after checks are received. Donations may not be made far in advance for future dates. To donate, please:

- **Make your check payable to: St. Paul's Board of Deacons**
- In the Memo line, write: Hunger Ministries

Enclose a note with: Donor(s) Name(s) and the dedication. (Dedication examples: In honor of the first responders. In honor of our grandchildren. In memory of my parents).

Send the donation with your check and note to St. Paul's, drop it in the secure mailbox outside the entrance, or bring it to the church during office hours. The Board of Deacons appreciates the congregation's generous spirit. Let's feed each other spiritually, and the hungry, literally. May the peace of Christ be with us all."



Meta Tulley, Ron Frank, Karen Bright, Sheldon Davis, Doris Knecht, Joyce Barton  
Pam Phillips, Suzanne Tabaka, Jim & Joanna Roye, Nola Bonandrini, Nancy Saunders  
Jerry Stone, Beverly Dearth, Kathleen Warren, Bob Liebertz, Grace Campbell, Susan Grant  
Bruce Phillips, Patricia Hutchison, Linda Thompson & her sister, Shirley Kircoff  
Macaylah Whitlock ~ daughter of the Rev. Kellie Whitlock  
Finley Farquhar ~ granddaughter of Eric; Rosemary Iaquina ~ sister of Cathy DeSautel  
Pamela Serene ~ daughter of the late Marilyn Allen; The Dylegowski Family ~ friends of Jan Burgess  
Mark Feely ~ friend of Judy McGregor; Glenn Ellan Rubright ~ sister of Mike Graham  
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  
Janet Kusuhara ~ cousin of Meta Tulley; Joe Ducsay ~ friend of Mike & Carol Graham  
Mark Osborne ~ son of the late Janet  
Diane Calloway & Tony S. ~ cousins of the late Gail Artinian; MaryAnn Tabaka ~ mother of Suzanne  
Eric Tabaka ~ nephew of Suzanne; Cyndi Knecht ~ daughter of Doris; Joe Perko ~ friend of Wanda & Bob Seymour  
David Bonandrini ~ son of Nola & Ben; Zoe Marcus ~ friend of Karen Erwin  
Gideon Janku ~ great nephew of Bob Westbrook; Judy Siegfried ~ sister-in-law of Pam Phillips  
Randy Tillman ~ son of Gloria Rubbo; Leslie Benoit ~ daughter of the late Tamar and Jim Duthie  
Mary Rayes ~ friend of Pat Hutchison; Adam Schilling & Eric Shilling ~ grandsons of Ron & Janet Frank  
Donald Keller III ~ son of Jan Lapenta; Scott Davis ~ son of Sheldon & Marion Davis

**Please review the prayer list and report any changes to the office as soon as possible.**

## 366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heaven, to  
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
 3 Come, Al - might - y, to de - liv - er; let us all thy  
 4 Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing; all thy  
 trou - bled breast; let us all in thee in - her - it; let us  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion;  
 find the prom - ised rest. Take a - way the love of sin - ning;  
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing,  
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

This text and this tune occur in almost all English-language hymnals (though not always together). The transforming power of love motivates the unending praise of the life to come, and this fine Welsh tune (whose name means "delightful") gives us a foretaste of endless song.

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

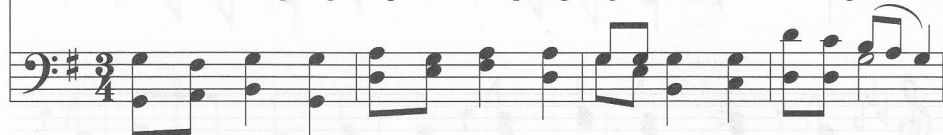
pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
 Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as  
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

## 128 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat-tle stall;  
 2 Flocks were sleep-ing; shep-herds keep-ing vig-il till the morn-ing new



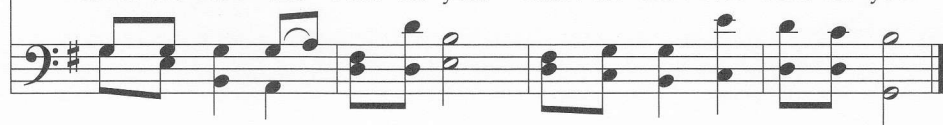
ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know-ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, ti - dings of the gos-pel true.



Swift are wing-ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring-ing, ti-dings bring-ing:  
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais-es voic-ing greet the mor - row:



Christ the babe is Lord of all! Christ the babe is Lord of all!  
 Christ the babe was born for you! Christ the babe was born for you!



The English text of this 13th- or 14th-century Polish carol does not try to tell a story but to offer verbal snapshots of the well-known Nativity narrative of Luke 2:6–20. The tune name quotes the opening of the Polish text and means “He lies in a cradle” or “In manger lying.”



# 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God the Fa - ther,

all the earth; you, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great de - sire of na - tions;  
 Spir - it, Son, ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant light: come and wor - ship,  
 you have seen his na - tal star:  
 to the e - ter - nal Three in One:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king!

This familiar carol was first published as a poem in the Christmas Eve 1816 issue of a newspaper the author edited in Sheffield, England. The tune name celebrates the location of a prominent Presbyterian Church in London, sometimes called the "Presbyterian cathedral."