

WELCOME



For centuries on Christmas Day the Church has read chapter one of St. John's Gospel. There, in just a few simple words, Scripture describes the indescribable: "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). The word God had spoken in the Garden, promising to send a Savior who was part of mankind, came true. God himself became flesh and blood—to be born under law, to suffer, and to die that he might redeem us. The

Greek word translated "made his dwelling" can also be translated "pitched his tent." That word describes a temporary dwelling place. God came into our broken world to dwell for a time, so that one day we might go to God's perfect home and dwell for all eternity. Unlike those Christmas Eve shepherds, we cannot see Christ with our eyes. Yet still he dwells among us. For he is the Word made flesh. As we listen to the Word today, we truly are hearing the voice of Christ.

WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN

OH, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN WORSHIP HYMN #55



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,

Hymn continues on next page



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.



Refrain
Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Please stand

THE INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: (*Spoken*) **Amen.**

THE OPENING SENTENCES

P: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

C: **His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.**

P: The Lord has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

C: **All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.** *Psalm 98:1-3*

P: But who can endure the day of his coming?

Who can stand when he appears? *Malachi 3:2*

C: **If you, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?** *Psalm 130:3*

P: Restore us again, O God our Savior, and put away your displeasure toward us.

C: **Show us your unfailing love, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.** *Psalm 85:4,7*

P: Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has come and has redeemed his people. *Luke 1:68*

C: **My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.** *Luke 1:46-47*

P: When the time had fully come, God sent his Son,
born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law,
that we might receive the full rights of sons. *Galatians 4:4-5*

C: **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only,
who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.** *John 1:14*

P: I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.

C: **Glory to God in the highest!** *Luke 2:10,11,14*

P: We join our hearts and voices with the angel choir; singing Gloria to our newborn King!

C: **“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yolk of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(Spoken)* **Amen.**

Please be seated

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 52:7-10

The prophet foretold that the Lord would dwell among us, rolling up his sleeves and doing what was necessary to bring the good news of salvation to the ends of the earth.

⁷ How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”

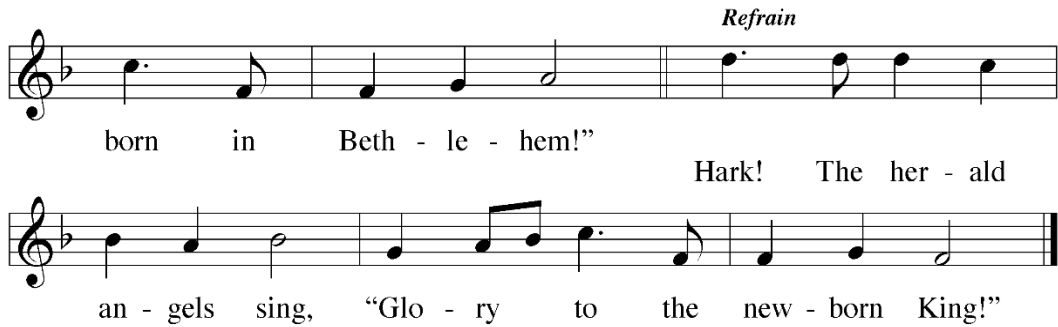
⁸ Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.
When the Lord returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.
⁹ Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
¹⁰ The Lord will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

CONGREGATION RESPONSE

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING CHRISTIAN WORSHIP HYMN #61, VERSE 1

1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the
new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!” Joy - ful, all you
na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
With th’ an - gel - ic host pro - claim, “Christ is

Hymn continues on next page



THE SECOND LESSON

HEBREWS 1:1-9

*In the past God sent angels and prophets as messengers to his people.
In these latter days, God speaks to us through his Son who came to dwell among us.*

^{1:1} In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. ³ The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ⁴ So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say,
"You are my Son;
today I have become your Father"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

⁶ And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says,
"Let all God's angels worship him."

⁷ In speaking of the angels he says,
"He makes his angels spirits,
and his servants flames of fire."

⁸ But about the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever;
a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹ You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions
by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

CONGREGATION RESPONSE

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING CHRISTIAN WORSHIP HYMN #61, VERSE 2

2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
God-head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
Refrain
our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

GOSPEL LESSON

JOHN 1:1-14

^{1:1} In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. ¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

CONGREGATION RESPONSE

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP HYMN #61, VERSE 3



3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his

glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to
Refrain
 give us sec - ond birth. Hark! The her - ald
 an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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, died, and was buried.
 He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy Christian Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated

CONGREGATION HYMN

JOY HAS DAWNED
CHRISTIAN WORSHIP (2021) HYMN #352



1 Joy has dawned up - on the world, prom - ised from cre - a - tion—
2 Sounds of won - der fill the sky with the songs of an - gels
3 Shep - herds bow be - fore the Lamb, gaz - ing at the glo - ry.
4 Son of Ad - am, Son of heav'n, giv - en as a ran - som;



God's sal - va - tion now un - furled, hope for ev - 'ry na - tion.
as the might - y Prince of life shel - ters in a sta - ble.
Gifts of men from dis - tant lands proph - e - sy the sto - ry:
rec - on - cil - ing God and man, Christ, our might - y cham - pion!



Not with fan - fares from a - bove, not with scenes of glo - ry,
Hands that set each star in place, shaped the earth in dark - ness,
gold— a king is born to - day; in - cense— God is with us;
What a Sav - ior! What a friend! What a glo - rious mys - t'ry!



but a hum - ble gift of love— Je - sus born of Mar - y.
cling now to a moth - er's breast, — vul - n'ra - ble and help - less.
myrrh— his death will make a way, and by his blood he'll win us.
Once a babe in Beth - le - hem, — now the Lord of his - t'ry.

SERMON

JOHN 1:1-14

A Savior Born to Dwell Among Us

CONGREGATION HYMN

WHAT CHILD IS THIS CHRISTIAN WORSHIP HYMN #67, VERSES 1-2

1 What child is this who, laid to rest,
2 Why lies he in such mean es - taste

On Mar - y's lap is sleep - - - ing?
Where ox - en now are feed - - - ing?

Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet
Good Chris - tians, fear; For sin - ners here

While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
The si - lent Word is plead - ing.

This, this is Christ the King, Whom
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The

shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.
cross he'll bear for me, for you.

Haste, haste to bring him laud,
Hail, hail the Word made flesh,

The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
The babe, the Son of Mar - y!

THE OFFERING

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

P: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: **Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!**

P: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: **Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.**

P: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: **Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.**

P: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: **Glory to God in the highest! Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

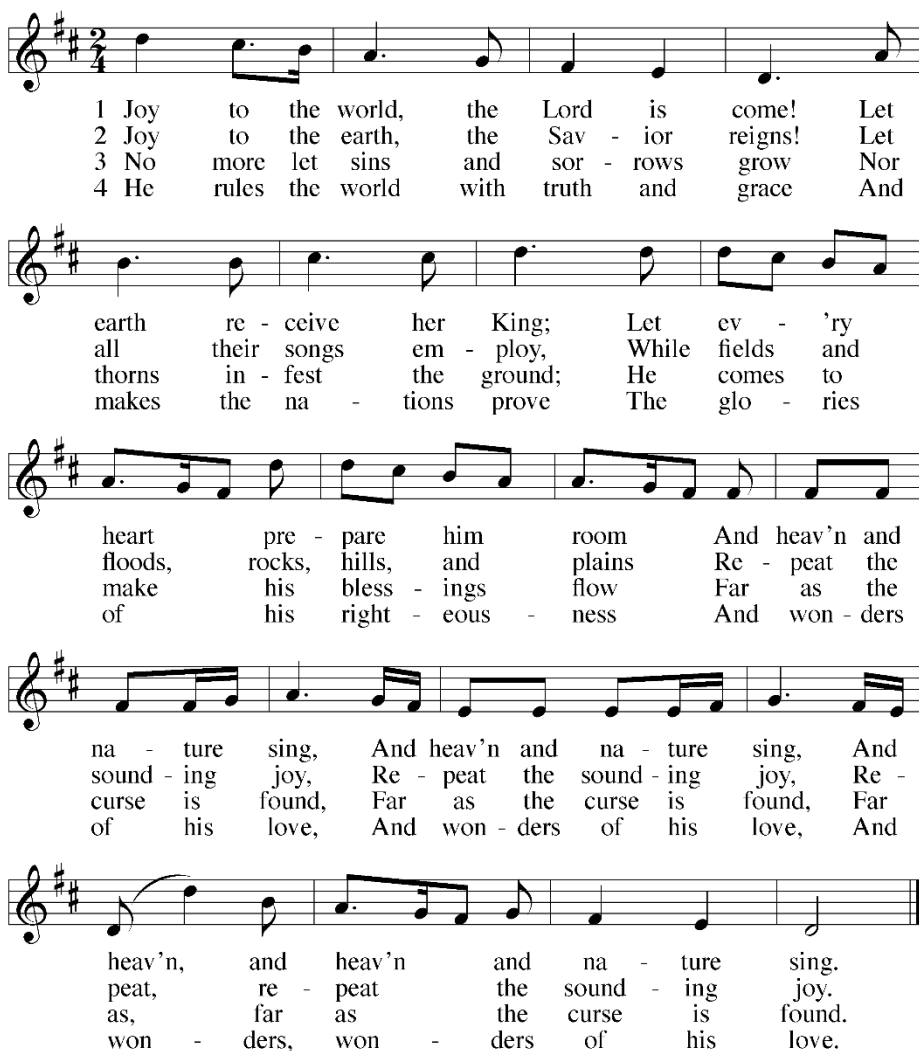
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: (*Spoken*) **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD CHRISTIAN WORSHIP HYMN #62



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And

earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries

heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders

na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And

heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS: This Sunday's altar flowers are given by Larry & Sharon Boushon in celebration of Christmas!

NEXT SUNDAY WORSHIP: Reminder, there is only **one** worship service next Sunday, January 1st at **10:00 AM**.

MONDAY EVENING WORSHIP: There will be no Monday evening worship this Monday, December 26th or the following Monday, January 2nd. We will resume Monday evening services on Monday, January 9th.

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES: There is a delay on our 2023 offering envelopes due to printing press issues at the manufacturer. As soon as they arrive we will distribute them. In the meantime, you can continue to use your 2022 envelope number. Thank you for your patience!

SOUTHSIDE MINISTRIES DOOR COLLECTION: We collected \$512.00 for Southside Ministries last weekend. Thank you for your support!

TEACHER CALL: On Monday, December 5th the Voters of the congregation approved the recommendation to call a 1st grade teacher (combined 1st/2nd in the afternoons) for the 2023-2024 school year. We called Mrs. Stephanie Liepert, currently teaching at Mt. Calvary Lutheran School in Waukesha. We received this letter from Mrs. Liepert: To the members of St. Paul's, On Monday, December 5, I received a divine call to serve as your first and second grade teacher. I am honored and humbled by this call. I look forward to learning more about the ministry being carried out at St. Paul's from your church and school leaders as I consider the two calls before me. Please keep my family and the ministries of St. Paul's and Mount Calvary in your prayers as I deliberate where I can best serve. In Christ, Stephanie Liepert (sliepert@mountcalvarywaukesha.org)

NEW ADULT BIBLE STUDY: We will begin a new Adult Bible Study on Sunday, January 8th. This class will be hosted by retired Pastor Andy Backus. We will be studying the current week's scripture readings. We meet in between services (9:15 AM) in the Bible classroom and all are welcome to join us!

CLASSROOM WISH LISTS: In past years we've had a Christmas tree in our school lobby full of "wishes" for our classrooms. Once again our list is digital! If you would like to grant a classroom wish, please scan the QR Code on the poster in the narthex, or you can find it [here](#). If you aren't able to shop online, you can make a donation using the envelopes on the narthex counter! Thank you for your support of our school!

TUITION ASSISTANCE FUND: St. Paul's has offered assistance to families through a "forgiveness program" in which the congregation has taken on the debt for part of their tuition. On average we have been able to help 10-12 families seek Christian Education here at St. Paul's through this method. What a great gift to share the love of Christ with others using the gifts God has granted us. We have a need and an opportunity to help families and we are asking you to help financially. In addition to your offerings, these additional funds will help support the education for families that may not otherwise be able to afford it. We thank you for considering and remind you of the words recorded in Matthew 25:40 *"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."* If you would like to give, please fill out the envelopes provided on the narthex counter and place in the offering tower.

CONTACT INFORMATION UPDATE: We are in the process of updating our church directory. Please take a moment to fill out the yellow contact slips on the narthex tables and return them to the bin on the narthex counter. Thank you for your help in keeping our records up to date!

MEN'S OPEN GYM: Men's Open Gym will held Thursday nights from 7:30 – 9:00 pm every week starting December 8th. All college age and older men interested in stretching their legs are invited to participate. Please be sure to watch the Weekly Schedule at the end of the church bulletin every week for updates or cancellations as we approach the Christmas Season.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY UPDATE: There are 16 people meeting every other Tuesday with continued lessons on the book "The Narrow Lutheran Middle". Note we will not meet on December 27th as previously scheduled. New dates are January 3, January 17, January 31, February 14 and February 28. It is never too late to join our group. Just tell Jean Terek or Lucy Ellenberger.

BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS: A new Bible Information class has begun! We meet at 9:15 AM (between the two worship services). The purpose of the class is to present the basic teachings of the Bible as well as to introduce you to the rewarding life of Christian discipleship. This class is open to anyone interested in learning more about our church, considering joining our church or anyone who would like to refresh their knowledge of God's Word. Anyone is welcome to join us!

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES AT OUR SCHOOL - K4 Aide - Classroom Aide - After School Care: St. Paul's is blessed to have a great PreK program! We are looking for a teacher's aide to support our growing enrollment numbers. There are also other classrooms that would benefit from a part-time aide.

We are also looking for an individual or individuals that could help with our After School Care program. If you are available for a single day, a few days, or all days please get in touch with us. It is a great opportunity to connect with some of our students and help our families that are unable to pick their children up right away after school.

If you are interested in supporting your school by giving us a hand, please reach out to Principal Schulmeister by email at nschulmeister@stpaulsfranklin.org or by phone at 414-421-1930.

USHERS FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 AM – TEAM #3 – Donn Johnson, John Migacz, Todd Grunze, Frank Krajewski

USHERS FOR JANUARY

8:00 AM – TEAM #1 – Bob Hille, Larry Stujenske, Josh Ebeling, Brandon Wirtz, Gary Boldt

10:30 AM – TEAM #5 – Mark Klein, Chris Klein, Gary Eickhorst, Dan Mertz

6:30 PM – TEAM #9 – Terry Plant, John Kiesow

ALTAR GUILD

December 21-27 – TEAM #1 – Beverly Garves, Sherry Kosovich, Vanessa McKee

December 28-January 3 – TEAM #2 – Jane Koplein, Joan Shevey, Rebecca Kragh

REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE

December 25: *Merry Christmas!*

January 1: *Happy New Year!*

THE WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Worship10:00 AM

Monday, December 26

NO Worship Service

Thursday, December 29

NO Men’s Open Gym

Sunday, January 1

Worship Service with Communion.....10:00 AM only

Statistics – Last Week

Attendance: 8:00 AM – 70, Communed – 63
10:30 AM – 50, Communed – 24
6:30 PM – 28, Communed – 23
Total Attendance – 148
Total Communed – 110
Children’s Christmas Service – 445