

**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 11, 2022 9:30 am

Bonnie Jacque, Pastor

**We believe this time is sacred. Please silence your cell phones and prepare yourself for worship.**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**INTROIT**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES:**

One: On the third Advent Sunday, we light three candles, celebrating the community of faith, those we know and many we may never meet who turn their hearts to the manger story.

**MANY: We light a candle of our deep hope and a candle for the peace we have learned from our close relationships, and a candle of sheer joy that God-with-us includes faithful people of all times and places.**

One: In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus reminds us that many would come to table from east and west, north and south, to share a menu of joy.

**MANY: Emmanuel, God be with us, in the week to come. Bless our hopes, strengthen our peace, stir the embers of joy into a simple smile and the unexpected laughter of togetherness. Amen.**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Today there is good news for us to behold!

**MANY: Those who feared that they were worth little to God have found blessing in God's sight.**

One: For in the mercy and love of God, the blind shall see, the lame shall walk without pain, those who could not hear shall be blessed with hearing, and there shall be peace.

**MANY: God's mercy and love is poured out for our parched souls.**

One: Behold! The Lord's compassion is with God's people.

**MANY: Believe in the power of God in all things. AMEN.**



**we stand here today,  
to add our assent to theirs.**

**Like Mary, we feel overwhelmed;  
we wonder if we are worthy,  
or capable, of following the calling.  
Like Mary, we have our questions  
and we will not be afraid to ask them.  
Like Mary, we will hear and ponder  
the assurance that God will empower us.  
Like Mary we will strive to say -  
"Let it be with us according to your will."**

**To whatever God is inviting of us  
at this time in our lives,  
and relying on God's grace,  
we say "yes."**

**\*HYMN**

Gentle Joseph

#105

**MEDITATION**

**PASTORAL PRAYER**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**INVITATION TO OFFERING**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

In the Bleak Midwinter

#128 verse 4

What can I offer, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part.  
But what can I offer; all my heart.

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION** May these gifts bring light to those who walk in darkness, hope to those who live in despair, and justice to those who are oppressed. Grant to each giver a sense of participation in the most important opportunity of all time: to share your love with the world. To this end, we dedicate our offerings and ourselves. Amen.

**\*HYMN** While by the Sheep insert

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

\*Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Congregational Response to each prayer request is: **Your prayer is our prayer. Your joy is our joy.**

## **Reminders**

12/11 - Secret Pal Party  
12/14 - Blue Christmas Service at 7 pm  
12/18 - Children's Christmas Program  
12/24 - Christmas Eve worship at 4 pm  
12/25 - Christmas Day worship at 9:30 am

**Please remember with your prayers, cards, calls and visits:** Bill Chase, Ron Smith, Beulah Timm, Sheila Anderson, Norma Hulterstrum, James Leifer and Erik Johnson.

**New PHONE: 262-416-5094** Pastor Bonnie now has a phone with this number, in addition to her personal phone. Please use this number in the future to contact Pastor Bonnie. The original church number remains in effect, if you need to contact someone who is at church. The messages on the original church number will only be checked from time to time. Please change your phone contacts to reflect **262-416-5094** for Pastor Bonnie. New calling cards will be distributed soon with the new number.

**BLUE CHRISTMAS** Christmas is not a season of joy for everyone. For many of us, Advent and Christmas can bring sorrow, as we grieve the deaths of loved ones or pets, loss of income, or other losses suffered during the year. For those of us feeling the weight of loneliness, sadness, loss and even rage, this time of year can be difficult – not as the classic song promises – “the most wonderful time of the year!”

That's why we offer a Blue Christmas prayer service on December 14 at 7 pm. This quiet, sacred time provides a space for anyone who desires to offer laments to God and also receive assurance that we are not alone in our sorrow. Please plan to join in

a simple worship of music, readings, and lighting of blue candles, however we may be feeling.

**CHRISTMAS FUND** for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a special mission offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. These gifts will be collected any time before December 18. There are envelopes available in the pews or you can give electronically at the UCC website.

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS** A \$5 donation toward the purchase of poinsettia arrangements will give you the chance to honor or remember a loved one at Christmas. Forms are available at the greeters stand and should be returned to Judy or Charmaine **TODAY**.

**DID YOU MISS A SUNDAY?** Our services are now posted on our website and deleted after 30 days.

**SLEEPING BAGS/BLANKETS** for the homeless are desperately needed. See Cheryl Fischer for further information.

**Greeters for This Week:** Vicki and Eugene Dost

**Greeters for Next Week:** Mission Maniacs

**Liturgist for This Week:** Bernice Dieball

**Liturgist for Next Week:** Carl Rook

Resources: <http://spaciousfaith.com>, <http://stillpointsa.org>

*Following worship, you are invited for coffee and conversation in fellowship hall.*