

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

December 14, 2025

Bonnie Jacque, Pastor

The Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

A TIME TO PREPARE OUR HEARTS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

A TIME OF SHARING

PASSING PEACE

ADVENT HYMN

The Candle of Hope

Screen

Tune: O Worship the King

The candle of joy reminds us to sing,
For God is at work to do a new thing.
The proud will be humbled; the lowly will rise.
God's kingdom is one of delight and surprise.

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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Screen

One: You know what time it is! It is already the moment to release our weariness.

ALL: LISTEN: THE DRY DESERT IS SINGING! LOOK: THE COOL SPRINGS ARE OVERFLOWING!

One: The hour is already here, even as we are waiting.

ALL: SOON - VERY SOON - OUR JOY WILL KNOW NO END. WE WILL JOIN THE HEAVENS IN PRAISING GOD. WE WILL CARRY GOOD NEWS THROUGH THE WORLD LIKE THE WIND. WE WILL BE GLAD IN ONE ANOTHER'S PRESENCE.

One: All creation radiates with God's joy.

SUNG INTROIT

Star Child

Screen

STAR CHILD, EARTH CHILD, GO BETWEEN OF GOD, LOVE CHILD, CHRIST CHILD, HEAVEN'S LIGHTENING ROD. THIS YEAR, THIS YEAR, LET THE DAY ARRIVE WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES FOR EVERYONE, EVERYONE ALIVE.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Screen

One: Joy is the gift God gives us upon waking in the morning to see beams of sun dance in dusty corners or hear much needed rain, even on a leaky roof.

MANY: JOY IS IN THE DELIGHT OF TINY PRECIOUS THINGS.

One: Joy is the magnificence of God when the tests come back clear, or when a school test is finally passed, or when the spirit is tested and chooses faith over fear.

**MANY: JOY IS IN THE HANDS THAT HOLD OUR OWN
WHILE WE SIT SILENTLY AND WAIT.**

**ALL: JOY IS IN THE SMALL ACTIONS WE TAKE EACH DAY
TO HELP PEACE ABOUND.**

Adapted from worshipways.com Maria Mankin

***ADVENT PRAYER**

**BELOVED, WE COME NOW SEEKING TO RECOGNIZE MOMENTS OF DELIGHT
WHEN WE FEEL CONNECTED TO YOU. WE BRING OUR FRAGMENTED
HEARTS FILLED WITH GOOD CHEER, GENTLE REVERENCE, AND UTTER
AMAZEMENT; WE SHARE OUR SECRET HOPES, DEPENDABLE COMFORTS,
AND COZY MOMENTS OF ADVENT JOY, RISE UP WITHIN US AS WE CHERISH
THE DIVINITY OF ALL THAT IS GOOD. AMEN.**

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

#125

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Isa. 35:1-10, Ps. 146:5-10; Matt 11: 2-11

OUR FAMILY MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday School Program

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Starring:

INNKEEPER'S WIFE: Ava Ranta

ANGEL Madelyn Manuson

INTERVIEWER 1 AND WISEMAN 1 Ethan Staus

INTERVIEWER 6 AND SHEPHERD 3 Silas Alonso

INTERVIEWER 3 AND INNKEEPER Levi Jacklin

INTERVIEWER 4 AND MARY Emma Staus

INTERVIEWER 5 AND SHEPHERD 1 Jacob Staus

INTERVIEWER 2 AND JOSEPH Taylor Green

WISEMAN 3 Nolan Weber

WISEMAN 2 Luka Alonso

SHEPHERD 2 Jayden Magnuson

SHEEP Clara Becker

SHEEP Abbi Ranta

SHEPHERD Billie Schuppel

SHEEP Brooks Schuppel

PAGEANT MUSIC: **Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer**
 Away in the Manger
 Silent Night

CHRISTMAS PRAYER

Screen

GOD, THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVE AT THIS SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TIME. THANK YOU FOR THE BABY JESUS AND THE THOUGHTS OF ANGELS SINGING. WE HOPE EVERYONE HAS FAVORITE MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS AND REMEMBER THAT THIS WONDERFUL TIME OF YEAR IS ALL ABOUT YOU. WE LOVE THE LIGHTS, THE DECORATIONS, THE SONGS WE SING. AND THANK YOU FOR TIME WITH FAMILY, AND COOKIES! YES, SOON - VERY SOON - JESUS WILL BE BORN. AMEN.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

***DOXOLOGY**

Screen

**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 I CAN I OFFER, ALL MY HEART.**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Screen

Precious God, take these gifts in the spirit they were given, with joy and love for our siblings around the world. Let us remember that we all have times of trouble. Use what we have here to bring that relief where it is needed most. Amen

HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

#129

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

CREDITS: CCLI #48321379,

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Liturgy: As found on the screens.

Photos: Google Images, Pastor Bonnie

*If rising from a seated position is an issue for you, please remain seated. The phrase, “Stand in body or spirit as you are able” is intended to give you permission to do so without embarrassment.

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

Reminders - Head to <https://stpaulserin.org> for details

12/24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT 2:30 and 4:30 PM

12/31 - Budget Requests are due as well as any outstanding bills or reimbursements

If you have something to share before a Sunday worship, please call, text or email Pastor Bonnie. She will include it in the bulletin or announce it from the pulpit. This will help us streamline our announcements.

- **Council is working on the 2026 budget. Any committee who wishes to request general budget funds for 2026 projects, should submit your request to a council member or Connie J before 12/31.**
- **If you have not submitted your giving pledge for 2026, you can still do so by sending your pledge to Sharon via email sschlafer9228@gmail.com or placing a pledge card in the collection plate.**
- **All 2025 bills /reimbursements should be submitted to Connie J before 12/31.**

Please remember with your prayers, cards, calls and visits: Diane S., Joyce O’K, Mark G., John and Polly E. Mary G.

Greeters for This Week: Vicki and Eugene D.

Greeters for Next Week:

Liturgist for This Week: Jill L.

Liturgist for Next Week: Curt H.

Following worship, you are invited for coffee and conversation in Fellowship Hall.