



*St. Paul United Methodist Church  
Family Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2015*

## THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Rev. Ellen Hopkins, Presider  
Rebecca Wallace, Liturgist  
Angela, Cooper and Quinn Russell, Acolytes  
Joe Cirou, Guest Organist

### Prelude

#### \*Call to Worship

Hear the Good News:

**Jesus Christ is born!**

Break forth together into song:

**Joy to the world**

**our Lord has come!**

#### \*Hymn

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

UMH 237

#### Lighting the Christ Candle

the Russell family

**First Reader:** Today is Christmas Eve. Today, we light the three purple candles and the pink candle. The first Sunday of Advent, we lit the candle of hope. The second Sunday, we lit the candle of love. The third Sunday, we lit the candle of joy. The fourth Sunday, we lit the candle of peace. Today, we also light the center candle. This candle represents Jesus. When we light this candle, we remember Jesus' birth. Our waiting has ended.

*(Light the first, second, third, and fourth candles. Light the center white candle.)*

**Second Reader:** When we look at the center candle, we remember that God sent Jesus to give hope, peace, joy, and love to all people. Outside of Bethlehem, the shepherds saw a great light and heard the voices of angels. They traveled to the manger and saw the baby Jesus. Far away from Bethlehem, wise men saw a star in the sky. They followed the star and were filled with joy when they found Jesus. They remind us that the gift of Jesus was not just for the people in one place, but for all people.

**Third Reader:** A reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 9, verse 6.

*For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

**Prayer: Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you, God, for sending Jesus for ALL people, not just those in one place at one time. On this Christmas, help us remember and rejoice again because Jesus was born. May we live every day remembering your love and care and showing that love and care to others. AMEN.**

<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	Chancel Choir
<b>Gospel Reading</b>		Luke 2: 1-7
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>It Came Upon A Midnight Clear</i>	UMH 218
<b>Gospel Reading</b>		Luke 2: 8-14
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Good Christian Friends Rejoice</i>	UMH 224
<b>Gospel Reading</b>		Luke 2: 15-20
<b>Hymn</b>	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	UMH 240
<b>Celebration of Our Children Children's Offering</b>		Jeff McCord
<b>Sermon</b>		Rev. Ellen Hopkins
<b>Pastoral Prayer</b>		Rebecca Wallace
<p>God of the ages, we praise you,  for in the dawn of time you created the world,  sending light by your Word to dispel darkness.  In Jesus Christ you began a new creation,  sending him to be the Light of the world,  to drive away fear and despair,  and to rule in peace and justice, holiness and love.  Especially we thank you  for the order and beauty of your creation ...  for coming in Jesus Christ to share our human life ...  for the place you give us in your continuing creation ...  for the promise of peace among nations, and justice for all peoples ...  for the Church as the sign of your coming kingdom ...  Mighty God, prepare the world for your rule,  for we long for the day  when there shall be no more crying or tears,  and death will be destroyed.  Help us to share the ministry of Christ and be agents of his compassion.  Especially we pray  for the nations of the earth and peace in the world ...  for victims and survivors of violence ...  for those who are sick and suffering ...  for our families and friends ...  for the Church and those who serve in Christ's name ...  All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.</p>		

And now with the confidence of the children of God, let us pray...

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Creator/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 trespasses as we  
forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Offering**

**Musical Offering**

*Still, Still, Still*

Chancel Choir

**\*The Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise God, the Son, and Holy Ghost! Amen.**

UMH 95

**DEPARTING TO LOVE AND SERVE**

**Hymn Circle & Candle lighting**

*Silent Night*

*The congregation stands and forms a circle around the sanctuary as we light our  
candles and sing:*

Silent night, holy night. All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin, mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
Radiance beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

**Postlude**