

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Tuesday, December 24, 2024 - Christmas Eve 7pm



1235 Summer Hill Road, Auburn, PA 17922

Pastor: Rev. Ken McDowell, cell phone: 610-207-4783

Church Office Phone: 570-754-7225

Office Hours: Monday – Thursday 9am–2pm; Closed Friday

Church Email: summerhillucc@gmail.com

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Livestream: www.facebook.com/summerhillucc

**Christmas Eve Service, The Sacrament of Holy Communion, Candle Lighting,
Special Music by the St. Paul’s Minstrels, Senior Choir and the Sunday School Children**

Rev. Ken McDowell, Pastor

Music Director and Pianist- Rae Ann Borger

Worship Notes: We welcome all visitors with us this evening.

Please sign our guest book in the narthex. We hope you will come back and worship with us again.

The Offering will be collected by the ushers. Communion will be served in the pews by the ushers.

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WELCOME

INVOCATION

PRELUDE

GATHERING FOR THE WORD

The congregation may stand.

SOLEMN DECLARATION.....Sung “Amen”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Sing a new song to God, as we join with the songs of old.

People: Glory to God on the highest.

Pastor: Sing with the heavenly angels, who rejoice with us on this holy night.

People: Glory to God on the highest.

Pastor: Let us join our voices together and sing our praises to God, who has brought us joy and peace this night! Amen!

OPENING HYMN NO. 188.....“Angels We Have Heard on High”

The congregation may be seated.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES.....The Shadle Family: Courtney, Bobby, Landon,
Maddox, Carter and Vivian

Advent Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7

Advent Prayer

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM..... “We Lift the Light of Hope” by Russell Mauldin

ENGAGING THE WORD

READING OF THE WORD.....Lector: Trevor Smith
Gospel Lesson - Luke 2:1-20 (Page 889)

SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN.....“How I Wish”
Words and Music by Janet McMahan; Arranged by David Huntsinger

CHILDREN’S SERMON

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Christ Candle Prayer

People: God of all creation, spark of life in every birth, and midwife of the new selves we may become, we gather seeking light and warmth. We come giving thanks, in the face of all our grief and regrets, for the one who came by water and blood. Light our hearts like lamps in this hour, that we may become beacons of your love. For we pray in the strong name of the one born of Mary, Holy Child of the Living God, Jesus Christ. Amen.

MEDITATION

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

The congregation may remain seated.

HYMN OF REFLECTION NO. 229.....“The First Noel”

CALL TO OFFERING.....Selections by St. Paul’s Minstrels

Ushers will receive tithes and offerings at this time.

The congregation may stand.

OFFERING RESPONSE & DEDICATION.....Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to God

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God most high.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Communion Prayer continues

The Seraphic Hymn

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heaven and earth are full, are full of the majesty of Thy glory, Hosanna, Hosanna, hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest!

The congregation may be seated.

Words of Institution

Prayer of Consecration

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 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.

SENIOR CHOIR ANTHEM.....“Bread of Angels” by Camp Kirkland

Breaking of the Bread

Lifting of the Cup

Call to Supper

The Sharing of the Elements

The Blessing of the Children

The congregation may stand.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving (Unison)

On this Christmas Eve, we thank you O God and offer our lives in gratitude for your gracious presence in our lives. Be born in us anew, shine your light on us and surround us with your glory, so that we, like the shepherds long ago might sing your praises and reveal your grace in all that we say and do. Amen.

THE CANDLE LIGHTING SERVICE

(Please note: Please tip the unlit candle to the candle which is lit, so as to prevent any injuries from hot wax. Candles will be lit before singing “Silent Night” and remain lit throughout the singing of “Joy to the World.” Please extinguish your candle at the conclusion of the worship service.)

CANDLE HYMN NO. 186“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

GOING WITH THE WORD

COMMISSION

Pastor: Go forth and shine light in the darkness.

People: We will go and bring peace into our troubled world.

Pastor: Proclaim hope and joy in the midst of despair.

People: For a child has been born to us, who is Love for the nations and Light for the world.

BENEDICTION

PARTING HYMN NO. 179“Joy to the World”

SILENT MEDITATION

POSTLUDE

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Portions of today’s worship resources were reproduced or adapted from the UCC’s Book of Worship, Worship Connection by Nancy C. Townley on MinistryMatters.com, and by B. J. Beu from the 2024 Abingdon Worship Annuals edited by Mary J. Scifres and B. J. Beu.

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- The altar flowers are in honor of a “Happy Birthday to Jesus” by Mr. and Mrs. Brian Clauser and family.
- The bulletins are in honor of Bill and Bonnie Reber’s Anniversary by Dylan, Kaitlyn, Jenna, and Kelly.
- The rose is in memory of Aaron Kreager by Amy Clauser and Amy Crouse.
- The Christmas tree in the Sanctuary is presented in loving memory of John & Dolores Halabura, and Wilma, Marvin, and Charles Eckert by John & Mae Halabura, Matthew & Madeline Halabura and Michelle, Pete & Mila Ellison.
- A very special thank you to the Halabura Family for the donation of the tree.

Merry Christmas and Wishes for a Happy New Year!