Welcome

Call to Worship

Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. From everlasting to everlasting, you are God.

Hymn of Praise to the Triune God

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o’er all the earth; ye who sang creation’s story now proclaim Messiah’s birth: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o’er your flocks by night, God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear; suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

First Sunday after Christmas
January 1, 2023 | 9:00 am

Informational graphics at the end of worship guide.

+ Please Stand

Bold Text = Congregation speak or sing

Worship Attendants
Rev. Dr. Sherrie Ilg, Lead Pastor
Rev. Jonathan Heifner, Associate Pastor of Discipleship
Rev. Daniel Niyonzima, Associate Pastor, African Nationals
Dr. Mark Baumann, CAGO, Coordinator of Music Ministries
Judy Fitzgibbons, Liturgist
Mike Weaver, Audio
Laura Azelborn, Slide Presenter
Wes Nygren, Videographer
Keith Williams, Video Streaming

Roundtable Preaching Team
Wendy Anderson, Ruth Balster,
Carol Curry, Kevin Lodge, and John Nollsch

GATHERED

Prelude
Toccata on “Angels from the Realms of Glory”
Jan Mulder

+ Hymn of Praise to the Triune God
Angels from the Realms of Glory
UMH 220

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Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear; suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.
+ Opening Prayer

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Creative God,
You make all things new in heaven and on earth. We come to you in a new year with new desires and old fears, new decisions and old controversies, new dreams and old weaknesses. Because you are a God of hope, we know that you create all the possibilities of the future. Because you are a God of love, we know that you accept all the mistakes of the past. Because you are the God of our faith, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and praise, we come into your presence with gladness and a joyful noise, and we serve and bless you. Amen.

FORMED

+ Hymn of Preparation

*Sing We Now of Christmas*
UMH 237

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel, sing we here! Hear our grateful praises to the babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Angels called to shepherds, “Leave your flocks at rest, journey forth to Bethlehem, find the child so blest.” Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

In Bethlehem they found him; Joseph and Mary mild, seated by the manger, watching the holy child. Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!
From the eastern country came the kings afar, bearing gifts to Bethlehem, guided by a star. Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

Gold and myrrh they took there, gifts of greatest price; there was never a stable so like paradise. Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we now Noel!

+ Gospel Lesson  
Matthew 2:13-23

When the magi had departed, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him.” Joseph got up and, during the night, took the child and his mother to Egypt. He stayed there until Herod died. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: I have called my son out of Egypt. When Herod knew the magi had fooled him, he grew very angry.

He sent soldiers to kill all the children in Bethlehem and in all the surrounding territory who were two years old and younger, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. This fulfilled the word spoken through Jeremiah the prophet:

A voice was heard in Ramah,  
weeping and much grieving.  
Rachel weeping for her children, and she did not want to be comforted, because they were no more.

After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt. “Get up,” the angel said, “and take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel. Those who were trying to kill the child are dead.”
Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus ruled over Judea in place of his father Herod, Joseph was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he went to the area of Galilee. He settled in a city called Nazareth so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He will be called a Nazarene.

**Sermon**

**Response to the Word**

*Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine*

UMH 606

Come, let us use the grace divine, and all with one accord, in a perpetual covenant join ourselves to Christ the Lord; give up ourselves, thru Jesus’ power, his name to glorify; and promise, in this sacred hour, for God to live and die.

The covenant we this moment make be ever kept in mind; we will no more our God forsake, or cast these words behind. We never will throw off the fear of God who hears our vow; and if thou art well pleased to hear, come down and meet us now.

Thee, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, let all our hearts receive, present with thy celestial host the peaceful answer give; to each covenant the blood apply which takes our sins away, and register our names on high and keep us to that day!
A Covenant Prayer  
in the Wesleyan Tradition  
UMH 607

I am no longer my own, but thine.  
Put me to what thou wilt, rank  
me with whom thou wilt. Put me  
to doing, put me to suffering. Let  
me be employed by thee or laid  
aside for thee, exalted for thee or  
brought low by thee. Let me be  
full, let me be empty. Let me have  
all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield  
all things to thy pleasure and  
disposal. And now, O glorious  
and blessed God, Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, thou art mine,  
and I am thine. So be it. And the  
covenant which I have made on  
earth, let it be ratified in heaven.  
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Invitation  
UMH 12

Christ our Lord invites to his  
table all who love him, who  
earnestly repent of their sin  
and seek to live in peace with one  
another. Therefore, let  
us confess our sin before  
God and one another.

Confession and Pardon  

Merciful God,  
we confess that we have not loved  
you with our whole heart. We have  
failed to be an obedient  
church. We have not done your  
will, we have broken your law,  
we have rebelled against your  
love, we have not loved our  
neighbors, and we have not heard  
the cry of the needy. Forgive  
us, we pray. Free us for joyful  
obedience, through Jesus Christ  
our Lord. Amen.
Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.**

**All: Glory to God. Amen.**

**The Peace**

Let us offer one another signs of reconciliation and love.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

TFWS 2257 (b, c, d)

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth  
are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blest is the one who comes in  
the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me,”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died,  
Christ is risen;  
Christ will come again.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, One with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your Holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!

+ 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 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.
The first Noel

The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay; in fields
where they lay keeping their
sheep, on a cold winter’s night
that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them
far; and to the earth it gave
great light, and so it continued
both day and night.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same
star three Wise Men came from
country far; to seek for a king was
their intent, and to follow
the star wherever it went.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the
northwest, o’er Bethlehem it
took its rest; and there it did
both stop and stay, right over
the place where Jesus lay.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.

Then entered in those Wise Men
three, full reverently upon the
knee, and offered there, in his
presence, their gold and myrrh
and frankincense.

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.
Song after Communion

The First Noel

(see slides and bulletin)

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav’nly Lord, that has made Heav’n and earth, we’re taught, And with his blood our lives has bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Prayer after Communion

SENT

Dismissal with Blessing

Going Forth

Postlude
Toccata on “The First Noel”
John W. Vandertuin

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Welcome ALL

We gather to worship God, whose nature is love. And because God’s love knows no bounds, All are welcome here.

All ages races abilities ethnicities life circumstances gender identities, expressions, and sexual orientations.

We joyfully celebrate the diversity of All God’s children as we are inspired by the Holy Spirit to love as Jesus loves.

Welcome to God’s extravagant, inclusive love!

Welcome to St. Paul’s!
HAPPY New Year everyone
BUILDING & OFFICE CLOSED | January 2

No Wednesday Night
Kids’ Mid-Week Faith Formation
January 4th
No Youth Group
January 4th

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
Voices of Today: Provoking Action Building Community
Monday, January 16, 2023
6:30 pm | Sanctuary
Event will be in-person and live-streamed. Find link at stpaulsumc.org
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