

Mission Statement

St. Paul United Methodist Church exists to honor God by making more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

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S t . P a u l
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 14, 2025
8:30 a.m.

Prelude **Mary Did You Know?** **arr Schrader**

Welcome and Announcements:

Advent Wreath Lighting: **Earl Snyder & Joyce Mentzer**
So today, we join our voices with the prophet Isaiah, who calls us to live in the joy of the truth of God’s salvation.

All: We choose to believe that the day is coming when “the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away”.

***Opening Prayer:**
Leader: Together let us pray.
Unison: Most High God, for you nothing is impossible. Through a poor young woman in a small town you gave birth to your realm of endless glory. By your Holy Spirit, fill us with new life and hope and overshadow us with your power and grace so that we, like Mary, might be your servants, bearing witness to the promise of your Word; through Jesus Christ, who is coming to reign. Amen.

***Hymn of Praise:** **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus** **Page 196**
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-17

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God!

People: Thanks be to God!

Mission Minute:

Blood Drive

Choir Anthem:

A Tiny Child Will Come

Price/Besig

*Second Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38

Leader: The Word of Lord Jesus Christ!

People: Thanks be to God!

***Hymn:**

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (in unison):

“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.

Sermon:

“Our Dear Christ Enters In: Baby Names“

Pastor Mindi Gochnaur

The Affirmation of our Stewardship

Offertory

Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming

arr Hayes

* Congregational Response

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*** Prayer of Dedication (in unison): Gracious God of deep joy, even when storms rage and doubts rise, you call us to see with kingdom eyes – to look for healing, hope, and signs of your grace breaking in. In this Advent season of expectation and weariness, we bring these gifts as expressions of joy, rooted not in ease but in trust. May our giving bear witness to your good news: that the blind still see, the lame still walk, and the poor still receive care. Use these offerings and us as signs of your coming reign, lights in the storm, and carriers of joy. In the name of Jesus, our hope and our Redeemer. Amen.**

***Hymn:**

What Child Is This

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What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing; haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christians, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

***The Sending Forth and Benediction**

Postlude: Mary Had a Baby arr Hayes

***Those who are able please stand.**

**The altar flowers are in loving memory of our loved ones
by Doug & Pat McCulloh.**

Serving in Worship Today

Greeter	Brenda Bailey
Worship Leader	Mike Boryan
Head Usher	Gary Dull

During the service, the nursery is staffed and available for your children on the main floor
Sharing room (A9).

Welcome Families with young children! St. Paul UMC values our children. We strive to teach each child who visits with us more about God and Jesus.

When you enter the Sanctuary or FLC for church, you will see a white rack in the back of the room. On this rack are “Fruits of the Spirit” cloth bags. Inside each bag is an activity book based on Biblical stories. There is also a small notebook, a pen, and a pack of crayons. Please feel free to borrow one of these Children’s Activity bags for the duration of the church service.

When the service ends, we kindly ask you to return all of the materials to the cloth bag and hang the bag back on the white rack before you leave to go home. That way, the bags are there for all children to enjoy. Thank you