

Christmas Cantata 2024

December 22, 2024, 9:30 a.m.



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WELCOME AND GREETING

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joyce Lindstrom

PRELUDE

An Advent Prelude (Op. 62, No. 1)

Charles Callahan

(Craig Caesar, violin)

Savior of the Nations, Come

#74

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

PRAISE FOR PEACE - Vocal Intro by Chorale

Responsive Litany:

Advent is a time to praise.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's past faithfulness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's present goodness.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we remember God's future promises.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

During Advent we prepare to embrace the promise of Christ.

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

We Wait in Hope

Joel Raney

(Chorale)

CONGREGATIONAL REFRAIN

We praise with hope for the morning Light,

For the love of Christ to illuminate the night.

We praise with joy for the Savior's birth;

We praise in hope for peace on earth.

CANDLE LIGHTING

The Castro Family

This morning, we light four candles. The first candle reminds us that during Advent we wait upon the promises of the Lord. The second candle reminds us to watch for God's presence with expectant eyes and anxious hearts. The third candle reminds us to prepare ourselves to receive the gift of the promised Savior. As we light the fourth candle, we are reminded that Advent is a time to give praise for what God has done, for what God is currently doing and for what God will bring to completion. As the light of Advent grows brighter, it reminds us that we move closer to receiving the gift of a Savior.

CLOSING PRAYER

**God in heaven, we look to you amidst a world filled with darkness.
Help us to seek the light of your truth, as we remember your promises
and offer our praise to you. Amen.**

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

A Service of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love Mark Hayes/Pamela Martin
(Chorale)

I: Light of Hope

II: Light of Peace

III: Light of Joy

IV: Light of Love

Epilogue:

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light (vss 1, 3) ERMUNTRE DICH
(Chorale)

OFFERTORY

Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love Everett Titcomb
(Chorale)

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

#70 PUER NOBIS

CORPORATE PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

KIDS AGES 3-10 DISMISSED FOR KIDS' CHURCH

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Samuel 7:12-14a

SERMON

Pastor Marc Castro

Longing for Forever

HYMN OF RESPONSE

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry #70

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Variations on PUER NOBIS NASCITUR: IX Christa Rakich

PRAYER CHAPEL

Kurt and Barbara van Dyk

Intercessory Prayer List

Please call the church office to place a prayer request on our list. Prayers will remain on the list for one month unless you call and request an extension or update.

- **Carrie**, Bill and Nancy Mueller's daughter, speedy recovery from a hysterectomy.
- **Chris**, The Pollmann's nephew, speedy recovery from complicated heart surgery, also for strength and that his kidneys can regain function.
- **Debbie**, Lynn May's friend with health issues. For good test results.
- **John DeClue**, the Grater's friend, sent from hospital to Siteman rehab for his recurring brain cancer; peace and strength for him and the family.
- **Maureen Fowler**, Carol Grater's friend with colon problems; proper treatment.
- **Gretta**, 2-year-old neighbor of Joyce Sabine, came through heart surgery, now beginning chemo for leukemia.
- **John Guffin**, Jane Fischer's grandson and his family. For perseverance, fighting addiction, reliance on God and healing.
- **Charlie Jung**, Dr's wisdom diagnosing and treating heart issues.
- **Linda Klingebiel**, Mary McDannold's friend with stage 4 brain cancer. Pray for strength and relief of side-effects on her 4th cycle of 6 chemo treatments.
- **Cindy Paul**, Janet Rolle's friend whose son had an unfavorable cancer diagnosis and daughter had her kidney removed now hospitalized with infection.
- **Kim Jung-Ragsdale**, taking chemo treatments; good results and low side-effects.
- **Edith Skaggs**, for relief of shoulder pain; for the right doctor's help at age 91.
- **Doris Smith**, Lynn and Jan's mother, doing well but on hospice. For strength and peace for the family.
- **Kassandra Williamson**, Dave and Mary Smith's granddaughter; making progress with anger outbursts. Still has difficulty being present in school the whole day.
- **Family of Mary Lou Fochtman**, who passed away December 16.
- **Missions: Derrill and Becky Martin, TEAM, Southeast Asia:** Please pray for God's provision for the end of year funding shortfall the Martins are facing. Praise that Becky has additional people joining the leadership team to help with workload. Pray for Tony, who visited us with the Martins this summer, as he moves into a new position in a new city. He is in need of a car.

Worship at Home:

By Phone on TurboBridge: dial 314-627-6338, enter code 63141, followed by the "#" sign

By Facebook: search for St. Paul's Evangelical Church

By YouTube: search for St. Paul's Evangelical Free Church STL

Fourth Sunday in Advent Prayer Guide – God's Faithfulness

On the fourth Sunday of Advent (Advent IV), we celebrate God's faithfulness in sending Jesus, and we remember that faithfulness as we look forward to Christ's second coming.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Scripture Readings

Scripture readings for Advent IV focus on the coming of the Messiah who fulfills God's covenant with David, bringing salvation for all people and the eternal reign of God on earth.

- Old Testament Readings - Isaiah 7:10, 7:14, 2 Samuel 7:1, Micah 5:4.
- Readings from Psalms - 80:1, 89:1, 89:3, 89:19
- New Testament readings – Romans 1:2, Hebrews 10:9-10.
- Gospel Readings – Matthew 1:18, 1:21, 1:22, Luke 1:26, 1:32-33,

Fourth Sunday of Advent Prayer

The Advent season is a journey through the biblical story that shows us how "all the promises of God find their Yes in [Christ]" (2 Corinthians 2:20). Advent points us to Jesus, just like all Scripture. At his first coming, which we celebrate at Christmas, Jesus showed us his humility, his love for us, and his heart of grace toward sinners and sufferers. At his second coming, which we look forward to in Advent, he will complete what he started at his birth, bringing a final end to suffering, sin, and death, restoring his creation, and setting up a new kingdom of righteousness and peace. God keeps his promises.

"Dear God, you have given us the greatest gift ever - the ultimate sacrifice of love - your son Jesus Christ. Father, we thank you for your unconditional love that offers us grace in the midst of our sin. Help us to show the same love to those around us. Let us be conduits of kindness and forgiveness. Fill us with your Holy Spirit who guides us as we wait for the return of your Son. Thank you for loving us so, Amen.

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

MONDAY

Church Office Closed

TUESDAY

Prayer call 1:30 pm, Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed

THURSDAY

Church Office Closed

FRIDAY

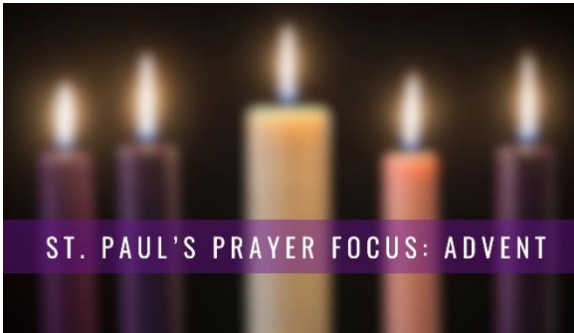
Nothing Scheduled

SATURDAY

Prayer with the Elders 9:00 am

SUNDAY

Worship Service 9:30am, No Adult Sunday School



ST. PAUL'S PRAYER FOCUS: ADVENT



Join Us
after the
Cantata for a
Cookie Reception
Today in the
Multipurpose
Room
11 am



Join us in
Celebrating
Our Savior's
Birth
December 24
5:00 p.m.



WEDNESDAYS
5:30 - 7 PM

JAM is not meeting the week of
Christmas, See you next year!



WELCOME BABY SHEHAN

YOU ARE INVITED TO A
SHOWER FOR
MELISSA SHEHAN
JANUARY 5, 12 PM IN THE
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM