

RINGING THE BELLS and ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING MUSIC "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" (Huggins)



*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We are walking toward a silent night,

People: Drawn by the chords of love.

Leader: We are moving to the sound of an angelic chorus,

People: Lured by a deep and holy melody.

Leader: We are growing in the likeness of Christ,

People: Supported by the nudges of the Spirit.

Leader: We are living in awareness of a divine love that fills the universe,

People: Pulling us to love and serve, to pray and worship.

*OPENING CAROL "Love Came Down at Christmas"

91

*UNISON INVOCATION

We come to praise You, O Lord, and to think again about Your love for the world as revealed in Your gift of our Lord Jesus Christ. Almighty God, the time of waiting is almost over. Open our spiritual eyes that we may see, and understand as best we can, the fuller meaning of the coming of the Savior for us all. In His name. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING 1 John 4:7-12 (NLT)

ADVENT SONG "Do You Know the Way to Bethlehem?" Praise Team

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE OF LOVE The Koch Family

RESPONSE **A candle is burning, a candle of Love;
A candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;
For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.** Tune: Away in a Manger

MORNING PRAYER

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And with you also.

One: Let us pray...

Morning Prayer, followed by 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.

Organ Response

ANTHEM "Advent Noel" (Page & Shafferman) Traditional & Handbell Choirs

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY "Of the Father's Love Begotten" (Kerrick)

*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.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Lord, we recall the promise, "Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Emmanuel." God be with us as we prepare for Christ's birth. Be with us in our prayers, songs, gifts and meditations. God be with us and in these gifts as they will spread the Good News that You are with all people everywhere. Amen.

*SERMON CAROL "In the Bleak Midwinter" # 122

SERMON **EXPRESSING LOVE**

*CLOSING CAROL "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!!" # 94

*BENEDICTION

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Tune: AZMON

**The love of God with peace and joy, will each of us attend,
and guide our ways through coming days, until we meet again.**

*RINGING THE BELLS

*CLOSING MUSIC "Ding! Dong! Merrily on High" (Traditional)

(* All who are able should please stand when noted.

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THE WEEK AHEAD...

TODAY - 12/18 - 4th Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 am Traditional Worship
- 9:15 am Praise Singers
- 10:00 am Breakfast, Sunday School
- 10:00 am Hospitality Team hosts Pictures with the Christmas Tree
- 11:00 am Discovery Worship
- 12:00 pm Hospitality Team hosts Pictures with the Christmas Tree
- 4:30 pm Blue Christmas Service (Chapel)
- 5:00 pm All Youth Christmas Party

MONDAY - 12/19

- 8:00 am Headstart PS

TUESDAY - 12/20

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

- 8:00 am Headstart PS
- 8:00 am Weight Watchers
- 3:00 pm Open Kitchen
- 5:15 pm Weight Watchers
- 5:30 pm Gym Reserved

WEDNESDAY - 12/21

- 8:00 am Headstart PS
- 3:00 pm Open Kitchen
- 5:15 pm Women at the Well Bible Study
- 5:30 pm Gym Reserved
- 5:45 pm Handbell Choir
- 7:00 pm Traditional Choir

SATURDAY - 12/24 - Christmas Eve

- 4:00 pm Family Worship
- 11:00 pm Candlelight Worship

SUNDAY - 12/25 - Christmas Day

- 10:00 am Service of Carols

MONDAY - 12/26

BUILDING & OFFICE CLOSED

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

- Today 9:00 am**
& S.S. Hour 11:00 am Stacey Henderson
Stacey Henderson & Theresa Herrenbruck
- Dec 24 4:00 pm** Stacey Henderson
Dec 25 10:00 am Stacey Henderson

GREETERS

- Today 9:00 am** Kookie & Gary Ruminer
11:00 am Judy Batteiger, Judy Lockhart
- Dec 24 4:00 pm** Judy & Harlan Batteiger
11:00 pm Verna Hudson, Janie Cummings
- Dec 25 10:00 am** Polly Ellison, Verna Hudson, Tracey & Keith Kolb

USHERS

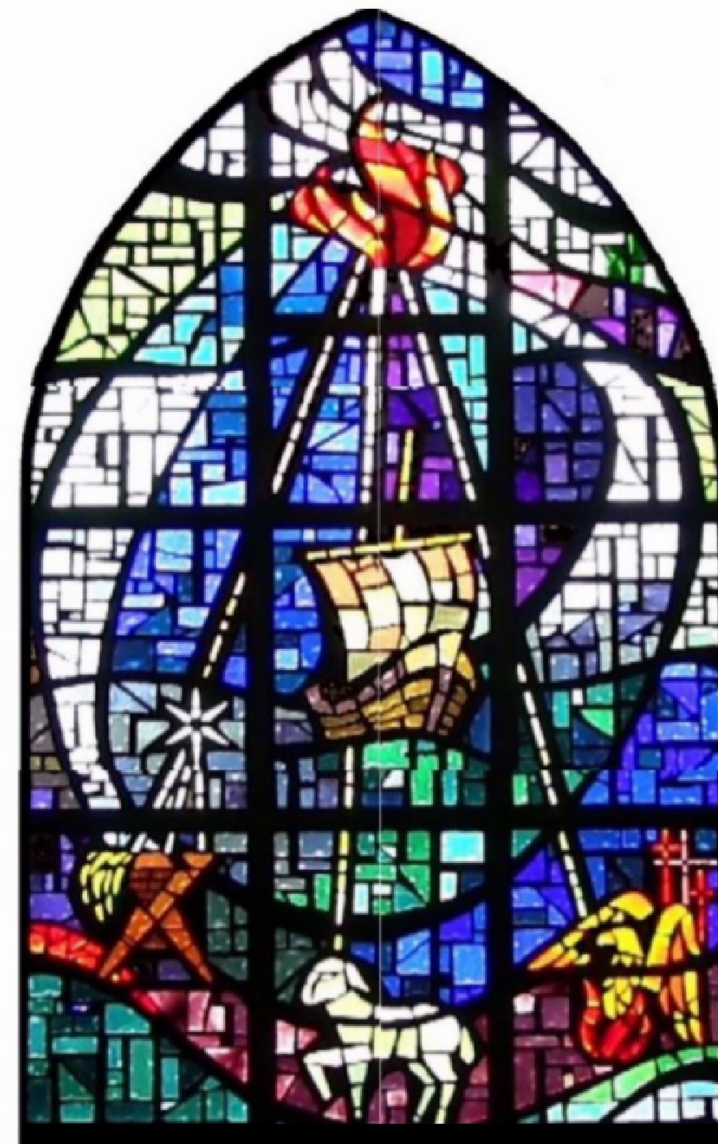
- Dec 9:00 am** Louis Buschkill, Captain; Bob Dreier
11:00 am Jacob Jackson, Captain; Keith Krietenstein, Mike O'Nan, Earl Smith

PRAYER CONCERNS

A complete list is posted on the entry bulletin board.

- Richard Alvis
- Orion Bays (Riley)
- Brooke Bishop
- Shirley Kolb (home)
- Anna Oschman (rehab)
- Pamela Paul (daughter of Bob & Shirley Sheets)
- Jerry Schreiber (FL)
- Earl Williams
- Bill Yeager

Sympathy to the family and friends of David Zeller (Don & Mary Rita Jourdan's nephew) who passed away on December 10th.



A Place to Belong and Serve

love
ST. PAUL'S
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

William J. Wassner, Senior Pastor
Andrea Williams, Director of Traditional Music
Carolyn Howard, Organist

2227 West Michigan Street / Evansville, IN 47712 / 812.425.1522
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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT - 9:00 AM - December 18, 2016