

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ
Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2022
5:00 PM**

We made the decision to continue with a Christmas Eve worship service. Due to the unfavorable road conditions and bitter cold weather, we are not sure who will be participating on Christmas Eve.

We have left it up to each individual's own good judgment as to whether or not each person attends Christmas Eve worship. This worship order is therefore tentative.

Pre-Service Organ Music

Sara Miller Kaufman

Welcome

Prelude

“Christmas Bell Tidings”

Combined Handbell Choir

Sara Miller Kaufman, director

Responsive Call to Worship

Pastor: This is a night of deep mystery -

People: a night when heaven comes to earth.

Pastor: This is a night of great love –

People: a night when a child is born for us.

Pastor: This is a night of incredible joy –

People: a night when angels sing to shepherds.

Pastor: Glory to God in the highest! Peace to all on earth.

People: O Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Opening Carol “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

Opening Prayer

Shine your light, O God, Into the darkness of our world. Shine your glory into the shadows of our lives. May the singing of the angelic chorus stir our hearts this night, as it did for the shepherds as they watched over their flocks by night. Prepare our hearts anew, Holy One, to behold the gift of your son in awe and wonder. Amen

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Michele and Brian Daum, Courtney and Ryan Kappler

Response “A Candle is Burning” tune: Away in the Manger

Gospel Reading Luke 2: 1-5

Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Gospel Reading Luke 2: 6-7

Special Music “What Child is This” Dixie Wann, soloist
Ron Christian, accompanist

Gospel Reading Luke 2: 8-14

Carol “Angels We Have Heard on Hight”

Gospel Reading Luke 2: 15-20

Special Music “Somebody Build a Manger” Combined Choir
Katie Maurer, director

Christmas Message “The Christmas Miracle”

Special Music “Welcome to Our World” Rev. J.D. Rose, soloist
Katie Maurer, accompanist

Service of Candles “Silent Night, Holy Night”

Christmas Prayer followed by The LORD’S Prayer

Responsive Benediction

Pastor: Once we walked in darkness.

People: Tonight, we walk in the light of Christ.

Pastor: Once we wandered with no one to lead us.

People: Tonight, we follow the Prince of Peace.

Pastor: Once we felt lost and forsaken.

People: Tonight, we sing the glory of our salvation.

Pastor: Once we were weary from toil.

People: Tonight, we are reborn with Christ, through God’s
glorious love.

Rev. J. D. Rose, pastor of St. Paul’s
Rev. Lynn Oliver Marino, pastor of Zion Evangelical
Rev. Dr. Thom Webster, pastor of Zion Evangelical