

**CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2024**

Prelude: “O Come Divine Messiah” (Carpentier)

Performed by Krista E.

Carol: “Merry Christmas with Love” (Smiley/Davis)

Performed by Krista E.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come away, come away, come today to Bethlehem.

People: **Come adore on bended knee, one whose birth
the angels sing.**

Leader: Come away, come away, from your noisy celebrations
to a place of quietness and peace.

People: **Come with wonder, come with awe,
Take your place among cattle and sheep.**

All: **Sing the good news of Emmanuel: God-with-us!
The Christ has come!**

***Opening Carol: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”#234**

Verses 1-3

Reading: The Prophecy (Isaiah 9:2-3 & 6-7)

Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #230

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Leader: Joy to the world!

People: **This is the culmination of our waiting.**

Leader: We have lit the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love.
In the glow of their light, we feel the warmth of deep and
quiet joy.

People: **Let us sing to the glory of God.**

Leader: As we light the Christ Candle, we celebrate the birth
of one who offers us hope when we are in despair.

People: **Peace in the chaos of life!**

Leader: God’s love – graciously, silently, vulnerably offered.

People: **Let heaven and nature sing!**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Reading: The Vision (Matthew 1:18-25)

Carol: “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” #211

Verses 1-2 & 7

Reading: The Birth (Luke 2:1-7)

Carol: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” #240

Reading: The Shepherds and the Angels (Luke 2:8-20)

Carol: “Angels We Have Heard on High” #238

CHRISTMAS OFFERING AND DEDICATION

Offertory: “Some Children See Him” (Alfred Burt)

Performed by Krista E.

Unison Prayer of Dedication

Thank you, God of Love, for the promise of this season, these gifts
represent a spirit of joyous giving here below as above. Amen.

Carol: “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” #204

Sung twice

Christmas Meditation

PASSING THE LIGHT OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Carol: “Silent Night, Holy Night”#239

*As this carol is sung, two candle lighters will go down the center
aisle and light each row’s first candle. That first candle will then
light all other candles in that row.*

Prayer of Celebration

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father-Mother, 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.

***Parting Carol: “Joy to the World” #246**

***Postlude: “Silent Night” (arr. Hayes)**

*The * indicates standing if you are able to do so*

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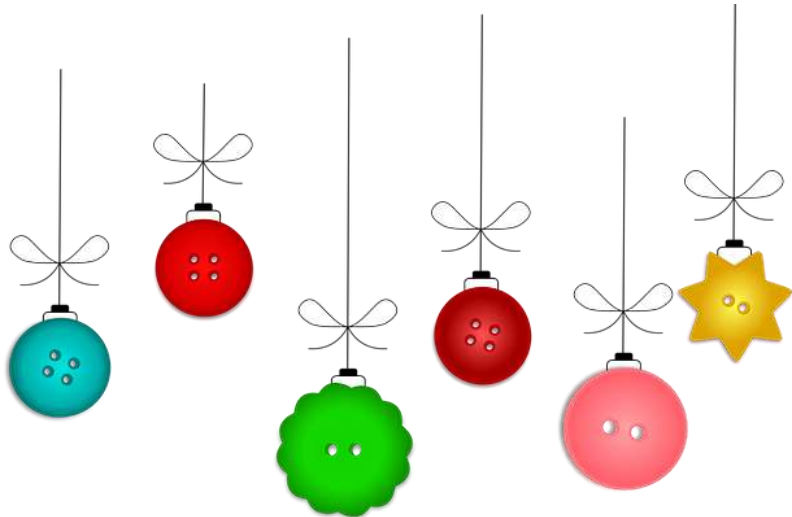
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Please contact Melissa if you have questions about or issues with tithely.

**Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from
St. Paul's!**



**Hope sprouts
Healing grows
Love blooms**
St. Paul's Methodist Faith Community

**Christmas
Eve**
**Joy
to the
world!**



December 24, 2024

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Merry Christmas!

*Christmas is love bringing us back to God
With the powerful clasp of a tiny hand
Reaching out from a bed of straw.*