



Christmas Eve

December 23 and 24, 2020

BELLS AND WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Angels from the Realms of Glory

**Angels from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, Watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing -- Yonder shines the infant light.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**Saints before the altar bending, Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, In his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

M In the name of God the Father.

C **The Creator who loves us and gave us the Gift of his Son.**

M In the name of God the Son.

C **The Redeemer who loves us and humbled himself to become like us in every way, except without sin.**

M In the name of God the Holy Spirit.

C **The Creator who loves us and comes to us through His Word to create life and hope in our hearts. Amen.**

INTRODUCTION

In the beginning was the Word [the Son of God], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of mankind.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelled among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him (John 1:1-4, 15; 3:16-17 Evangelical Heritage Version).

HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

**Of the Father's love begotten Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending he,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see Evermore and evermore.**

**Let the heights of heav'n adore him, Angel hosts his praises sing,
Pow'rs, dominions bow before him And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.**

Part 1: Waiting for God's Gift

M Our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, was active in creation. They counseled together and said:

C "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness."

M So God created mankind in his own image.

C **In the image of God he created them. Male and female he created them (Genesis 1:26-27).**

⁸ *[Adam and Eve] heard the voice of the LORD God, who was walking around in the garden during the cooler part of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.*

⁹ *The LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"*

¹⁰ *The man said, "I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself."*

¹¹ *God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?"*

¹² *The man said, "The woman you gave to be with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate it."*

¹³ *The LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?"*

The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ *The LORD God said to the serpent:*

*Because you have done this,
you are cursed more than all the livestock,
and more than every wild animal.*

*You shall crawl on your belly,
and you shall eat dust all the days of your life.*

¹⁵ *I will put hostility between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed*

*He will crush your head,
and you will crush his heel (Genesis 3:8-15 Evangelical Heritage Version).*

C For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

M The Lord himself will give you a sign:

C The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).

The first Advent candle is lit.

**Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

**Oh, come, O Key of David, come, And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to you, O Israel!**

Part 2: The Wonder of God's Gift

M When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

C to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship (Galatians 4:4-5).

M The time had come. The next step in God's plan was revealed.

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her (Luke 1:26-38).

The second Advent candle is lit.

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?
 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 oxen now are feeding?
 Good Christians, fear; For sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading.
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through;
 The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!

Part 3: God's Gift Wrapped in Humility

- M In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.
- C **So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.**
- M While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.
- C **She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them (Luke 2:1-7).**

The third Advent candle is lit.

O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light.
 The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of his heav'n.
 No ear may hear his coming, But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in.

Part 4: Celebrate God's Gift

- M And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them,
- C **“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”**
- M Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
- C **“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests”**
- M When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,
- C **“Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”**
- M So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
- C **When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them (Luke 2:8-18).**

The fourth Advent candle is lit.

HYMN

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Part 5: Ponder God's Gift

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart (Luke 2:19).

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M Gracious and almighty Father, you kept your promise to give us your own only begotten Son in human flesh and blood.

C **Receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.**

M You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C **Bless us with a childlike faith that you love and care for us always. Send us your Holy Spirit, so that your love and care might be evident in our love and care for the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened.**

M You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally.

- C** Father, this year we have experienced in a new way our inability to overcome the power of sin and death in this world. May the difficulties of this past year help us appreciate anew the Gift of your Son. If it be your will, bring healing to those who are sick, grant an end to the pandemic that stalks our world, and grant peace to the nations of the world.
- M** You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.
- C** For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER *(Sung to the tune of Away in a Manger)*

All Our Father in heaven, all praise to your name!
Your kingdom among us, your will done the same
By mortals and angels. Come, Lord, reign alone;
Oh, hear us and bless us from heaven’s high throne.

The bread that we yearn for provide us each day;
As we forgive others, our sins take away;
In times of temptation, to lead us be near;
From evil deliver your children most dear.

For yours is the kingdom; o’er all things you reign.
And yours is the power; all things you maintain.
To you be the glory, resounding again
From all of creation, forever! Amen

Part 6: The Candle Lighting – Passing on God’s Gift

THE SENDING

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told (Luke 2:20).

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Stille Nacht! Heil'ge Nacht!
Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute hoch heilige Paar.
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh! Schlaf' in himmlischer Ruh!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

The congregation will be ushered out, beginning from the rear of the church.

Thank you for joining us in the celebration of our Savior's birth!

Enjoy Our Online Christmas Gifts to You

- St. Paul's Lutheran Elementary School Christmas Service
- "His Name is Jesus" Christmas mini-movie
- "His Name is Jesus" Advent devotionals

All are available on the St. Paul's Muskego YouTube Channel.

THE INTENTIONAL LIFE!

Join us, beginning January 10, for a new message series ***The Intentional Life.***

In the days of the old sailing ships, the greatest danger sailors faced was not piracy or storms at sea, but simply being “becalmed” hundreds of miles from land.

The word “becalmed” sounds peaceful, but with no wind, a sailing ship could drift aimlessly for days or weeks until the sailors perished from lack of food and water.

In our lives, our most dangerous enemy may be not some sudden temptation, demonic assault, or even the personal “storms” of life, but the danger of simply drifting. The author of the Book of Hebrews warned, “We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away” (Hebrews 2:1).

Are you drifting?

As we begin the new year, we pray that the Holy Spirit (in both Hebrew and Greek the word for “spirit” and “wind” is the same) fill the sails of our lives so that we live with purpose and intention.

Join us as we seek *The Intentional Life of Love.*

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| January 10 | Love Uncomfortably | 1 Corinthians 9:22 |
| January 17 | Love in Action | Galatians 6:2 |
| January 24 | Love among Friends | 1 Thessalonians 5:11 |
| January 31 | Love within Families | Joshua 25:15 |
| February 7 | Love Generously | Matthew 6:21 |
| February 14 | Love to God’s Glory | 1 Corinthians 10:31 |

WORSHIP IN PERSON

Worship Times

- **Saturday at 5:00 pm**
- **Sunday at 7:45, 9:15, and 10:45 am**
- **Sunday at 10:15 am, The Bridge**
- **Wednesday at 7:00 pm** (Next week only, this service will be moved to Thursday, December 31 at 5:00 pm. It will be a New Year’s Eve service.)

If you’re not ready to attend a service in person, see the following page for our online worship opportunities available all day, every day.

JOIN US ONLINE

Traditional Service

Our Sunday 9:15 am traditional service is livestreamed every Sunday. A video archive of full-service replays is available on each platform below.



@ www.StPaulMuskego.org/online-worship



@ St. Paul's Muskego



@ St. Paul's Lutheran Church – Muskego, Wisconsin

The Bridge Casual Contemporary Service

The Bridge is livestreamed every Sunday at 10:15 am on each of the following platforms. You can find an archive of full-service replays on each platform.



@ www.StPaulMuskego.org/online-worship



@ The Bridge Church Muskego



@ The Bridge at St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S MINISTERIAL STAFF *Office (414) 422-0320*

| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Pastor Jeffrey Bonack | Ext. 119 | jbbonack@stpaulmuskego.org | Worship and Counseling |
| Mr. Randy Fink | Ext. 120 | rfink@stpaulmuskego.org | Church Administrator |
| Mr. Seth Fitzsimmons | Ext. 118 | sfitzsimmons@stpmuskego.org | School Administrator/Principal |
| Pastor David Kuehl | Ext. 121 | dkuehl@stpaulmuskego.org | Member Care |
| Dr. Joel Nelson | Ext. 145 | jnelson@stpaulmusekgo.org | Youth and Adult Discipleship |
| Pastor Peter Panitzke | Ext. 122 | ppanitzke@stpaulmuskego.org | Ministerial Team Leader |
| Mrs. Heidi Schuh | Ext. 115 | hschuh@stpmuskego.org | Asst. Director of Worship Operations |
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| Mrs. Sally Wallner | Ext. 294 | swallner@stpaulmuskego.org | Community Outreach Coordinator |
| Mr. Mike Westendorf | Ext. 295 | mwestendorf@stpmuskego.org | Director of Worship Operations |



Our vision is that by every possible means we bring every person in our area of influence closer to Christ through regular worship, small groups, and serving together.



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S!

Thank you for celebrating Christmas with us at St. Paul's.

St. Paul's is a family of believers in Jesus Christ who love each other and our community. Stop by the Welcome Center in the church entry for information about any of our ministries. An attendant will be there to answer your questions.

For Little Children: There is a "family room" where parents can go to quiet their children during the worship service. You can hear the service there. This room is to your right as you leave the center doors of the sanctuary.

Restrooms: Restrooms are to the left as you leave the sanctuary. There are also handicapped/family restrooms to the right as you leave the sanctuary.

Special Needs: Large-print worship folders and hearing assistance are available. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Christian Education

St. Paul's Child Care Center

We offer a Christian child care program for children six-weeks old through 3 years old. We love serving these little ones for Jesus. We have openings. Tell anyone who's pregnant and in need of child care to call Tammy Dockter at 414-422-0320, ext. 200, for a tour. Or go to childcare.stpmuskego.org for more information.

School Registration for 2021-22

Our 3K – 8th grade Christian school is accepting registrations for next school year. Call School Administrator Seth Fitzsimmons at 414-422-0320, ext. 118, for a school tour or indicate interest on the Connection Card. We strive to make our Christian school affordable for every family. We participate in the Milwaukee and Wisconsin Parental Choice program and we offer generous financial aid. Don't let financial concerns keep you from exploring this opportunity to help your child grow in their faith and excel in their studies.

Sunday Morning Children's Ministry

Kids Club is our Sunday ministry for youth age 3 to grade 6 from 9:15 until 10:15 am. Kids Club will not meet December 27. Register your child(ren) any Sunday morning, beginning January 3, in the Trinity Café, directly across the parking lot from the church.