

The Order of Worship

Let the people be in silent meditation and prayer upon entering the Sanctuary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*PRELUDE "His Name Medley" ... Arr. Tom Fettke

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP "Now Let the Heavens Be Joyful" Choir and Congregation
"Now let the heavens be joyful! Let earth her song begin!
Let the world keep triumph, and all that is therein!
Let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
For Christ the Lord is with us, Our joy, our joy, our joy that hath no end."

*GREETING

At Christmas we celebrate the coming of God to earth in human form.
The shepherds listen to the songs of angels,
And the Magi follow the stars,
But the glory of God shines in a manger.
"Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere,
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!"¹

*THE INVOCATION

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us pray...

*HYMN No. 256

"We Would See Jesus"

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 880

"The Nicene Creed"

*THE GLORIA PATRI, Hymnal 70

"Glory Be to the Father"

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Let us Pray: **God in human flesh, we come to pay you homage by offering you our lives. We bring these gifts to you as the first and the best of everything that you have given to us. Guide us by the radiance of your light, no matter where you may lead us. In this moment, we let go of everything that would pledge our higher allegiance to something other than you. Like the wise ones, we choose to return home by another way. Amen.**²

OFFERTORY "We'll Call Him Jesus" ... Karen Dean

*THE DOXOLOGY, Hymnal 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON (*responsive*)

... Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

All pray in silence

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Glory to God. Amen.³

(continued on back)

The Order of Worship (continued)

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON	Isaiah 60:1-6
THE ANTHEM	“Go, Tell It On the Mountain” Steve Vaughn, Soloist
*GOSPEL LESSON	Matthew 2:1-12
THE SERMON	“ <i>A Light In the Darkness</i> ”
THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION	HYMNAL, Page 15

This is the Lord's Table. All are invited to partake of the Sacrament.
Receive the bread as it is placed in the palm of your hand and hold it
until the cup is presented to you. The bread is dipped into the cup and eaten.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 254	“ <i>We Three Kings</i> ”
*BENEDICTION	Choir and Congregation
	“Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.”
*POSTLUDE	“There's A Song In the Air”

*All who are able are invited to stand.

1From litanies and Other Prayers for the Revised Common Lectionary: Year A, by
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A Very Special **THANK YOU** to Bill Searcy, the Chancel Choir and the Young Adults
for planning and presenting the beautiful, inspirational Moravian Love Feast and
Christmas Music last Sunday at Saint Paul. We are so fortunate to have such a
Talented Music Director and such gifted members of our Chancel Choir whose
talents remind us not only of “The Reason for The Season” but confirm our Faith
every Sunday during the year. Also, a big Thank You to all who helped prepare,
set up and brought food for the Reception following the Moravian Love Feast.
It was a very special celebration for Saint Paul United Methodist Church.