

## The Order of Worship

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

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

\*PRELUDE "O Blessed Emmanuel" ... J. S. Bach

### \*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

\*CALL TO WORSHIP "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" Choir and Congregation

"Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.  
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel."

### \*GREETING

We come to worship the coming King. The One who was and is and is to come!  
**Robed in Justice, carrying equity in his heart.**  
Righteousness is a belt around his waist, faithfulness is in the clasps of his sandals.  
**We have prepared ourselves for worship.**  
**We intend to do no harm; to love our neighbors and to stay in love with God!**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. 203 "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"

### LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

### OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY "Hear the Glad Tidings" ... Polish Carol

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

### CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON *(responsive)*

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Almighty God,**

**we confess that we are often swept up in the tide of our generation.  
We have failed in our calling to be your holy people,  
a people set apart for your divine purpose.**

**We live more in apathy born of fatalism than in passion born of hope.**

**We are moved more by private ambition than by social justice.**

**We dream more of privilege and benefits than of service and sacrifice.**

**We try to speak in your name without relinquishing our glories,**

**without nourishing our souls, without relying wholly on your grace.**

**Help us to make room in our hearts and lives for you.**

**Forgive us, revive us, and reshape us in your image. Amen.2**

*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**

### EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 15:4-13

### THE ANTHEM

"In Remembrance of Me"

... Courtney Red

### \*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 3:1-17

### SERMON

"To Fulfill All Righteousness"

(continued on Back)

**The Order of Worship** (continued)

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT II HYMNAL, Page 39

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. 605 "Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

\*BENEDICTION "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" Choir and Congregation

"God be with you till we meet again; By his counsels guide, uphold you,  
With his sheep securely fold you; God be with you till we meet again."

\*POSTLUDE "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" ... Georg Weissel

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\*All who are able are invited to stand

1 Rev. Nathan Decker, "Copyright General Board of Discipleship. Www.GBOD.org Used by permission."

2 *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. Copyright @ 1992 The United Methodist Publishing. 479

3Ibid. 35

*Today we celebrate the Baptism of Charlie Walton Stephens,  
the son of MaryAnn and Marcus Stephens  
and the grandson of Ed and Mary Pool and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Stephens.  
We welcome Charlie as one of the baptized and pledge to demonstrate  
the love of Jesus Christ to him as he grows in body and spirit.*

**Christmas at Saint Paul United Methodist Church**

The Annual Christmas Program, a **Moravian Love Feast**, will be presented by the **Chancel Choir** at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 19th, followed by a Reception in the Fellowship Hall.

All **Christmas Memorials and Honorariums** will be listed in the bulletin on Sun., December 19.

The **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service** will be at 5:00 p.m. December 24th.