



St. Paul Church
A UNITED METHODIST COMMUNITY

Welcome to worship! Please use the yellow card to communicate with us. We would gladly receive your prayer request or other information you want to share. Those online may share in the comments section.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023 | 10:00am WORSHIP
<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulumcky>

CHRISTMAS EVE MORNING

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been
born to you: he is the Messiah, the Lord.*

Luke 2:11



GATHERING

Gathering Music

Welcome

Rev. Dustin Woods

Prelude

It Came upon the Midnight Clear
Dr. Jim McFarland, organ

D. Hustad

***Call to Worship** (Psalm 89:1-2)

Rev. Darren Brandon

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

***Opening Hymn 218**

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

Advent Wreath

The Elbert Family

In this final week of Advent, our attention is on love. The following Scripture verses may sound very familiar, so listen carefully for the deep love of the Lord in these words. John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 15:13 says: "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

We light the first candle as a symbol of Christ our hope.

We light the second candle as a symbol of Christ our peace.

We light the third candle as a symbol of Christ our joy.

We light the fourth candle as a symbol of our loving Savior, born to set us free from sin and death.

God, we have learned to love from being loved by you. We know that our world needs the love of our savior more now than ever before. Remind us of the abundance of this love daily as we seek to follow you. May we walk closely with you and share your unfailing love with others. Amen.

PROCLAIMING

***Hymn**

Some Children See Him

SOME CHILDREN

All children are invited to come up with their stuffed animal or toy as this hymn is sung.

Solo: Some children see Him lily white, the baby Jesus born this night.

Some children see Him lily white, with tresses soft and fair.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown, the Lord of heav'n to earth come down.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown, with dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, this Savior whom we kneel beside.

Some children see Him almond-eyed, with skin of yellow hue.

Some children see Him dark as they, sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.

Some children see Him dark as they, and, ah! they love Him, too!

The children in each different place will see the baby Jesus' face

like theirs, but bright with heavenly grace, and filled with holy light.

O lay aside each earthly thing and with thy heart as offering,

come worship now the infant King. 'Tis love that's born tonight!

Words and Music by White Hutson | © 1954, 1957 by Hollis Music, Inc.

Children's Moment

Tracy Martin

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;

Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

CCLI Song # 38583 | © Words and Music: Public Domain | CCLI License # 828092

Prayer for Illumination

Rev. Dustin Woods

Gospel Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

On the Eve

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Offering

My Soul Will Magnify the Lord

Getty, Getty, Townend

Luke 1:46b-55

Lori Elbert, soloist; Jim McFarland, piano

*Doxology

[Sung to *My Soul Will Magnify the Lord*]

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise the Son and Holy Spirit.

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise the Son and Holy Spirit.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Darren Brandon

Morning Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

Our Father, 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 that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING FORTH

*Hymn 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

Stanzas 1-3,5,6

*Benediction

Rev. Dustin Woods

Postlude

Joy to the World

C. Philips

Dr. Jim McFarland, organ

Next Week in Worship: One Service

One Service | 10:00am – Gym

Sermon: *In the Temple* | Rev. Dustin Woods

Livestream at 10:00am on Facebook

Scriptures for the Week: Isaiah 61:10-62:3; Psalm 148; Galatians 4:4-7; Luke 2:22-40

Childcare is available for worship from 9:30 am to 11:30 pm | Ages Birth through Pre-K

WORSHIP TODAY

TODAY'S ONLINE GREETER is Sal Rubino

ACOYLTES today are Peter Elbert and Wesley Woods.

YELLOW CONNECTION CARDS are a way you can request more information about our church or ask for prayer. You may place your card in the offering plate or give it to an usher after the service.

You can also fill out an online connection card using the Flowcode to the right.



LAY READER SCHEDULE

Dec. 31: Galatians 4:4-7 – Ed Henson

Jan. 7: Isaiah 60:1-6 – (9:00) Angela Horton
(11:00) Lori Brandon

Jan. 14: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 – (9:00) Melody
Medley (11:00) Mark Johnson

Jan. 21: Psalm 29 – (9:00) youth
(11:00) Donna McCoy

Check the St. Paul Website (stpaulchurchky.org) for more information on these and other activities or scan the QR code to the right for quick links to lots of St. Paul info!

Prayer requests can be sent to prayer@stpaulchurchky.org.

Sign up for the St. Paul weekly email and Tower newsletter at the website (bottom of homepage) or by emailing info@stpaulchurchky.org.



Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

December 29th & 30th
5:30pm & 8:00pm

Reception following each performance in McAdams Hall
Free tickets are available. Call the church office at 502.459.1595, or stop by Monday-Thursday from 10am-2pm. Also available by emailing genie@stpaulchurchky.org, or by ordering online at <https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/boars-head/>

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

RESOURCE CENTER NEEDS | Long-sleeved men's t-shirts (all sizes, especially 2x and up) - Men's jeans/pants - Coats - Winter hats - Scarves - Gloves - Pop-top ravioli and Vienna sausages - Peanut butter or cheese crackers - Protein bars - Jerky - HotHands hand and toe warmers.

BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL NEEDS | Boars Head Festival volunteer sign-up sheets: please visit the bulletin board across from the information center and sign up if you are able to help in any of these areas:

- *Take down Sanctuary decorations and assemble the set (Dec. 26, 9:00am-2:00pm)
- *Bake cookies for the receptions
- *Usher for festivals or serve food for receptions (Dec. 29-30)
- *Help set up lighting (Dec. 27-28)
- *Take down set (Dec. 31-after the 10:00 service)

Please sign up on the bulletin board or contact Karla Temple (karla@stpaulchurchky.org). This is such a fun way to get to know others in our church family while having a positive, uplifting experience and bringing joy to others!

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY | The Vine and Branches class invites you to stop by the Common Cup from 9:30-11:30am for a "Happy Birthday, Jesus" party. There will be free cake and festivities! All are welcome to stop by!

TWEENS SERVICE PROJECT AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE | January 4, Noon-2:30pm | There are only FOUR spots still available, so please email tracy@stpaulchurchky.org if your 4th-6th grader wants to help assemble bagged lunches for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

ST. PAUL CHILDREN'S CHOIRS | Children's Choirs resume for the spring semester on Wednesday, January 10 with the following schedule:

- Music Milestones Class for ages 3-5: 6-6:30pm, Room 306
- Joyful Song Choir for grades 1-3: 7-8pm, Room 306
- Wesleyan Choir for grades 4-6: 7-8pm, Room 302

WESLEY NIGHT RESUMES JANUARY 10 | We'll begin with Home Cooked Meal Night. Learn more and register for meals here: <https://www.stpaulchurchky.org/ministries/wesley-night/>

DECEMBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Candlelight Christmas Eve | Sunday, Dec. 24

5:00pm prelude | 5:30pm service | Sanctuary Led by Chancel Choir and string quartet | Holy Communion

10:30pm prelude | 11:00pm service | Sanctuary | Led by Youth Choir, Chancel Choir, and string quartet
Holy Communion

Dec. 31 – 10:00am | One Service | Gym | Led by the Koinonia worship team

2000 Douglass Blvd
Louisville, KY 40205
502-459-1595 | stpaulchurchky.org

CONTACT US

Rev. Darren Brandon (270) 570-2004 - cell

