

*A Quiet Christmas
"Light of the World"*



"Sharing the Good News of Christ With All People."



Welcome to “A Quiet Christmas,” a program that has become a tradition at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The season of Advent is often a very busy time, a time when thoughts turn to the many preparations for Christmas, so much so that Advent itself can get lost.

The word “Advent” means “coming” and so it is appropriate that we spend time in preparation for what is coming. Therein lies the problem, however, for it is not really “what” that is coming (Christmas Day and all the cultural trappings). It is “Who.” That “Who” is Jesus.

This evening, we hope to slow the pace and concentrate on the many ways our Lord and Savior enters our lives. He entered once and for all when He was born in a stable in Bethlehem. He enters our hearts and lives again and again as we realize and celebrate a love that was literally made flesh that we might know Him, a love born to set us free.

*We pray that this evening
Christ will be born anew in your life.*

Advent Blessings!

A Quiet Christmas 2025

Advent is a paradoxical season. We talk of preparing our hearts for Jesus's coming, yet we know He has already come. Advent tells us to prepare for His coming in our hearts, but it also reminds us that Jesus will come again, and we are to be ready. How do we do that?

The first candle on the Advent wreath is representative of Hope. Advent is a season of Hope. It reminds us that Christ has come and because of this truth we can live in hope. "We don't know what tomorrow holds, but we know Who holds tomorrow," the saying goes. For that reason, we can live in hope and expectation. Advent reminds us to keep our hearts open and ready, not just in this season, but in every season of life.

Jesus truly is "Emmanuel, God with us." This is a season to ponder that truth. Here is another paradox: the calendar year is coming to an end, but the church year is just beginning. Perhaps that is because we need to hold on to this truth of Emmanuel, Who loved us enough to share our frail humanity, not just so that we might know Him better, but to show us He understands and loves us.

God is with us. May that truth fill you with hope, not just in this season of light and celebration, but all year long.



Introduction and prayer

Pastor Scott Henze

Responsive Hymn: My Soul in Stillness Waits...Gather 328 v 1, 2, 5 & 6

Congregation sing the refrain. Choir sing the verses.

Refrain

The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is in 4/4 time and contains the melody for the words "For you, O Lord, my soul in still - ness". The second staff is in 2/4 time and contains the melody for the words "waits, tru - ly my hope is in you.". The melody is simple and uses a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb).

A Reading from the Gospel of John

The Source

Paul Viscovich

Handbells.....Away in A Manger

James 1: 2-4, 17-18

Christmas Reflection

Ann Railton

Christmas Is

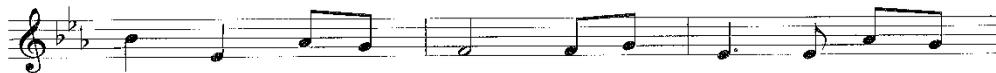
Cheryl Kirking

Hymn: Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

Gather 762



1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, Lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, In the
3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, Ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, You who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, In the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, Make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, Shine on ev - 'ry land and
wis - dom, We can hear your qui - et
jus - tice, Let us each re - flect your



race. Now as eve - ning falls a - round us, We shall
song. Love that fills the night with won - der, Love that
light. Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Gen - tle



raise our songs to you, God of day - break, God of
warms the wea - ry soul, Love that bursts all chains a -
Christ who lights our way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal -



shad - ows, Come and light our hearts a - new.
sun - der, Set us free and make us whole.
va - tion, Lead us on to end - less day.

Luke 11: 29-36

Ezri's Witness

David Kossoff

Instrumental: Ben and Karla.....I Wonder As I Wander

Psalm 139: 7-12 (NIV)

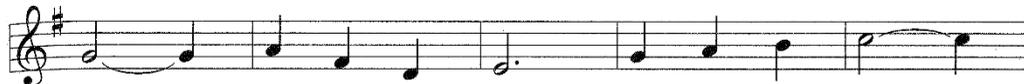


Hymn: Christ Be Our Light.....

Renewing worship 127



1 Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
 2 Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
 3 Long-ing for food, man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
 4 Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
 5 Man-y the gifts, man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone
 wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
 hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
 bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
 shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
 to one an-oth-er, signs of your king-dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark-ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath-ered to-day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Is the Light in your Eyes?

Cheryl Kirking

No Deeper Joy

James Dobson

There is no higher privilege, no deeper joy, than to become Jesus Christ – if only for a moment – to someone who needs Him in a moment of trouble or deep distress. It's more than just speaking or teaching about Him. It is actually stepping into His place, becoming His hands and feet. It is allowing Him to so fill your heart and empower your life that your touch becomes His touch...your voice becomes His voice...your compassion and mercy and tenderness become His, poured out to a hurting world. And when we do these things...when we feed the hungry, take in a stranger, clothe the naked, or visit the sick or the prisoner in His name and His power, something mysterious happens. The King tells us, "You did that for Me. You touched My life, in My need, and I remember it for eternity." On a Christmas long ago, He came as a light into a hopeless world. Through our yielded, available lives, His love continues to push back the darkness.

Responsive Reading

Autum Dennis

L The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

C Living in a land of deep darkness, on us light has shined.

L We have wandered through this desert for weeks,

C Pregnant, curious, scared, fleeing,

L Ostracized, abandoned, no room in the inn.

C But the star shines in the night sky as the baby cries out.

L The light shines in the darkness,

C And the darkness has not overcome it.

L The Word has become flesh.

C The Word has come to live among us.

L We have seen his glory,

C The glory of God's only son.

L O God, You have opened our eyes;

C May we now open our hands

L To hold the homeless child in our arms,

C To welcome the poor as we welcome you,

L May your light shine through our hearts

C As we celebrate your arrival.

Amen.

Choir.....The People Who Walked in Darkness

Please stay for fellowship and refreshments in the breezeway following tonight's program.

Seeking the Light

Henri J. M. Nouwen

Lord Jesus, Master of both the Light
And the darkness, send Your Holy Spirit
Upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces
To hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious about many
things look
Forward to Your coming among us...

We are your people, walking in
darkness,
Yet seeking the light.

To You we say, "Come Lord Jesus!"

Christmas Worship Schedule

Tuesday, December 24

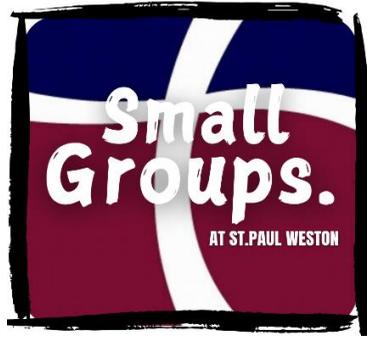
5:00 PM Service for families with small children
(No Communion)

8:00 PM and 10:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 AM The Nativity of our Lord Worship with Holy Communion.





Celebrate Community with Small Groups at St. Paul!

Whether you're looking to join a group, learn more about how they work, or explore hosting one yourself, we invite you to visit our Small Group Ministry page <https://stpaulweston.com/groups/> and take the next step in your faith journey.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director

580 Indian Trace, Weston, Florida 33326

Church Office (954) 384-9096 † office@stpaulweston.org

www.stpaulweston.org

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth: 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online giving

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St. Paul
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& PRE-SCHOOL