

# Christmas Eve Worship

24 December 2023, 5pm

Story

Carols

Candlelight

**A family friendly service on the Labyrinth  
with firepits, s'mores & hot cocoa**

*If inclement weather will move into Sanctuary*

Bring a chair & blanket, and consider  
downloading this bulletin for your digital  
device @ [www.stpaulabq.org](http://www.stpaulabq.org)

Livestreamed @

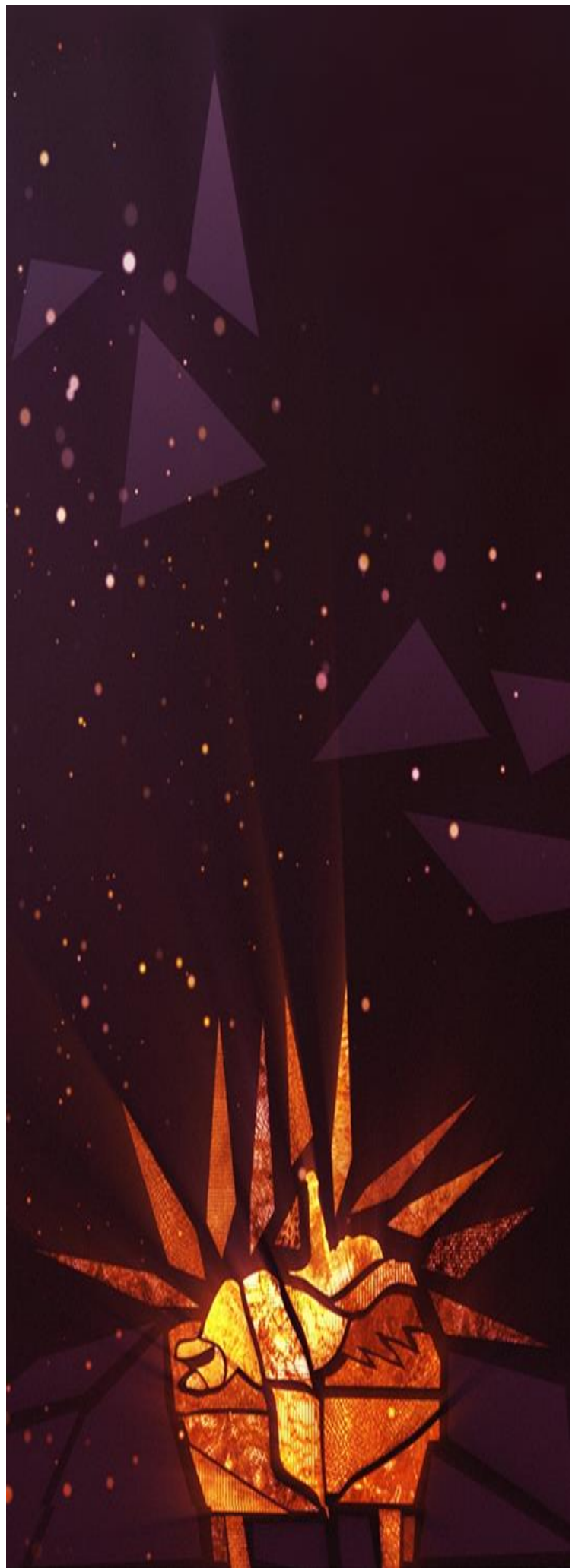
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Tune to

FM 89.5 from your Car

St. Paul Lutheran Church

1100 Indian School Rd NE 505 242 5942  
Albuquerque, NM 87102



## GATHERING MUSIC

### WELCOME

#### GATHERING CAROL *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, ELW Hymn 283

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the king of angels:

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*O come, let us adore him,*

*Christ the Lord!*

2. The highest, most holy, light of light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

## CHRISTMAS DIALOGUE

Jesus Christ is the Light of the world!

**The Light no darkness can overcome.**

At darkest night we gather to celebrate  
the great light of our salvation.

**With the heavenly host we sing,  
"Glory to God in the highest heaven."**

In Christ, God's Word is made flesh  
and lives among us.

**With the shepherds, we will tell of the  
wonders we have seen and heard.**

**CAROL** *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, ELW Hymn 290

*Refrain:*

*Go tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!*

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.*

### **GREETING AND EVENING PRAYER**

May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Amazing God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. **Grant that while we walk on earth we may walk in the light of your presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of your glory; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **SCRIPTURE READING** *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined. <sup>6</sup>For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

### **MEDITATION**

**CAROL** *Joy to the World*, ELW Hymn 267

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive its king;  
let ev'ry heart prepare him room  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**SCRIPTURE READING** *Luke 2:1-7*

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**MEDITATION**

**CAROL** *Away in a Manger*, ELW Hymn 277

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

## **SCRIPTURE READING** *Luke 2:8-14*

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

## **MEDITATION**

**CAROL** *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*, ELW Hymn 270

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king;  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all you nations, rise;  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" *Refrain*

*Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!  
Hail the Sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise each child of earth,  
born to give us second birth. *Refrain*

## **SCRIPTURE READING** *Luke 2:15-20*

<sup>15</sup>When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## **MEDITATION**

**CAROL** *What Child Is This*, ELW Hymn 296

1. 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!
  
3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;  
come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings;  
let loving hearts enthrone him.  
Raise, raise the song on high,  
the virgin sings her lullaby;  
joy, joy, for Christ is born,  
the babe, the son of Mary!

## PRAYERS

Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of our dear Savior's birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all as we sing of its wonders.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens keep them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind.

God of peace, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Healer, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy, especially for those whose names we offer now either, aloud or silently. We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful love.

God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, bathe us always in the promise of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

*All may greet one another in Christ's peace.*

*May we also be the peace so needed in our world.*

## OFFERING

Should you wish to give an offering, you may place it in one of the baskets located on the welcome stations on the Labyrinth, mail your check to 1100 Indian School Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102, or use a credit card via our website at [www.stpaulabq.org](http://www.stpaulabq.org).

## OFFERING MUSIC

## OFFERING PRAYER

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. **As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be a blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **SERVICE OF THE LIGHT**

*This night the center candle of the Advent wreath is lit.  
It symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world, has come!*

*A candle will be lit from the Christ candle,  
which will then light the candle of each worshiper.  
To share the light be sure to hold your lit candle upright.*

### **CAROL** *Silent Night, Holy Night!*, ELW Hymn #281

1. 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.
2. Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from your holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*Candles remain lit for the Gospel of the Incarnation*

### **THE GOSPEL OF THE INCARNATION** John 1:1-14

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup>in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.



<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

<sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humanity, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a parent's only son, full of grace and truth.

*You may extinguish your candles (being careful not to blow hot wax on yourself or your neighbor) and return them to the box as you head home to continue the Christmas Celebration.*

### **SENDING BLESSING**

May our Lord God, who has called you out of darkness to be servants of light, grant you the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the peace of the Christ Child. In the name of Almighty God, the Creator, Christ, and Spirit. **Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Christ is with you! Go Tell it on a Mountain!  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **SENDING MUSIC**



## St. Paul Lutheran Church Welcome Statement

*As a community of faith in Christ, is radically welcoming,  
strives for justice, and loves its neighbor as itself.*

### What does this mean?

As we seek to embody our commitment to become a more welcoming community,  
this means that regardless of your:

**Age** 3 days old, 30 years old, or 130 years old ...

**Citizenship Status** By birth, by choice, undocumented, dreamer, asylee ...

**Culture or Race** Hispanic, Native American, Asian, Black, or White

**Economic Means** Employed or not, rent or own or live with parents, or are homeless ...

**Emotional State** Happy or struggling with addictions or phobias ...

**Faith Expression or Background** Buddhist, Jewish, agnostic, Christian, Muslim, atheist ...

**Financial Philosophy** Tithe, hoard, would share if you had money ...

**Household Structure** Blended, two-parent, single-parent, with children or not, or solo

**Marital Status** Single, married, partnered, separated, or divorced ...

**Physical or Mental Capabilities** Able, disabled, or person of differing abilities ...

**Political Leanings** Republican, Democrat, Independent, Socialist ...

**Spiritual Condition** At peace or having a troubled spirit ...

*... or whatever terms you use to describe yourself,*

### You Are Welcome Here.

*You and your gifts are needed at St. Paul for the sake of God's work in the world.*

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### A Thank you to those Serving this Evening!

*Pastor Kristi Koppel – Worship Leader*

*Raul Manjarrez – Organist/Pianist*

*Olivia – Reader*

*Ryan Millis – Reader*

*Gabriel Rabezanany – Reader*

*Noah Rabezanany - Reader*

*Janet Vrudny – Reader*

*Paul Gallegos & Jeff Sorenson – Greeters*

*Jan Bowers, Amanda & Casey Jelsema, David & Velma Kelly,*

*Sara Love & Olivia, et al. – Set up/Tear down*

*Deb Ash & Nancy Jenkins – Hot Chocolate & S'mores*

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## Worship every Sunday @ 10am.

## In-person & streaming!