



**Christmas Eve Service**  
**St. Paul's UMC - December 24, 2022**  
**5:00 PM Family Service**  
**Pastor Linda Ray 406 Main Street, Odessa, DE 19730 302-378-2420**  
**[www.stpaulsodessa.org](http://www.stpaulsodessa.org)**  
**CCLI 11305346 and Streaming Lic. 21184487**

WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE  
*\*Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

GATHERING MUSIC AND PHOTOS Duane Dillard, Music Ministry  
Mark Holden – Photos& Curator, Liturgist – Ellie Leuliette

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE: Schrum Family

One: Advent hope moves us;

**Many: Advent love leads us;**

One: Advent joy stirs us;

**Many: Advent peace stills us, that we might affirm Jesus as our King.**

One: We light the Christ candle rejoicing that a Savior is born.

**Many: A savior is born, indeed. Joy to the world!**

**All Singing: We honor Messiah with Christ's candle flame. Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim. O come, all you faithful, rejoice in this night. As God comes among us, the Christians true light.**

#### PRAISE AND WORSHIP

Liturgist: Good news! Unspeakable joy!

**Congregation: A great light has burst forth, overcoming the darkness!**

Liturgist: A child is born for us—a Son has been given!

**Congregation: Bringing a kingdom of endless peace, we shall call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!**

Liturgist: Come, let us see what God has brought us! Let us see what the Lord has done! Glory to God in the highest!

**Congregation: And on earth, peace and goodwill to all!**

\*OPENING HYMN

*Angels From The Realms of Glory*

Red Hymnal 220

**OPENING PRAYER (all praying): Gracious God, with joy and thanksgiving we gather as Your people. We have come to hear again the timeless story of Christ's birth. In the excitement of tonight, quiet our hearts that we may know the peace and fullness of this holy time. Shine, O Light, in the darkness of our world. Sing, O angels, in the stillness of our hearts. Glory to God in the highest and, and on earth peace and good will among all people. This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen**

**PASS THE PEACE:** (safely share words and signs of blessing)

O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.  
For He alone is worthy, For He alone is worthy, For He alone is worthy, Christ the Lord. We  
give you all the glory, We give you all the glory, We give you all the glory, Christ the Lord.

**FIRST LESSON:** *Isaiah 9: 2-7*

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have made the nation great;

you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest,

as those who divide plunder rejoice.

<sup>4</sup> As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,

the staff on their shoulders,

and the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Because every boot of the thundering warriors,

and every garment rolled in blood

will be burned, fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> A child is born to us, a son is given to us,

and authority will be on his shoulders.

He will be named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> There will be vast authority and endless peace

for David's throne and for his kingdom,

establishing and sustaining it

with justice and righteousness

now and forever.

The zeal of the LORD of heavenly forces will do this.

**\*GOSPEL LESSON:** *Luke 2: 1-20*

<sup>2</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. <sup>2</sup> This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed

Syria. <sup>3</sup> Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. <sup>4</sup> Since Joseph belonged to David's

house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called

Bethlehem, in Judea. <sup>5</sup> He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in

marriage and who was pregnant. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her

baby. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a

manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom. <sup>8</sup> Nearby shepherds were living in

the fields, guarding their sheep at night. <sup>9</sup> The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory

shone around them, and they were terrified.

<sup>10</sup> The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news

for all people. <sup>11</sup> Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This is a sign

for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.”<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said,<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.”<sup>16</sup> They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child.<sup>18</sup> Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them.<sup>19</sup> Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully.<sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

One: May this story inspire us all. ALL: **To walk in the way that leads to life.**

HYMN OF PREPARATION:            *Angels We Have Heard On High*            Red Hymnal 238

THE MESSAGE:                        “The Gifts Of Christmas”            Pastor Linda Ray

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (*You may speak aloud your joys and concerns.*)

#### **WE GIVE THANKS**

OFFERTORY REMINDERS: Tonight’s Offering supports the Operational Fund of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church.

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor Linda Ray

Blessed Lord, you have given us your greatest gift—your very Word come to earth, to live with us and through us; you have filled us with your grace and truth—your holy child sent to free us from our bonds. How can we repay such divine generosity? Receive our thanks and praise. As you have given to us, so now we share your gifts and your grace with a world in need. May this offering help bring your light and love to those who still wander in darkness. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the Lord's Table, all you who love him. Come to the Lord's Table, confess your sin. Come to the Lord's Table, be at peace.

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you

**All: And also with you**

One: Lift up your hearts

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Linda Ray

Officiant Server – Don Mueller

Pastor Linda: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

### Communion Song

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of Power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.**

Reader 1: On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me." Please take your wafer and commune along with me.

Reader 2: When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Please take your juice and commune along with me.

Reader 1 & 2: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Linda: Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

### WE GO IN THE SPIRIT

\*CANDLELIGHT HYMN:

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

Red Hymnal 239

BENEDICTION/BLESSING  
POSTLUDE

Pastor Linda Ray  
Duane Dillard

**Altar flowers are donated by Charlotte and Ronnie Miller in memory of their son, Kendall Reed on his 41<sup>st</sup> birthday.**



# ST. PAUL'S

United Methodist Church of Odessa

*Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out*