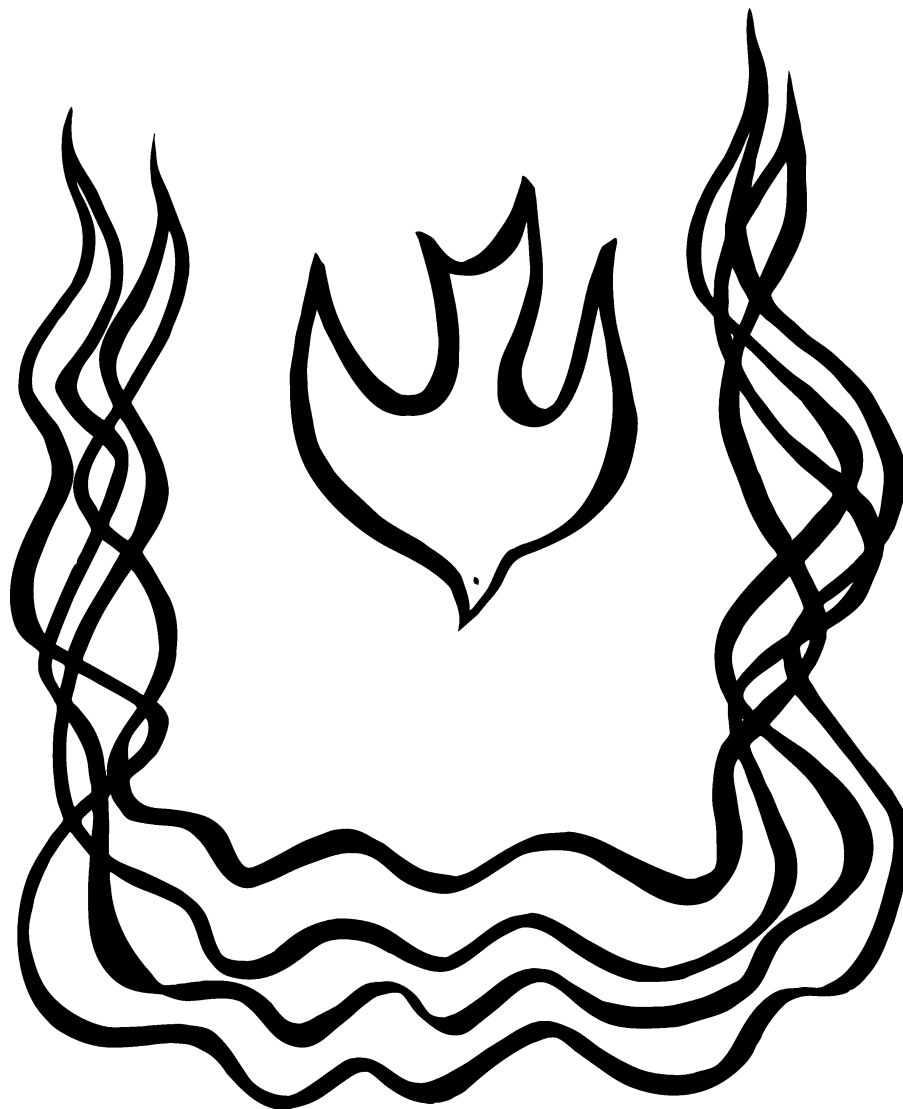


St. Paul Lutheran Church  
“Let’s Make a Difference Together”



158 Fish Hill Road  
PO Box 196

Tannersville, Pennsylvania  
Telephone: (570) 629-1992  
Fax: (570) 629-2038

Website: [www.stpaultannersvillepa.org](http://www.stpaultannersvillepa.org)

**Parish Administrator’s Email:** [parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org](mailto:parishadmin@stpaultannersvillepa.org)

**Worship Services: Sunday at 9:00 A.M.**  
**Holy Communion: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month & Festivals**  
**Christian Education: Sunday’s at 10:15 A.M.**

**Air Conditioned & Handicapped Accessible**

# *Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT: Grounded in faith and growing in grace, we share the Good News of Jesus Christ by word and deed in our local community and throughout the world.**



**Are you visiting St. Paul? Are you interested in membership or just looking to see if St. Paul is a good fit for you and/or your family??**

Please call (570-629-1992) or stop by our office during regular business hours (Mon – Thurs 9:00am – 1:00pm) and speak to our Parish

Administrator, Leanna Wickline, who will be happy to guide you through

the membership process and help you find information on all of the great programs at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

***SILENT MEDITATION.*** . . Please note – the silent meditation is a part of the morning worship service. This is a time for individual reflection; a time for communicating with God, as well as a time of preparation for the service of worship. We encourage you to use it in a meaningful way.

***Please respect the prayerful atmosphere of this holy place. We ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Thank you.***

## Our Church Staff

**Pastor:** Pastor Rashion Santiago

**Parish Administrator:** Mrs. Leanna D. Wickline

**Choir Director/Organist:** Mr. Robert Jones

## 2021 Council Members

Grant Allen

Bill Below

Terry Fouts

Chris Kinsley Sr.

Nicole Kresge

Carl Reindl

Deb Storman

Beth Werkheiser

Leanna Wickline

*We welcome the Rev. Rashion Santiago this morning as she begins her call here. Welcome to the St Paul Church family!*

# Worship Service

## Third Sunday of Advent

### Sunday, December 12, 2021

*+Late Seating*

*\*Please stand, if able.*

*Words in bold print denote congregational response.*

#### Prelude

#### Chimes (Call to Worship)

#### Announcements

#### \*Confession

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who alone does wonders, who lifts up the lowly, who fills the hungry with good things.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God for whom we wait,

**in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.**

#### \*Absolution

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✝ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

**Amen.**

\*+ Opening Hymn

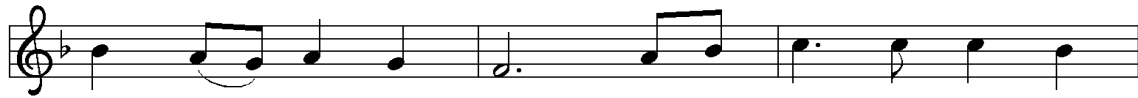
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and  
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and  
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and  
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to  
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where  
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and  
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as  
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through  
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the  
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we  
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in  
strang - er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an  
laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:  
claim the faith of Je - sus:  
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,  
end to fear and dan - ger:  
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen  
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\*Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord,

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

**Christ, Be Our Light**

**Verse 3 only**



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.

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Advent is a time to awaken our spiritual senses.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Grant us vision to behold your glory.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Quiet us so we may hear your still, soft voice.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

Make us vessels of your mercy, compassion, and grace.

**We stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord, repeat them in our day!**

For all of us eagerly watching for your glory in our midst:

**Grant that we might have the peace of Christ as we wait, the love of Christ as we act, and the grace of Christ as we speak.**

This morning we light the three candles. The first candle reminds us of those who find themselves in a season of waiting, resting in hopeful anticipation for God to act. The second candle is for anyone feeling weakened and wearied by the circumstances of life. We echo the cry of scripture to renew their strength and increase their power. The third candle awakens our spiritual senses, challenging us to embrace the glory of God, as we await our Savior's promised coming.

***All sing the refrain to "Christ Be Our Light"***

### **\*Prayer of the Day**

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6**

<sup>2</sup>Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the LORD GOD is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

<sup>3</sup>**With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.**

<sup>4</sup>And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name; make known the deeds of the LORD among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

<sup>5</sup>**Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be known in all the earth.**

<sup>6</sup>Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-7**

*Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation**



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*Gospel: Luke 3:7-18**

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into

the fire.”

<sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” <sup>13</sup>He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.”

<sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

<sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

The word of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### Sermon - Pastor Rashion Santiago

### \*Hymn of the Day      On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es  
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the  
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge  
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us  
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent

that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,  
way for God with - in, and let us all our  
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we  
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -  
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!  
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.  
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.  
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.  
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite  
 Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

### \* The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### \*Pastoral Prayer

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, renew your church and raise up leaders who announce your good news. Grant peace to congregations and seminarians in the midst of transition. Guide the work of candidacy and call committees. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Creating God, your Spirit brought forth the earth and all that is in it. Breathe life into us, that we are inspired to live in harmony with one another and the planet. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Shepherding God, you lead your people in paths of righteousness. Raise up prophets in our own day who warn against captivity to greed and point us to the freedom found in generosity. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Nurturing God, you come near in times of worry and need. Cradle us in your arms, that we trust you and are not afraid. Attend to any who are hungry, imprisoned, or ill this day. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Rejoicing God, you exult over us in singing. Enliven the song of this assembly and bless the ministry of church musicians. With instruments and dance, join our voices to the song of all creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for your servants who showed us your goodness and grace. By the power of your Spirit, keep us steadfast in faith until we make our home with you. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

**\*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 who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**\*Blessing**

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

**Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn**

**The King Shall Come**

1 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light tri - um-phant breaks,  
2 Not as of old a lit - tle child, to bear and fight and die,  
3 Oh, bright - er than the ris - ing morn when Christ, vic - to - rious, rose  
4 Oh, bright - er than that glo - rious morn shall dawn up - on our race  
5 The King shall come when morn-ing dawns and light and beau - ty brings.

when beau - ty gilds the east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
but crowned with glo - ry like the sun that lights the morn-ing sky.  
and left the lone - some place of death, de - spite the rage of foes.  
the day when Christ in splen - dor comes, and we shall see his face.  
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your peo - ple pray: come quick - ly, King of kings.

The musical score consists of two systems. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The first system contains five lines of lyrics. The second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

**\*Choral Benediction**

***"Go Now and Pass It On"***

May the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ walk be - side us \_\_\_\_\_ as we  
6  
leave \_\_\_\_\_ this qui - et place, \_\_\_\_\_ for the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ will al - ways  
12  
guide us \_\_\_\_\_ if we walk in the light of His grace. \_\_\_\_\_  
17  
\_\_\_\_\_ May we feel God's love a - round us \_\_\_\_\_ as it  
22  
keeps us faith - ful and strong, \_\_\_\_\_ for the peace \_\_\_\_\_  
27  
\_\_\_\_\_ of God sur rounds us, \_\_\_\_\_ and now we must pass it  
32  
on. \_\_\_\_\_ Go now and pass it on. \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is near.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**"The worship ends. . .the service begins."**

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## Prayer Requests

**Prayers have been requested for the following brothers and sisters in Christ who have concerns needing God's help...**

Sharen Ace; Msgt. William F. Allen; Private William "Blake" Allen; Tom Altemose; Mark Anthony; Evelyn Arroyo; Daniel Bartron; Wynne Below; Diane Berner; Dillon Berenti; Cptn. Matthew Blessing; David Brong; Judi Carman; Elaine Cornelus; Todd Geil; LilliAnna Daniels; Renee Depuy; Doris Drury; John Drury; Paul Fancher; Louis Genset; Lynn Gerber; Barry Hartshorn; Charlie Hemple; T. J. Imhof; Tiffany Johnson; Carol Jones; Ian Juica; Ed Kenderdine and family, at the passing of Mary Ann; Richard Kernan; Robbie Kinsley; Nikolaos Kotretsos; Eleanor Kreuger; Dawne Ladeas; Joeann Lance; Esther Laurito; David Leith; James Meckes; Tom Miller; Sue Neumann; Steve Oberman; Dr. Kenny Pearson; Annabelle Peechatka; Shirley Pensyl; Sandy Richards; Anna Rivera; Jean Ross; Gloria Russell; Jack Russell; Claudette Segear; Vaughn Sensinger; Phyllis Sensinger; Shirley Singer; Samuel Smith, Jr.; Kamia Taylor; Greg Theadford; Jim Tomedi; Alice Weaver; Harry Weaver; Dan Wickline; Leanna Wickline; Kelly Wickline; Jacob Wilson; John Woodling; Charles Zuccarelli; Fran Zuccarelli; for all who are traveling; for all of those struggling with addictions; the members of the Armed Forces of the United States; for the victims of the mass shootings, for all those around the world and here at home suffering from the coronavirus pandemic.

**Have your prayers been answered? Or do you still need God's help? Please let us know. Please leave requests and/or updates in the basket labeled "Prayer Requests" located in the church office. Please renew your request monthly if you or your loved one is still in need of our prayers. Thank you to everyone who prays with us for those in need.**



***Thank you to all who have helped to support St. Paul Strunk Food Pantry!*** Your commitment to help is a true blessing to those who are struggling to feed their families. The pantry is always in need of basic food supplies, and we need your continued support to keep this program going strong.

### **Mitten Tree**

Once again this year we will be having our annual "Mitten Tree". Please bring any mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, for all ages, and decorate our tree. It will run from Sunday, December 5th thru Sunday, January 2nd. Your donations will be helping the needy in the community through either "My Brother's Keeper" or "Children and Youth". If you have any questions please see Dawn Weiss.



As you shop for the holidays, don't forget to put St. Paul Lutheran Church Tannersville as your charity before checking out on Amazon. They will send us 1% of your purchase.

### **Monroe County Foster Children Assistance**

Today is the last day for gifts to be brought to the church. Thank you everyone for your support this Christmas season.

**Website: [www.stpaultannersvillepa.org](http://www.stpaultannersvillepa.org)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultannersvillepa)**

**YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsvvR6FI09zcaiDPY174k5A>**

### **Poinsettia**

Would you like to honor a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia to grace our sanctuary on Christmas Eve? The cost is \$4.00 per plant. The plants will adorn the sanctuary Christmas Eve, and can be taken home by their donors either after the Christmas Eve service, or any time thereafter. Use the form on the back of this page to place your order and list how many plants and who you are honoring or memorializing.



# Christmas Poinsettia Order Form

The sanctuary will once again be decorated with beautiful poinsettia plants this Christmas.

If you would like to donate a plant in memory of or in honor of someone special or just simply to the Glory of God, please complete the form below and return it to the office no later than Sunday, December 19, 2021. Each poinsettia will be \$4.00

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Attached: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of...	In honor of....	To the Glory of God	Name(s) of those being honored