

"Today in the town of David
a Savior has been born to you;
he is Christ the Lord."

Luke 2:11



St. Paul's ePistle from McHenry

December 21, 2016



New and Notable...



Christmas Eve Service - Feast of the Nativity

Festival Eucharist at 9:00 p.m.

Reception to follow

Christmas Day - Feast of the Incarnation

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.



Thoughts from Lori

Advent is coming to an end and Christmas is almost upon us. Wherever you are in your life, may the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child draw you ever closer to God and fill you with peace and joy. Wherever you will be on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, whether it is with us here at St. Paul's or elsewhere, may you know the blessings of this season.

THE COLLECT FOR
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and for ever. Amen.

Faithfully,
Lorí†



*You are cordially invited to an
OPEN HOUSE
at "The Rectory"
(Lori and Bill's house)
5116 W. Malibu Court
McHenry
on Sunday, January 1st
from 4 to 5pm
St. Ann's, Woodstock will be joining us
from 5 to 6pm*

All are welcome!



If you have not already brought in or sent your pledge cards for next year, we welcome them any time. Please note that 2016 contributions that you intend to claim as charitable deductions for 2016 must be received by December 31st.

Boxes of offering envelopes for 2017 are now available on the table in the narthex. If yours is not there, please let the office know!

Thank you for your support of St. Paul's!

Children's Chapel

Please note: There will be no Children's lesson following the service Christmas Day.



In case you missed it....



Coming to St. Paul's January 10th

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at St. Paul's on 1/10/2017. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete.

In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/advantagemembers

The usual fare...

Lessons and Hymns
Sunday, December 25th
(Christmas Day - Year A)
by the Rev. William P. McLemore

THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS:

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7. The prophet says, "He is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

The Psalm: Psalm 96. "Sing to the Lord a new song."

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14. "The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all."

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20. This is the Gospel according to Luke's account of the birth of Jesus and the angel announcing his birth to the shepherds.

THE HYMNS:

Processional Hymn: No. 83. "O Come, All ye Faithful." The Latin text, "Adestes Fideles," was written by John Francis Wade sometime between 1735 and 1740. His text was translated multiple times, but the translation by Frederick Oakeley is now the almost universal text. A version by Jean Francois Borderies, comprised of the original first verse and four verses written by Borderies, is sung in France.

Sequence Hymn: No. 87. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Charles Wesley wrote this text in ten four-line stanzas and published it in *Hymns and Sacred Poems* (1739). Originally entitled "Hymn for Christmas Day," this most popular of Wesley's Christmas hymns began with the following words:

Hark, how all the welkin [heavens] rings
Glory to the King of Kings.

George Whitefield changed the first line to "Hark! The herald angels sing" and published the text with additional alterations in his *Collection* (1753). In 1782 the revised opening couplet became repeated as the refrain. The text was extensively changed and shortened by various other eighteenth-century editors as well. With a few word changes the *Psalter Hymnal* version is essentially the same as the one published in John Kemphorne's *Select Portions of Psalms... and Hymns* (1810). Containing biblical phrases from Luke, John, and Paul, the text is a curious mixture of exclamation, exhortation, and theological reflection. The focus shifts rapidly from angels, to us, to nations. The text's strength may not lie so much in any orderly sequence of thought but in its use of Scripture to teach its theology. That teaching surely produces in us a childlike response of faith; we too can sing "Glory to the newborn King!"

Presentation Hymn: No. 115. "What Child is This." This text, by William C. Dix, is his own modification of a poem he had written entitled "The Manger Throne." There are two differences in the text between hymnals. Some hymnals, rather than divide into three verses and a chorus, make the tune of the chorus an extension of each verse, using the traditional words for the chorus as an extension of verse one, and adding new words to verses two and three. Other hymnals that keep the traditional structure alter the third line of the chorus to repeat, "This, this is Christ the King," rather than "Haste, haste to bring Him laud." Perhaps the most famous aspect of this hymn is its tune. GREENSLEEVES is an iconic medieval tune, named for the character about which the old folk song was written, Lady Green Sleeves. It is the only tune now used for Dix's text. One important difference in the tune among various versions is found in the second measure. The rising notes on the word "this" can either be sung as a half step from B to C, or a whole step, from C to C#.

Recessional Hymn: No. 100. "Joy to the World." Surprisingly, this hymn was not written for Christmas. Rather, Isaac Watts wrote the hymn as a paraphrase of the last five verses in Psalm 98 for his 1719 publication, *The Psalms of David Imitated*. In this hymnal, Watts rewrites many of the psalms using a Christological lens. His versification of Psalm 98 is no different. Verse nine of the psalm reads, "...let them sing before the LORD, for he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity." Watts unapologetically interprets this as a

reference to Christ. The theme of "Christ coming" made it an apt hymn to be sung at Christmastime, and it has since become one of the most beloved Christmas carols. Albert Bailey writes, "It is one of the most joyous Christmas hymns in existence; not in the sense of merry-making but in the deep and solemn realization of what Christ's birth has meant to mankind" (*The Gospel in Hymns*, 54). Watt's text has almost been left untouched by editors, with one exception. The line "far as the curse is found" is left out of many hymnals, since there is no reference to this "curse" in the actual psalm. However, when seen through the eyes of the New Testament and Gospel message, the reference to Genesis 3:17-18 becomes quite clear.

From the cartoons created by
The Rev. William P. McLemore



"Here's my Christmas list, Daddy...
Remember what our rector says every Sunday,
'It's more blessed to give than to receive!'"

Church Humor!

A Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

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Vestry Minutes

[June 2016](#)

[August 2016](#)

[September 2016](#)

[October 2016](#)

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