



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church



December 10, 2023

9:00 & 10:30 AM

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, KENSINGTON MD
CELEBRATING THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT / MUSIC SUNDAY

9:00 & 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

DECEMBER 10, 2023

Thank you for worshiping with us today.

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome you to St. Paul's, a Reconciling congregation of the United Methodist Church. All are celebrated here and all are safe. This bulletin will guide our service today. More helpful information can be found following the order of worship.

Gathering for Worship

(* - please stand in body or spirit)

Announcements (10:30 only)

Lay Leader

Prelude (10:30 only)

Prelude on es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen
(Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)

Mary Beth Bennett

*Call to Worship (9:00 & 10:30)

Lay Reader

Leader: Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say Rejoice!

ALL: Our joy is in the Lord who blesses us.

Leader: Shout for joy, for the Lord is near!

ALL: Our praises ascend to God for the mighty things God has done.

Leader: Let your praise dance and swirl in tribute to God!

ALL: Surely God blesses and saves us. Hallelujah! Praise be to God. Amen.

*Hymn #211 (9:00 & 10:30)

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Verses 1-4

Bell Anthems (10:30 only)

Away in A Manger
Christmas Joy
Joyful Ringers Bell Ensemble

James Murry
Cynthia Dobrinski

Lighting the Advent Candle (9:00 & 10:30) Tracey Furman & Samantha Furman, 10:30 AM

Reader A: I dream of dance parties in the kitchen.

Reader B: I dream of laughter that is contagious.

Reader A: I dream of birthday candles and another beautiful year.

Reader B: I dream of family game nights and dinner parties with friends.

Reader A: I dream of homemade Halloween costumes
and homemade family recipes.

Reader B: I dream of pillow forts, fireflies, and front porch swings.

Reader A: I dream of every little thing that brings joy;
and I know it comes from God.

Reader B: So today we light the candle of joy as a reminder
that God's dream for this world involves the end of all tears.

Reader A: God's dream for this world involves a joy that overflows
and is contagious.

Reader B: So may this fire burn bright, and as it does, may we sing.

Reader A: May we dance.

Reader B: May we laugh.

Reader A: May we hold onto the people we love.

Reader B: May we sow joy in a hurting world,
and may it be an act of holy resistance.

ALL: Amen.

Candle Lighting

Anthem (10:30 only)

Mary's Song
Children's Choir

Meg Baker

*Refrain: O, magnify the Lord with me, for he is worthy to be praised,
And holy is God's name.*

God is merciful to all, blessing ev'ry generation.

God shows his strength throughout creation.

God has scattered all the proud, and has lifted up the lowly,

Satisfied the hungry with ev'ry good thing. (Refrain)

It's exactly as he said, what was spoken through the prophets.

God gave his Word just as he promised. (Refrain)

Anthem (10:30 only)

See Amid the Winter's Snow
Sanctuary Choir

Dan Forrest

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below.

See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.

Refrain: Hail thou ever-blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn.

Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem. Alleluia.

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,

He, who throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim. (Refrain)

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was thine,

Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this. (Refrain)

Pastoral Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Anthem (10:30 only)

Recitative: Comfort Ye My People

G. F. Handel

Air: Every Valley

Chorus: And the Glory of the Lord

from "The Messiah"

Nathan Hawsey, tenor

Sanctuary Choir

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,

That her warfare is accomplish'd, that her iniquity is pardon'd.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord,

Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley, every valley shall be exalted,

And every mountain and hill made low;

The crooked straight, and the rough places plain.

And the glory, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,

And all flesh shall see it together:

For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

And the glory, the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.

Proclamation of the Word

Isaiah 40:1-11 NRSVUE (9:00 & 10:30)

Pew Bible: Old Testament p. 667-668

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All flesh is grass;
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers; the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers; the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
¹⁰See, the LORD GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him
and his recompense before him.
¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms
and carry them in his bosom
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God.
People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #216 (9:00 & 10:30) *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Sermon (9:00 AM only) “The Disturbing Dream”

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Affirmation of Faith (9:00 & 10:30)

Great Creator, we are in awe of you.

We will never know how you managed to dream up:

**Mountains and valleys,
Freckles, dimples, and curly hair,
A cool morning mist,
The change of seasons,
Or the magic of music.**

Your greatness is beyond our reckoning.

**And because we are in awe of you,
We believe we must follow Mary's lead
And allow our souls to sing.**

**We believe that the appropriate reaction to your goodness
Is complete gratitude,
Which looks like love for our neighbor,**

**Justice for the poor,
Food for the hungry,
And joy that overflows.
And even though we do not always believe in ourselves,
We believe that our song is pleasing to you.
We believe.
Help our unbelief.
In Christ's name we pray, amen.**

Response to the Word

Invitation to Giving (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Offerings by check may be made out to St. Paul's UMC. Scan the QR code here to see one-time and recurring online giving options at stpaulsk.org. Thank you for supporting all of St. Paul's efforts to engage in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory (10:30 only)

The First Noel

Daryl McKenzie

Sanctuary Choir

Anna Phillips-Brown, soprano

Noah Beye, baritone

*The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay.
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

Refrain: Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel.

*They looked up and they saw a star shining in the East beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light, so it continues both day and night. (Refrain)*

*Doxology #95 (9:00 & 10:30)

OLD 100TH

*Prayer of Dedication (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Holy Communion (9:00 & 10:30)

The United Methodist Hymnal

The Invitation

Confession & Pardon (*UM Hymnal* p. 12)

Passing the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving (*UM Hymnal* p. 13-14)

The Lord's Prayer (*UM Hymnal* #895)

**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. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread and Giving the Bread & Cup

(Communion bread is gluten-free.)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 & 10:30)

**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.**

Sending Forth

Anthem (10:30 only)

A Christmas Song
Sanctuary Choir
Nathan Hawsey, tenor

Ariel Quintana

*It was dark, cold, maybe snowing and the stars were late to show,
And the world seemed unaware of the birth of a baby boy.
But the heavens were filled with glory, and the angel sang for joy;
For they heard most heavenly music in the cry of a baby boy.
What a miracle and wonder, what a mystery and joy!
That this baby's first night crying was a song of hope for all.
Let us join the angel chorus, let's rejoice in each newborn,*

*Let's remember in each baby, Christmas time, the birth of God.
And the heavens looked in wonder and a star lit up and glowed,
For in Bethlehem he's crying, little baby, Christ the Lord.
When you hear a baby crying, when you see a baby boy,
Don't forget you see and listen to a heavenly sent new joy.
And the heavens are filled with glory, and the angel sing for joy,
For they hear most heavenly music in the cry of a baby born.
And the heavens looked in wonder and a star lit up and glowed,
For in Bethlehem he's crying, little baby Christ the Lord.*

Reading: "The Work of Christmas" (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

*Hymn #211 (9:00 & 10:30)

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel
Verses 5-7*

*Benediction and Dismissal (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Postlude (10:30 only)

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Adolphus Hailstork



COMING UP

Drop-in office hours: Monday -Thursday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Staff & clergy available other times by appointment!

Worship on Sunday, December 17, 2023

9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Celebrating the Fourth Sunday in Advent

Advent and Christmas schedule available at stpaulsk.org/worship/advent-christmas



THE GIFT OF MUSIC

Featured worship music today is made possible through special gifts from generous friends of the St. Paul's Music Ministry, and through the Anne and Gene Garrett Memorial Music Fund, named in loving memory of life-long music supporters whose legacy provides St. Paul's UMC with the ongoing gift of music.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly News – Visit stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news or scan the QR code to find all the announcements and event details shared in our Weekly News. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org).



Featured Events and Upcoming Activities

- Poinsettia Orders & Dedications – today in the Narthex and at stpaulsk.org
- Sipping Ministry Fellowship Hour hosted by St. Paul's Sunday School Grades 3-5 – following 10:30 worship today in the Octagon
- Holiday Giving Project: \$25 Target gift cards or financial donations welcome today. Read more at stpaulsk.org/service/holiday-giving
- Funeral for Margaret Thurlow – Dec. 16 at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary
- Scattered for Service alternative giving catalog, stpaulsk.org/service/scattered-for-service – place orders now-Dec. 20
- Christmas worship schedule and seasonal information available at stpaulsk.org/worship/advent-christmas

Welcome! – **Restrooms** including a family restroom with changing table can be found past the church office, near the water fountain. **Children** in grades K-5 will begin in the Sanctuary with their families for the 10:30 worship service, then will transition to their Sunday School classrooms following the Children's Choir anthem. "Busy bags" with quiet children's activities can be found at the Welcome desk. Childcare for infants and preschoolers is available in the 2nd floor Nursery. To receive Sunday School updates by email, contact Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org. **Large print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in our Sanctuary. **Say Hello!** Use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance with us today. You may also share contact information there or tear out the visitor information page in this bulletin and leave it in the offering plate. **Masks** are optional in St. Paul's spaces. Please read more at stpaulsk.org/worship.



Visitor Information

Thank you for joining us today! You are invited to tear out this section and leave this form with the offerings to let us know a little about yourself, or how we might be in touch. You may also email the office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org) or staff to say hello!

Name(s):

Email:

Phone:

Home Address:

How did you find us? (circle all that apply)

Family/friend. Passing by. Internet search. Other:

Are you interested in learning more about St. Paul's? (circle all that apply)

No, just visiting. Maybe; I have questions. Please tell me about joining St. Paul's.



SOURCES AND LICENSING

Livestreaming each week at 10:30 AM at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home.

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** Prelude: *Prelude on es ist ein’ Ros’ entsprungen (Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming)*, by Mary Beth Bennett from *Oxford Hymn Settings, Vol. 1*, © 2014 Oxford University Press.

Call to Worship: “Worship Connection” by Nancy C. Townley,
<https://www.ministrymatters.com/worship/entry/3292/worship-connection-december-12-2021>

* *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*. Words: 9th century Latin; trans. stanzas 1, 3, 5ab, 6cd, 7ab by *The Hymnal* (1940), © renewed 1981 by The Church Pension Fund; stanza 2 by Henry Sloane Coffin (1916) public domain; stanza 4, 5cd, 6ab, 7cd by Lawrence Hall Stookey (1986) © 1989 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Music: 15th century French; arr. by Thomas Helmore (1854).

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Offertory: *The First Noel* by Daryl McKenzie© 2019, McKenzie Music Productions.

<https://mckenziemusicproductions.com/contact>

Doxology: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (OLD 100TH). Words: Thomas Ken (1674).

Music: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois (1551). Public domain.

Anthem: *A Christmas Song* by Ariel Quintana, © 2018 by the composer. All rights reserved.

Reading: “The Work of Christmas” by Howard Thurman. From *The Mood of Christmas* (Harper and Row, 1973), 10–11, 23. <https://www.plough.com/en/topics/culture/holidays/christmas-readings/the-work-of-christmas#!>

** Postlude: *Toccata on Veni Emmanuel* by Adolphus Hailstork, © 1996 by E.C. Schirmer Music Company (ASCAP), a division of ECS Publishing Group, Inc. All rights reserved.





LEADING AND SERVING

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen, pallen@stpaulsk.org

Associate Pastor: Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, joeyhm@stpaulsk.org

Music Director: Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen, tpedersen@stpaulsk.org

Organist: Mr. Marvin Mills, mmills@stpaulsk.org

Facilities: Ms. Tracey Furman, tfurman@stpaulsk.org

Minister of Spiritual Care & Formation: Dr. Meg Baker, mbaker@stpaulsk.org

Communications & Administration: Dr. Erin Bone Steele, stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org

A/V Team: John & Biljana Regan, John Stephens

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Marge Higgins

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Beth Pierce (9:00 AM) and Peggy Graham (10:30 AM)

Advent Readers: Tracey Furman and Samantha Furman (10:30 AM)

Guest Musicians:

Michael Polonchak, violin

Christine Showalter, violin

Andrew Weaver, viola

Emma Johnson, cello

Edward Leaf, double bass

Jo Huling, percussion

Emily Leaf, rehearsal pianist

Nathan Hawsey, tenor





St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885