



**St. Paul's**  
United Methodist Church  
*Journeying Together Since 1885*

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTERTIDE

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

MAY 10, 2026

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**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.*

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(\* - please stand in body or spirit)

**Gathering for Worship**

Announcements

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Prelude (10:30 AM)

*Prelude on Rhosymedre (Lovely)*

Ralph Vaughan Williams

\*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: God, in you we live and move and have our being.

**People: We are your children, and we praise you.**

Leader: You do not leave us orphaned,  
but Christ comes to us and dwells with us.

**People: We are your Beloved, and we thank you.**

Leader: You are in us, and we are in you,  
and your Spirit works through us.

**People: We are your Body, and we worship you.**

\*Hymn #384

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

**Spirit of truth, we search for you. Spirit of love, we long for you. Spirit of life, we hunger for your grace. You who dwell within us, speak to us. You in whom we live and move and have our being, speak to us. Beyond words, enfolding deep in the mystery in which we dwell, speak to us. Amen.**

Anthem (10:30 AM)

*Sing Praise*  
Children's Choir

Meg Baker

*Refrain: Sing praise for gardens in the rain, for sun-kissed flowers of the spring.*

*Praise the Lord with all that is in you, lift up your voice and sing!*

*Every wave of the ocean, every whisper of the wind,  
Every color in the sunset should remind us of him! (Refrain)*

*Every rainbow in the heavens, every mother's kiss goodnight,  
Every breath we take is given by his everlasting light.*

*Trees to climb, hills to roll down, fireflies to catch and set free! (Refrain)*

Anthem (10:30 AM)

*Blessed Is He*  
Children's Choir

Meg Baker

*Refrain: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*

*Hosanna, hosanna, sing praises to our King!*

*Hosanna, hosanna, he comes in the name of the Lord! (repeat)*

*He will reign from sea to sea; his kingdom will have no end;*

*He will set the captive free and make us whole again. (Refrain)*

*Children in grades K-5 will be invited to transition to their Sunday School classes with their teachers at the conclusion of the Children's Choir anthems.*

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

The Lord's Prayer (10:30 AM)

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.**

## Proclamation of the Word

Acts 17:22-31 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – New Testament page 136

<sup>22</sup>Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way. <sup>23</sup>For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. <sup>24</sup>The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, <sup>25</sup>nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. <sup>26</sup>From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, <sup>27</sup>so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him — though indeed he is not far from each one of us. <sup>28</sup>For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said,

‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

<sup>29</sup>“Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. <sup>30</sup>While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup>because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Response to the Word

\*Hymn #541

*See How Great a Flame Aspires*

Sermon

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

## Invitation to Discipleship & Giving

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

*Offerings by check may be made out to St. Paul's UMC. Scan the QR code to see one-time and recurring online giving options at [stpaulsk.org](http://stpaulsk.org). Thank you for supporting St. Paul's work engaging in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.*



Offertory (10:30 only)

*I Sing Th'Almighty Power of God*  
Sanctuary Choir

Milburn Price

*I sing th'almighty power of God that made the mountains rise,  
That spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies.  
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;  
The moon shines full at his command and all the stars obey.*

*I sing thy power, Lord, I sing thy praise.  
I sing the goodness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food;  
He formed the creatures with his word, and then pronounced them good.  
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where-e'er I turn my eye,  
If I survey the ground I tread or gaze upon the sky.*

*There's not a plant or flower below but makes thy glories known,  
And clouds arise and tempests blow, by order from thy throne;  
While all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care,  
And everywhere that we can be, thou God art present there. Amen.*

\*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

*The Great Thanksgiving and Communion (9:00 AM)*

*The Invitation, Confession & Pardon (9:00 AM)*

UM Hymnal p. 12

***Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.***

*Passing the Peace (9:00 AM)*

**Leader:** *The Lord be with you.*

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Leader:** *Lift up your hearts.*

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

**Leader:** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

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

*The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation and concludes:*

**L:** *And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**P:** *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of  
your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.*

*The pastor continues the thanksgiving and concludes:*

**L:** *And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves  
in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's  
offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.*

**P:** *Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.*

*The pastor continues and concludes:*

**L:** *All honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.*

**P:** *Amen.*

*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.*

*Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 AM)*

*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

\*Hymn #695

*O Lord, May Church and Home Combine*

\*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude (10:30 AM)

*IV. Allegro assai vivace*

Felix Mendelssohn



### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers are given today by Frank A. Walker, Jr.  
in loving memory of **David George Fischer**.

### WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

**Sunday, May 17, 2026**

9:00 AM – Worship with Communion

10:30 AM – Worship with Sanctuary Choir



### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Weekly News** – Visit [stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news](http://stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news) or scan the QR code to find all the announcements, links, and event details shared in our Weekly News. You can also find the submission buttons to share news and announcements.



**Welcome!** – **Restrooms** including a family restroom with changing table can be found past the church office, near the water fountain. **Large-print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in our Sanctuary. **Sign in!** Please use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance with us today. Read more at [stpaulsk.org/worship](http://stpaulsk.org/worship).

**Weekday Hours** – The office is typically open for drop-in visits and phone calls Monday-Thursday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We encourage appointments since staff hours vary! If you have a pastoral emergency when the office is closed, please call the emergency line for Rev. Sheridan Allmond (410-205-5568) and she will be notified of your call.

**Sunday School News** – *May 10*. All children will begin in worship today. Following the Children’s Choir anthem, students in grades K-5 will transition to their classrooms with their teachers. Parents & guardians should pick up children at their classrooms immediately following worship. Grades K-2 meet in Room 200; Grades 3-5 meet in the Parlor. Nursery care is available for children pre-K and younger. For children in worship, Busy Bags with quiet children’s activities are available at the Welcome Desk near the front doors.

### **Events, Activities, and Information**

- **New! Spiritual Gifts** – Spiritual gifts are given to build up the body of Christ. Each of us is equipped by the Spirit to serve in unique ways. In the United Methodist tradition, leadership is a calling rooted in service, humility, and faithfulness. The Church Leadership Team encourages you to discern your gifts and respond to God’s call to lead. Take the UMC Spiritual Gifts quiz! <https://www.umc.org/en/content/exploring-your-spiritual-gifts> Please reach out to Anne Dean at [annepdean@gmail.com](mailto:annepdean@gmail.com) or speak to one of the pastors about ways to share your spiritual gifts.
- **New! Educational Awards & Senior Recognition Day** – *Sunday, May 31*. During the 10:30 worship service on May 31, we will recognize St. Paul’s graduating high school seniors, and present the Jim Smith Educational Awards for 2026. We never intentionally leave out a member of the graduating class, but sometimes our records are incomplete. If you haven’t received an email invitation from one of our volunteers, please contact Erin Steele in the church office at [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org) to update a graduating senior’s name and contact info.
- **New! Community News: Kensington House & Garden Pilgrimage** – *Sunday, June 7, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM*. Enjoy the historical architecture, gardens, and vibrant activity in Kensington on this self-guided picturesque tour. The Town of Kensington Tour will take place on Sunday, June 7, rain or shine. Ticket holders receive exclusive access to properties and private interior spaces, including Warner Mansion, that are open to the public only on the day of the tour. The tour also includes studios at the Compass Arts Center and the Kensington Train Station (with restroom facilities), and an optional add-on boxed lunch perfect for a picnic in the park. No pets, please. Recommended for children age 10 and older. Purchase tickets at <https://www.mhgp.org/kensington> – proceeds from the Kensington Tour will benefit Noyes Children’s Library, a place for young book lovers since 1893!

- **Today: No SPY** – St. Paul’s Youth will not meet on May 10 – please celebrate the mothers and special mother-figures in your life for Mother’s Day! We return with our regular Sunday meeting, 7:00-8:30 PM on May 17. All friends of St. Paul’s in grades 6-12 are welcome in the Multi-Purpose Room for fellowship, fun activities, Bible study, and food! Contact Pastor Sheridan at [sallmond@stpaulsk.org](mailto:sallmond@stpaulsk.org) with questions. Go to [stpaulsk.org/community/youth](http://stpaulsk.org/community/youth) for the full meeting schedule.
- **This Week: Girl Scout Donation Drive** – *now-May 13*. Girl Scout Troop 34168 is collecting gently used stuffed animals and new, unused school supplies. Please use the drop-off box in the Narthex for donations on Sundays or during office hours now through May 13. For questions, talk to Lisa Babb or email [Ashley.ann.briefel@gmail.com](mailto:Ashley.ann.briefel@gmail.com).
- **This Week: Bible & Brews** – *Saturday, May 16, 5:00-6:00 PM*. Gather for casual interfaith conversations with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and friends from Temple Emanuel. All our meetings are family friendly! We meet at local restaurants offering food and drink that you can purchase as you like. For May we will be at BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy). Contact Pastor Joey at [joeyhm@stpaulsk.org](mailto:joeyhm@stpaulsk.org) with any questions.
- **Next Week: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, May 19, 12:00-1:30 PM*. This will be the last Taste & Sing of the season before we take a summer break! Come to the Octagon for a casual hymn sing (feel free to request your favorites!), stay for a short program about the stories behind our worship songs, then enjoy fellowship over a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation).
- **This Month: SPY Spaghetti Lunch** – *Sunday, May 31, serving 11:30-12:45*. Plan to come to the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, May 31 for a spaghetti lunch fundraiser to benefit St. Paul’s Youth activities. (Yes, you can take your plate downstairs to eat and watch *The Librarians* documentary!) We will serve spaghetti with vegetarian sauce or meatballs, salad, garlic bread, dessert, tea, coffee and lemonade. The cost is \$10 per person. Please buy tickets in advance using the button at [stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events](http://stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events). Can you do something sweet to help us even more? If you would like to support the Spaghetti Lunch by donating a dessert, please contact Megan Montgomery at [megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com](mailto:megan.w.montgomery@gmail.com).
- **This Month: The Librarians Film Screening & Book Drive** – *Sunday, May 31, 12:00 noon*. Come to the Octagon following worship for a special screening of the award-winning documentary “The Librarians.” This film explores the critical role librarians play in protecting access to information and intellectual freedom in their communities. We are also holding a book drive collecting gently used books to benefit Friends of the Library, Montgomery County. Please place books on the collection table in the Narthex. Contact Rachel Stalcup with questions: [rachelstalcup@gmail.com](mailto:rachelstalcup@gmail.com).

- **Hunger Ministry Donations** – Our Hunger Ministry currently feeds 170 households. We gratefully receive all kinds of nonperishable pantry staples. This month we are asking for help with donations of Cooking Oil (canola oil, vegetable oil, etc.) in plastic bottles. Pick up a flyer with a list of the other items we need every month by the donation bin in the Narthex or online at [stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry](http://stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry). We are thankful that our congregation provides generously so we can serve those in our ZIP code facing food insecurity. Email [hunger@stpaulsk.org](mailto:hunger@stpaulsk.org) to find out more.
- **VBS Registration** – *now open!* St. Paul's is partnering with our friends at Bethesda UMC again this year for Vacation Bible School, a fun mini-camp for kids in pre-K through rising-5<sup>th</sup> grade. All activities will take place at Bethesda UMC (8300 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda MD 21704), June 22-26, 9:00 AM – 12:00 noon. Visit <https://vbspro.events/p/events/6ca1be> to register. We never want a young person to miss out on a camp experience because of financial worries. Members and friends of St. Paul's interested in camperships and financial aid should contact Rev. Joey Heath-Mason ([joeyhm@stpaulsk.org](mailto:joeyhm@stpaulsk.org)) for a confidential discussion.
- **Musical Theatre Camp Registration Open** – *now open!* Musical Theatre Camp runs July 13-17, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM at St. Paul's UMC. Kids in rising-4<sup>th</sup> through rising-8<sup>th</sup> grades should register now! Campers learn an entire musical in just five days. This year's presentation will be "A Technicolor Promise," a musical re-telling of the story of Noah and the Ark. All campers will be in the presentation! Auditions for specific roles are usually held in June. Registration is open to the first 18 campers! This is an annual highlight for many families throughout the Kensington area! Visit [stpaulsk.org/community/musical-theatre-camp](http://stpaulsk.org/community/musical-theatre-camp) for the registration form and payment options. Contact camp director Mrs. Robin Mayhew ([robin\\_mayhew@comcast.net](mailto:robin_mayhew@comcast.net)).
- **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors Welcome** – The flower chart for 2026 is available in the church office! The flower cost is \$45 and you may dedicate them for memory, honor, or celebration, and take the flowers home following the 10:30 worship service if you wish. Please add your name to the chart to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with dedication information.
- **Ongoing Activities** – *Please contact group leaders directly to confirm meeting times!*
  - **Sanctuary Choir** – *Most Sundays*. Open to grade 7 and up and adult singers. We rehearse each week at 9:30 AM on Sundays in Room 211 and sing for the 10:30 service. Contact Tom Pedersen ([tpedersen@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tpedersen@stpaulsk.org)).
  - **Children's Choir** – *Most Sundays, 11:45-12:30*. Children in grades K-6 will meet in the MPR to prepare music to share in worship. Email Ms. Christina Griffin, director, at [childrenschoir@stpaulsk.org](mailto:childrenschoir@stpaulsk.org), for up to date schedules and info.

- **Yarn Ministry** – *Mondays twice a month, 7:00-8:30 PM.* Bring your knitting, crochet, or other craft project and craft alongside friends in the church library. Contact Karen Codner for meeting info: KDC811@gmail.com.
- **Joyful Ringers** – *Wednesdays, 7:00 PM.* A handbell choir for adults that offers fun and fellowship! Contact Tom Pedersen: tpedersen@stpaulsk.org
- **Prayerwaves** – *Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 AM.* To pray together by phone, dial 425-436-6326 then enter access code 774042 followed by the # sign. To receive the prayer list by email, please contact Erin at stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org.
- **Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 PM.* In this drop-in Zoom study, we watch a video of a sermon by a notable speaker, and then discuss it. Contact Dr. Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net for the Zoom link.
- **Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM.* Still Wednesday gathers in either the Sanctuary or the Octagon for a guided time of poetry, scripture, music, and about 20 minutes of silent prayer. Text/call Marty Bartley at 301-873-6630.
- **Lydia Circle Sisters** – *Wednesdays once a month, 2:30-4:00 PM.* All ladies are welcome at Lydia Circle gatherings, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Susan Schwarz at 301-339-8242 or susan10748@aol.com.
- **Bible & Brews** – *Saturday or Sunday, once a month.* Join us at a local restaurant for family-friendly interfaith conversations with Rabbi Adam and neighbors from Temple Emanuel. Contact Pastor Joey: joeyhm@stpaulsk.org.
- **Pancake Breakfast** – *First Saturday each month.* Meet friends and neighbors and enjoy pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, grits, fruit, beverages, and a specialty treat, served 8:00-10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. \$20 for a family of four.
- **Stephen Ministers** – Move through difficult seasons of life with a Stephen Minister by your side. Contact Martha Lipscomb (301-518-1642) to be connected to a trained Stephen Minister.
- **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors** – The flower chart for 2026 is available in the church office! Please add your name to the chart to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with dedication information. The cost is \$45.
- **Sipping Ministry** – To host this fellowship time with coffee and snacks, sign up on the office bulletin board and take a “how to host” guide.
- **St. Paul’s Leadership** – St. Paul’s leaders will be meeting on the fourth Monday of the month throughout the year to attend to the mission, ministry, and wellbeing of the church. All meetings are open to the public. To confirm meeting times, contact Chairperson Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net). To learn more, go to [stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff](http://stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff) and scroll down to the Leadership Team section.



## SOURCES AND LICENSING

Livestreaming each week at 10:30 AM at [stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home](http://stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home).

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Call to Worship & Opening Prayer: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *Unfolding Light*, [unfoldinglight.net](http://unfoldinglight.net). Used by permission.

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\*\* Offertory: *I Sing Th' Almighty Power of God* by Milburn Price, with text from Isaac Watts to the tune SALVATION (1816). Copyright 1980 by Hinshaw Music Inc. All rights reserved.

\*\* Doxology: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)*. Words: Thomas Ken (1674), adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira (1978). Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesange* (1623), harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906). Adapt. copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House.

\* Hymn: *O Lord, May Church and Home Combine*. Words: Carlton C. Buck (1961), copyright 1961, renewed 1989 by The Hymn Society (Admin. by Hope Publishing Company). Music: USA folk melody arr. by Annabel Morris Buchanan (1938), harm. Charles H. Webb (1988), copyright 1989 by The United Methodist Publishing House (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.).

Postlude: *V. Allegro assai vivoce* by Felix Mendelssohn, from *Sonata No. 1 in f minor*. Public domain.





## LEADING AND SERVING

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Sheridan Allmond, [sallmond@stpaulsk.org](mailto:sallmond@stpaulsk.org)

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Joey Heath-Mason, [joeyhm@stpaulsk.org](mailto:joeyhm@stpaulsk.org)

**Music Director:** Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen, [tpedersen@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tpedersen@stpaulsk.org)

**Organist:** Mr. Marvin Mills, [mmills@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mmills@stpaulsk.org)

**Bookkeeping & Facilities:** Ms. Tracey Furman, [tfurman@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tfurman@stpaulsk.org)

**Communications & Administration:** Dr. Erin Bone Steele, [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org)

**A/V Team:** Mr. & Mrs. John & Biljana Regan

**Children's Choir Director:** Ms. Christina Griffin

**Lay Leader:** Mrs. Anne Dean

**Usher Coordinator:** Mr. Nathan Bazawada

**Lay Readers:** Kenzie Raulin (9:00 AM), Debbie Zechar (10:30 AM)



*We, the community of St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Kensington, welcome you in love. Jesus Christ accepts all, excluding none. So we welcome and affirm you who are gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or queer. We welcome you without regard to your sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, culture, race, ethnicity, ability, education, or age. We welcome you no matter your immigration, marital, or economic status. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we welcome and affirm you as one of God's children into our community of God's unbounded love. All are celebrated here and all are safe.*

