



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

CELEBRATING THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

DECEMBER 17, 2023

---

**Thank you for worshipping 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 Gabriel's Message*

Paul Manz

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

Lay Reader

Leader: God of love, we yearn for your presence.

**ALL: Our hearts ache for your light.**

Leader: Christ, bearer of miracles, we look to your coming,  
for the dawning of your new day.

**ALL: We look for the light that leads us to life.**

Leader: Spirit of light, arise in us and guide us,

**ALL: Our hearts are open manglers, ready for the birth of the holy child  
in our love and hope and gentleness.**

Leader: Come, O light, and dawn upon us.

**ALL: Come, O Light, and unfold your beauty within us.**

\*Hymn #272 (9:00 & 10:30)

*Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*

Lighting the Advent Candle (9:00 & 10:30)

Reader A: I dream of music that makes my heart swell.

Reader B: I dream of trees that take my breath away.

Reader A: I dream of sunrises that wrap me in light.

Reader B: I dream of family dinners that feel like home.

Reader A: I dream of church services that give me hope.

Reader B: I dream of love as the default.

Reader A: So today, as we draw near to Christmas day, we light the candle of love.

*Candle Lighting*

Reader B: May this light burn bright as a reminder that God is here  
and God is love.

**ALL: We are not alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.**

Lighting the Candle of Remembrance (9:00 & 10:30)

Pastoral Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Reception of New Members (10:30 only)

*Jeff and Gail Broadhurst*

*Delmer and Deborah Harris*

*Gregg and Stacy Molander*

*Sherri Thomas*

*Frank A. Walker, Jr.*

Congregational Response (10:30 only)

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up ye everlasting doors,  
And the King of glory shall come in.  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.  
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.*

## **Proclamation of the Word**

Luke 1:26-38 NRSVUE (9:00 & 10:30)

*Pew Bible: New Testament p. 56-57*

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup>But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup>He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup>Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

**Leader:** The Word of God for the people of God.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

\*Hymn #213 (9:00 & 10:30) *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

## Response to the Word

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

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

*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](http://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)     *Gabriel, messenger of the Annunciation*  
from the *Archangel Suite*

Craig Phillips

\*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**

\*Hymn #209 (9:00 & 10:30)

*Blessed Be the God of Israel*

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

Postlude (10:30 only)

*Toccata on Wencelas*

Marvin Mills



### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

are given today by **Megan Montgomery**  
in honor of all the St. Paul's community  
and in celebration of a very merry last week of Advent.

### COMING UP

**Christmas Eve morning worship**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**10:30 AM**

**Christmas Eve candlelight worship**

**Sunday, December 24, 2023**

**7:00 PM organ prelude**

**7:30 PM worship**

Drop-in office hours December 18-21, 2023:

Monday -Thursday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Staff & clergy available other times by appointment!

*Offices closed for winter break December 25-January 1.*



## 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 and event details shared in our Weekly News. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office ([stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org)).



### Featured Events and Upcoming Activities

- Holiday Giving Project: financial donations welcome. Read more at [stpaulsk.org/service/holiday-giving](http://stpaulsk.org/service/holiday-giving)
- Scattered for Service alternative gift program, [stpaulsk.org/service/scattered-for-service](http://stpaulsk.org/service/scattered-for-service) – place orders now-Dec. 20
- Pastor Joey Renewal Leave – announcement at [stpaulsk.org/we-are-all-about/the-pastors-page](http://stpaulsk.org/we-are-all-about/the-pastors-page), cards available in the Narthex
- Christmas Eve Special Offering – All contributions for the special Christmas worship offering will go to serve those in need and will be divided evenly between UMCOR and St. Paul's Hunger Ministry. Donate online at [stpaulsk.org/giving](http://stpaulsk.org/giving) or look for the special offering envelope on December 24. (Please make any general offerings, pledge contributions, or donations to other causes using a different envelope, or indicate the cause in the check/online memo field.)
- Christmas worship schedule and seasonal information available at [stpaulsk.org/worship/advent-christmas](http://stpaulsk.org/worship/advent-christmas)

**Year-End Giving Deadlines** – Offerings dated December 31, 2023 or earlier, and received in the office or through online/bank transactions by January 2, may be counted toward 2023 giving goals and should appear on year-end giving statements for 2023.

**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 be Sunday School starting in the Chapel at 10:30 AM; families with infants and preschoolers may make use of the Nursery on the second floor. To receive Sunday School updates by email, contact Meg Baker at [mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto: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. **Masks** are optional in St. Paul's spaces. Please read more at [stpaulsk.org/worship](http://stpaulsk.org/worship).





## SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

\* = *Streamed by permission under CCLI license #24106074. All rights reserved.*

\*\* = *Permission to stream this music obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #735990-A.*

\*\* Prelude: *Prelude on Gabriel's Message, a Basque Carol* by Paul Manz, © 1990 MorningStar Music Publishers.

Call to Worship: Steve Garnaas-Holmes, *unfoldinglight.net*. Used by permission.

\*\* *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly*. Words: Roland Ford Palmer (1938). Music: Skinner Chávez-Melo (1985), copyright 1987 the Estate of Skinner Chávez-Melo. All rights reserved.

Advent Candle Liturgy: Adapt. Prayer by Sarah Are, *A Sanctified Art LLC*, [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org). Used by permission.

\*\* Anthem: *Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates* by William Mathias, © 1973 by Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

Bible Reading: *New Revised Standard Version Bible Updated Edition (NRSVUE)*, © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*. Words: Georg Weissel (1642), trans. Catherine Winkworth (1855). Music: *Pslamodia Evangelica* (1789). Public domain.

Offertory: *Gabriel, messenger of the Annunciation*, from the *Archangel Suite* by Craig Phillips, © 2012 Selah Publishing Co.

Doxology: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* (OLD 100TH). Words: Thomas Ken (1674). Music: Attr. to Louis Bourgeois (1551). Public domain.

\* *Blessed Be the God of Israel*. Words: Michael Perry (1973), copyright 1973 by Michael Perry - The Jubilate Group (Admin. by Jubilate Hymns Ltd./Hope Publishing). Music: Hal H. Hopson (1983), copyright 1983 Hope Publishing Company.

Postlude: *Toccata on Wencelas* by Marvin Mills, © 2009 Marvin Mills. Streamed by permission of the composer. All rights reserved.





## LEADING AND SERVING

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen, [pallen@stpaulsk.org](mailto:pallen@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)

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

**Minister of Spiritual Care & Formation:** Dr. Meg Baker, [mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org)

**Communications & Administration:** Dr. Erin Bone Steele, [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto: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:** Kenzie Raulin (9:00 AM); Debbie Zechar (10:30 AM)

**Advent Readers:** Bill and Kathleen Stephens (10:30 AM)

