



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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM WORSHIP

MARCH 17, 2024

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)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Prelude (10:30 only)

Lied (Song)

Lucie Robert-Diessel

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

Lay Reader

Leader: Why are you here?

**All: I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.**

Leader: I see it! You're in the right place!

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

All: Why are you here?

Leader: I am seeking God with my whole heart, with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.

**All: We see that in you! You're in the right place. This is God's house.
The door is open to you.**

Leader: Let us worship God.

All: Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen.

*Hymn #297 (9:00 & 10:30)

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Prayer for Illumination (9:00 & 10:30)

Lay Reader

Teaching God, we want to learn your ways. We want to learn the ways of forgiveness. We want to learn the ways of grace. We want to learn your ways of love. That is part of why we return to your text week after week, because we are hungry to be more like you.

So as we prepare to listen to your good Word, calm the noise in our minds. Center our spirits to focus on you so that we might learn and hear what we have missed in this story before. God, we want to learn your ways. Meet us here. Speak your truth. Help us listen. Amen.

Invitation to Share Lenten Prayer Requests (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

During this moment of worship, you are invited to submit a written prayer request for yourself, others, or the world by coming forward to place it in our wooden prayer bowl. Please feel welcome to kneel at the chancel rail at any time during this time of prayer. You may also place your prayer request form in the offering plate during the offertory.

Pastoral Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Anthem (10:30 AM only)

Cantique de Jean Racine
Sanctuary Choir

Gabriel Faure

*O Lord of hosts, how lovely are thy dwellings. My soul long for thy courts.
My heart and flesh cry out, O Lord, for thee. O blest are they whose hope is forever in thee,
Who praise thy name, who sing their song within thy holy house.
O Lord, incline thy ear; look down, my spirit longs for thee.
A Sun and Shield is the Lord of hosts. O hear my prayer. O Lord, hear my prayer.*

Proclamation of the Word

John 12:20-33 NRSVUE (9:00 & 10:30)

Pew Bible: New Testament p. 106-107

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks.
²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #338 (9:00 & 10:30)

Where He Leads

Sermon (9:00 & 10:30)

"Sacrificial Bravery"

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

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

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

"How many times should I forgive?"

"Jesus, where are you going?"

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

"Where does it hurt?"

"What do you need?"

"How can I help?"

We believe that God is a teacher.

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

"Here I am."

"Send me."

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage, with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength. We believe. Help our unbelief. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

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 AM only)

Largo

Elisabeth Stirling

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

OLD 100TH

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

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

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 #593 (9:00 & 10:30)

Here I Am Lord

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

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

*There will be no postlude during the season of Lent.
Please use this moment for sacred reflection and depart the Sanctuary quietly.*



COMING UP

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

Staff & clergy available other times by appointment!

We follow Montgomery County Schools for weather-related delays and closures.

Worship for Holy Week

Palm Sunday: *March 24*, worship at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Stations of the Cross: *March 25-29*, 11:00 AM -1:00 PM and 5:00-7:00 PM in the Octagon

Maundy Thursday: *March 28* with Choir and Orchestra in the Sanctuary, 7:30 PM

Good Friday: *March 29* with organ music in the Sanctuary, 7:30 PM

Easter Sunday: *March 31*: First Service of Easter in Clum-Kennedy Park, 7:30 AM

Easter Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

The church offices will be closed on Monday, April 1 for Easter Monday.

stpaulsk.org/worship/lent-and-easter



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).



Passing the Peace – *A message from Pastor Pat.* During Lent, we are not moving about the Sanctuary to share signs of peace and love. Given the recent surge in all manner of communicable illnesses, we are offering holy hand waves and other “air” signs until Easter.

Featured Events and Information

- **Easter Lily Orders** – *now -March 24.* Easter Lily sponsors may make a lily dedication in memory or honor of loved ones. To use a credit card and order online go to stpaulsk.org/worship/lent-and-easter. In-person orders using cash or check will be received in the Narthex, March 17 & 24.

- **Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, March 19, 12:00-1:00 PM, Octagon.* This time of food and song opens with some hymns suggested by the group, then we have a short program about our worship songs. No musical experience needed! Stay for lunch (\$5 donation).
- **UMM Dinner** – *Wednesday, March 20, 6:15-8:30 PM, Fellowship Hall.* The UMM is having a Chili Cook-Off Dinner (dessert included), to be followed by a short meeting of the UMM and a slide program “Wintertime and Dogsledding in Alaska.” Cost \$7.00. Sign up in the office. If you can also bring salad or bread, thank you. For questions, contact Jerry Watkins at j50.09w@verizon.net.
- **Wednesday Zoom: *The Third Day*** – *Wednesdays, now-March 27, 4:00-5:00 PM by Zoom.* During Lent, this come-when-you-can study is guided by “The Third Day: Living the Resurrection,” by Bishop Tom Berlin. To receive the Zoom link, contact Dr. Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org.
- **Stations of the Cross** – *March 25-29.* This self-guided experience will be open in the Octagon during Holy Week, Monday-Friday, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 5:00-7:00 PM. Six interactive stations, themed according to episodes in the Gospel of John, invite reflection and repentance.
- **Holy Thursday Worship & Music** – *March 28, 7:30 PM in the Sanctuary.* The Sanctuary Choir will be joined by a 13-piece chamber orchestra on Maundy Thursday as they present “At His Name,” a moving musical journey through the life and death of Jesus.
- **Easter Morning Egg Hunt** – *March 31.* All children are invited for an Egg Hunt in the park across from St. Paul’s front doors, following the 10:30 AM Easter Worship. Please bring your own basket or bag. Stuffed egg donations (no nuts or chocolate, please) can be dropped off in the main office. Contact Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org.
- **Save the Date: VBS** – *June 17-21, 9:00AM-12:00 noon, at Bethesda UMC.* St. Paul’s is partnering with Bethesda UMC and Chevy Chase UMC to bring Vacation Bible School to kids age 3 through Grade 5. All activities will take place at Bethesda UMC (8300 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, MD). Go to <https://vbspro.events/p/events/d42030> to register.
- **Clarification: Apportionment Calculations** – Included on pages 15-16 of the “This Is Us” document are the words: “Since 2020, by ensuring that our budget was more mission and ministry focused we have reduced our apportionment amount from \$136,000 in 2020, to **\$103,945 in 2024**..... [in 2024 we] pay 75% of our apportioned amount.” The figure in bold represents the 75% of the apportioned amount St. Paul’s is required to pay in the year 2024, not the *total amount* of our apportionment for 2024.
- **Pastor Joey Renewal Leave** – Rev. Joey Heath-Mason is on Sabbath Renewal time and will return to St. Paul’s on Easter Sunday. Read more at stpaulsk.org/we-are-all-about/the-pastors-page
- **Resources for Lent** – Visit the table in the Narthex today to pick up free Lenten devotional booklets with prayers and other readings for the season.

- **Notes for New Ones in Faith** – Please write a note of encouragement, scripture, or prayer for the young people in Confirmation Class, and place it in the basket in the Narthex. Notes will be presented to the students at their confirmation.
- **Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM*. During this time of contemplative prayer, all are welcome to enter the Sanctuary in silence, light a candle, and listen for the facilitator to introduce a form of contemplative prayer. Come if you need some stillness in your life, in community.

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. **Say Hello!** Please 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.

Children's Programs Today – Children in grades K-5 will begin the Sunday School hour in the Chapel at 10:30 AM, after which they will transition to their classrooms. Children in Grades K-2 grades meet in Room 200; Grade 3-5 meet in the Parlor. Childcare for infants and preschoolers is available in the 2nd floor Nursery at 10:30 AM. Parents / guardians should pick up their children immediately following worship. Busy Bags for children's use during worship may be found at the Welcome Desk. To receive Sunday School updates by email, contact Dr. Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org. To learn more about Children's Choir, contact Christina Griffin at clgriff18@gmail.com.



SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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**** Here I Am, Lord.** Words & Music: Dan Schutte (1981); music arr. Carlton R. Young (1988). Copyright 1981, 1989 by Daniel L. Schutte and NALR.



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

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

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

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

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

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Deanna Hodgson (9:00 AM); MaryAnn Steele (10:30 AM)

