



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church



So Many Questions

March 19, 2023

9:00 & 10:30 AM

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

ORDER OF WORSHIP

MARCH 19, 2023

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

Welcome to St. Paul's, a Reconciling congregation of the United Methodist Church. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, we invite 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. Announcements and helpful information can be found on the pages following the order of worship.

Gathering for Worship

(* - please stand in body or spirit)

Announcements

Lay Leader

Prelude (10:30 AM only)

4th Couplet - Kyrie

François Couperin

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

Lay Reader

Leader: We are blind to many things.

All: Lord, cure our blindness.

Leader: The light of God shines for us today.

All: Lord, pour that light on us.

Leader: Come, worship God who forgives and heals your blindness.

All: Open our eyes, O Lord, that we might see opportunities to serve you.

Amen.

*Hymn #57 (9:00 & 10:30) O, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

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

Lay Reader

Healing God, we have languished in our blindness. We have chosen to hide in darkness in order to avoid reaching out and risking acceptance. We are afraid of the light, and yet we crave it. In your light, there is healing and hope, restoration and transformation. Forgive our lack of faith and our fearfulness, O Lord. Give us courage to reach out to the light and accept its healing rays. May our lives be transformed by your mercy, for we pray this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon and Pastoral Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

The Lord's Prayer (10:30 AM only)

The United Methodist 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.

Naming of Names & Intercessory Lenten Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

You are invited to speak aloud the names of persons whom you wish our prayers to support. You are also 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 during this time of prayer.

Anthem (10:30 AM only)

The Lord Is My Shepherd

Thomas Matthews

Sanctuary Choir with Christina Griffin, soprano

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures.
He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul.
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil;
For thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou annointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever, forever.

Proclamation of the Word

John 9:1-41 (9:00 & 10:30)

Lay Reader

¹As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he."

Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were

not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

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

People: Thanks be to God.

*Hymn #451 (9:00 & 10:30)

Be Thou My Vision

Sermon (9:00 & 10:30)

“So Many Questions”

Dr. Meg Baker

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 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) *Prelude on Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Emma Lou Diemer

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

OLD 100TH

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

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

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

The Invitation (9:00 AM only)

The Great Thanksgiving (9:00 AM only)

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them up to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
P: **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 he 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.**

The Lord's Prayer (9:00 AM only)

The United Methodist 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 (9:00 AM only)

All St. Paul's communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer after Receiving (9:00 AM only)

**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 #454 (9:00 & 10:30) Open My Eyes, That I May See

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

Dr. Meg Baker

Postlude (10:30 AM only) *Fugue in e minor, BWV 548b*

J. S. Bach



NEXT WEEK: MARCH 26, 2023

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

10:30 AM livestreaming through stpaulsk.org

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

9:00 AM – 26 10:30 AM – 85 online – 69 Total: 180

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers today are given by **Nathan & Reena Bazawada**
in loving memory of Reena's father, **Mr. Rajan Poddar**.



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

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Postlude: *Fugue in e minor, BWV 548b* by J. S. Bach. Public domain.



Postludes during Lent

Marvin Mills, organist

Though J. S. Bach was revered as the leading organist of his time, he was seen as old fashioned in his compositional style. This was partly due to his use of older forms, but particularly to the emergence of a new style (the *style gallant*) which signaled the end of the Baroque and the beginnings of the Classical Period. This new style moved away from a contrapuntal (linear) method of composing, as exemplified by Bach, to a more homophonic (vertical) one. The music of Bach represents the apex of the Baroque Period; synthesizing national (Italian, French, and German) and regional (North and South Germanic) influences into a crystalline style which yields outward display while achieving intense contemplation.

Bach's prelude and fugue compositions reached a unique peak of refinement and brilliance during his time as court organist in Weimar (1708-1717). The fugal form can be traced back to the Middle Ages where canons and simple imitative parts evolved in works that were often interchangeable vocally or instrumentally. By the middle Renaissance the fugue had become a distinct form, attesting to the skill of a composer in his crafting of the counterpoint between voices.

Why focus on fugues in minor keys during Lent? The conversational nature of fugue engenders reflection and study, an apropos posture during the season. The tonality of minor keys provides ample opportunity to explore a richer harmonic palette.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Coming up: March 26 – Fugue in a, BWV 543b



NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements – News of events and activities at St. Paul's are shared through our Weekly News message. Read the latest message at stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news.

Welcome Visitors! – Thank you for joining us. **Restrooms** including a family restroom with changing table can be found past the church office and down the hall near the water fountain. **Large print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in

our Sanctuary and ushers can provide headsets. **Attendance pads** in the pews provide a space to share your name and, if you wish, contact information so we may welcome you. **Masks** are optional in almost all St. Paul's spaces. You can read more at stpaulsk.org/worship.

Today: Sunday School & Nursery – *Sunday, March 19*. Students in Grade 5 and younger begin Sunday School in the Chapel at 10:30 AM, then move to their classrooms. Childcare for infants and toddlers is available in the Nursery during 10:30 service. Families in worship who need a break are welcome to use the Octagon or the “busy bags” at the Welcome Desk. For email updates, contact Meg Baker (mbaker@stpaulsk.org).

Today: UMCOR Special Sunday – *Sunday, March 19*. The United Methodist Committee on Relief provides both emergency aid and long-term rebuilding when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupts communities. UMCOR's day-to-day operations, including managing logistics and training first responders, are covered by the UMCOR Special Sunday offerings. To support UMCOR's operations, donate using the special envelope or at stpaulsk.org/giving.

Today: Confirmation Registration – *register by April 2*. These classes are designed for students in grades 7 & 8 interested in becoming full members of St. Paul's and The United Methodist Church. Current meeting schedule is Tuesday nights, 7:00-8:00 PM starting April 11 with additional activities possible. Use the registration form at stpaulsk.org/community/youth to sign up and provide feedback or contact Mr. Micah Smartt at msmartt@stpaulsk.org.

Today: Palm Sunday Children's Choir – *Sunday, March 19*. Singers in grades K-5 are invited to prepare a Palm Sunday song. Rehearsals will be held Sundays 11:45-12:30, leading up to Palm Sunday April 2. Join us today or register at <https://tinyurl.com/329xydzs>.

This Week: “After the Sermon” – Ready to think more deeply about Sunday's Scripture reading? Reflection questions curated by Jim Holland will be posted on the church Facebook page and in the Weekly News email starting this week, and you are invited to share your thoughts with Jim directly by emailing hollandjim1357@gmail.com.

This Week: Zoom Lent Study – *Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 PM*. The Wednesday Bible Study group is currently following a six-week Lent study, “Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, & Outlaws.” For more info or receive the Zoom link, contact Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org.

This Week: Taste & Sing – *Tuesday, March 21, 12:00-1:00 PM*. Come to the Octagon for a casual hymn-sing, short program exploring the stories behind some of our worship songs, and lunch. No musical expertise necessary!

Next Week: Yarn Ministry – *Monday, March 27*. Knit, crochet, or craft along with friends, in person in the Library at St. Paul's this month! Contact Karen Codner: kdc811@gmail.com.

Next Month: Pancake Breakfast – *Saturday, April 1.* The UMM-led community breakfast will be serving pancakes and other breakfast foods, 8:00-10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Read more at stpaulsk.org/community/pancake-breakfast.

Next Month: Stations of the Cross – *April 3-7, 11:00 AM-1:00 PM and 5:00-7:00 PM.* This self-guided Stations of the Cross event will be open during Holy Week in the Octagon. Read more at stpaulsk.org/worship/lent-and-easter or contact Meg Baker (mbaker@stpaulsk.org).

Next Month: Hope in the Shadows – *Thursday, April 5, 7:30 PM.* Our Sanctuary Choir and chamber musicians will present a moving Holy Week experience on Maundy Thursday including communion, hymns, soloists, music and text reflecting Christ's journey to the cross, sacrifice, and the hope in the shadows to which we cling. Visit stpaulsk.org/worship/music.

Next Month: Easter Eggstravaganza – *April 9.* Children in Grade 5 and younger will enjoy an Egg Hunt following 10:30 AM worship on Easter. Bring your own basket or bag to enjoy coloring activities in the Octagon and egg hunting by age group in Reinhardt Park. Free, but register to help us plan: stpaulsk.org/community/children. Volunteers and stuffed plastic egg donations welcome! Contact Dr. Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org or 301-933-7933 ext 104.

Next Month: UMC 101, New & Renewing Members Class – *Sundays, April 16-May 21, 12:00-1:00 PM.* Open to everyone regardless of membership status! Over the course of 5 sessions, we will share information and discussions to refresh or learn for the first time about the UMC and what makes this denomination distinctive. Contact Pastor Joey: joeyhm@stpaulsk.org.

Next Month: Registration for VBS – St. Paul's is partnering with Bethesda UMC for VBS at their location (8300 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda MD), June 19-23! Registration is now open! Read more about the "Hero Hotline" VBS theme and find camper/volunteer registration at stpaulsk.org/community/children or contact Meg Baker: mbaker@stpaulsk.org.

Lenten Resources – To help us journey through the Lenten season of reflection and repentance, we have several resources available in the Narthex, including:

- *Seeking*, a weekly devotional with poems and reflections.
- *The Sanctuary for Lent*, brief readings for each day of the season.
- *What is Lent?*, a coloring and activities book designed for ages 6-9.

Lewis Center Releases Report on Disaffiliating Churches – The Lewis Center for Church Leadership has issued a new report on UMC congregations choosing to leave the United Methodist Church. Find excerpts and links at stpaulsk.org/community/the-way-forward.

ONGOING

Hunger Ministry – This signature ministry serves over 100 households monthly with pantry staples and grocery store cards. Please donate non-perishables in the bins in the Narthex. (Please note, we can't give out expired food or glass containers.) To find the list of most-needed food items and other ways to help, visit stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry.

SPY News – *Sundays, 4:30-6:00 PM.* All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome to join St. Paul's Youth for fun and fellowship. Questions? Contact Mr. Micah Smartt (msmartt@stpaulsk.org).

Still Wednesday – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM.* Gather in-person most Wednesdays in the Sanctuary for quiet prayer and contemplative, creative reflection. Contact Kenzie Raulin at 301-237-1520 or Kenzie@krdesign.net.

Prayerwaves – *Wednesdays, 10:00 AM.* All are welcome at this time of prayer by conference-call over the phone. Dial 425-436-6326, then use the access code 774042 followed by the # sign. To receive the prayer list by email contact Meg Baker (mbaker@stpaulsk.org).

Daily Breath – *Wednesdays, 9:00 AM.* Enjoy about 10-20 minutes of sharing, prayer, or music led by St. Paul's clergy, staff, or volunteer leaders. Go to facebook.com/stpaulskensington.

Tuesday with Friends – *Third Tuesday of each month, 11:00 AM.* This group, open to all men and women, meets for fellowship and lessons. Contact Ginny Hagberg: 301-770-7624.

Lydia Circle – *First Wednesday of each month, 2:30 PM.* Ladies interested in joining the Lydia Circle sisters should contact Susan Schwarz at susan10748@aol.com or 301-339-8242.

Read-Thru-the-Bible – The pastors offer reflection questions to guide your journey through the Bible. Go to stpaulsk.org/community/adult-education and read along. Jump in at any time!

Altar Flowers in 2023 – The flower chart for 2023 is now available on the bulletin board in the church office. Reserve a date and use the yellow form to sponsor the Sanctuary flowers.

UMM Driver Service – Volunteer drivers are listed on the office bulletin board and are available to take adult St. Paul's members to medical appointments around the county.

Stephen Ministers – We offer a listening ear to those going through a difficult situation or life change. Contact Meg Baker (mbaker@stpaulsk.org) or Virginia Bickford (301-598-5496).

Sipping Ministry – Coffee and treats are offered following worship whenever a group, family, or class volunteers to sponsor this time of fellowship. Contact Erin Steele in the church office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org) to find available dates.



St. Paul's Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen
pallen@stpaulsk.org

Minister of Spiritual Care and Formation

Dr. Meg Baker
mbaker@stpaulsk.org

Director of Music

Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen
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Minister of Youth and Design

Mr. Micah Smartt
msmartt@stpaulsk.org

Associate Pastor

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason
joeyhm@stpaulsk.org

Director of Communications and Administration

Dr. Erin Bone Steele
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Organist

Mr. Marvin Mills
mmills@stpaulsk.org

Facilities Manager

Ms. Tracey Furman
tfurman@stpaulsk.org

Facilities Maintenance

Mr. Marco Palma

Assisting with Worship

Tech Team

John & Biljana Regan
John Stephens & Thomas Stephens

Lay Readers

Debbie Zechar - 10:30 AM

Usher Coordinator

Nathan Bazawada

Lay Leader

Marge Higgins

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Appointments Encouraged
