



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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

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.

(* - please stand in body or spirit)

Gathering for Worship

Announcements

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Prelude

Prelude on LAUDA ANIMA (10:30 only)

Clara Gerdes Bartz

***Call to Worship**

Lay Reader

Leader: Search for the Lord each day.

All: God waits where we least expect it.

Leader: Search for the balm in Gilead.

All: God brings healers in our need.

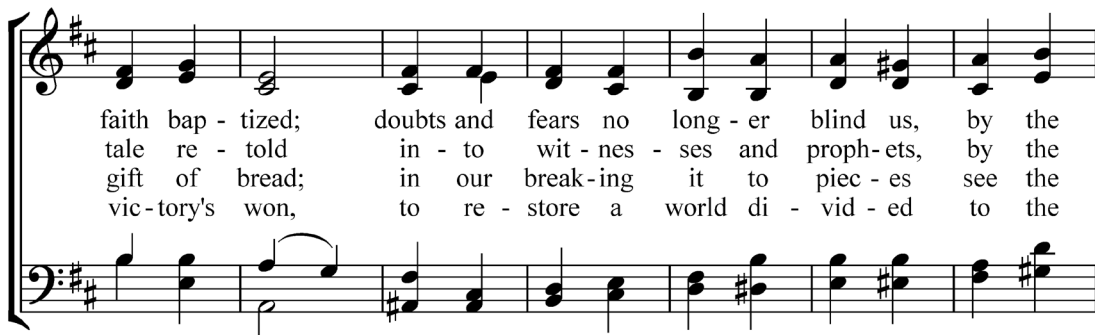
Leader: Cry out to the Lord in times of distress.

All: God comes speedily to meet us.

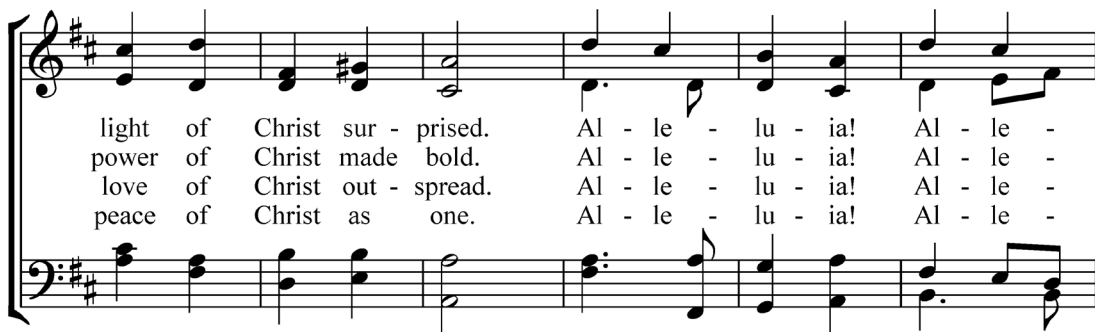
Let us worship the One who hears our pleas.



1. At the font we start our jour - ney, in the Eas - ter
 2. At the pul - pit we are fash - ioned by the Eas - ter
 3. At the al - tar we are nour - ished with the Eas - ter
 4. At the door we are com - mis - sioned, now the Eas - ter



faith bap - tized; doubts and fears no long - er blind us, by the
 tale re - told in - to wit - nes - ses and proph - ets, by the
 gift of bread; in our break - ing it to piec - es see the
 vic - tory's won, to re - store a world di - vid - ed to the



light of Christ sur - prised. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 power of Christ made bold. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 love of Christ out - spread. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
 peace of Christ as one. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -



lu - ia! Hope held out and re - al - ized.
 lu - ia! Faith pro - claimed, yet still un - told.
 lu - ia! Life em - braced, yet free - ly shed.
 lu - ia! Eas - ter's work must still be done.

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

**Great Healer, be our balm in Gilead,
for we ache to be made whole.
Come to us in times of trial and heal our sin-sick souls.
Amid those who prey on your little ones,
help us live faithfully as children of light.
May we be found faithful in a little,
that you may entrust us with much. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Lord's Prayer (10:30 only)

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.**

Anthem (10:30 only)

Hear Ye, Israel!
from the oratorio, *Elijah*, Op. 70
Jouelle Roberson, soprano

Felix Mendelssohn

Hear ye, Israel;
Hear what the Lord speaketh:
"Oh, hadst thou heeded my commandments!"
Who hath believed our report;
To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?
Thus saith the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel,
And His Holy One, to him oppressed by tyrants;
Thus saith the Lord:
"I am He that comforteth;

Be not afraid, for I am thy God;
I will strengthen thee.
Say, who art thou, that thou art afraid of a man that shall die;
And forgettest the Lord thy Maker,
Who hath stretched forth the heavens,
And laid the earth's foundations?
Be not afraid, for I, thy God, will strengthen thee."

Proclamation of the Word

1 Timothy 2:1-7 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – New Testament pages 208

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For
there is one God;
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,
Christ Jesus, himself human,
⁶who gave himself a ransom for all
— this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn

There is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain

There is a___ balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;___ There is a

Fine

balm___ in Gil - e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.

Verses

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and think my work's in
2. Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your
3. If you can't preach like Pe - ter, if you can't pray like

(hmm)_____

D. C.

vain. But then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain._____
friend; And if you lack for knowl - edge, He'll ne'er re - fuse to lend._____
paul, just tell the love of Je - sus, and say he died for all._____

_____(hmm)_____

Invitation to Discipleship and Giving

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

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 St. Paul's efforts to engage in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory (10:30 only)

Live-a Humble
Sanctuary Choir

Marvin Mills

Refrain: A-live a humble, humble.

Humble yourself, the bell's done rung. Repeat

*Glory and honor, praise King Jesus,
Glory and honor, praise the Lamb. (Refrain)*

*Oh, my Lord done jes' what he said,
My Lord, he healed the sick an' he raised the dead. (Refrain)*

*Did you ever see such a man as God,
Who gave up his Son for to come an' die!
He gave up his Son for to come an' die,
Jes' to save my soul from a burning fire. (Refrain)*

*Glory and honor, praise King Jesus,
Glory and honor, praise the Lamb. (Refrain)*

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion – 9:00 AM only

The Invitation, Confession & Pardon (9:00 only)

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 only)

The Great Thanksgiving (9:00 only)

UM Hymnal p. 13-14

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.*

The Lord's Prayer (9:00 only)

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 (9:00 only)

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 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 #354

I Surrender All

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Postlude (10:30 only)

Prelude on LAUDA ANIMA

Marvin Mills



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today by **Martha Lipscomb**,
in celebration of her twin sister **Marilyn Meek** on their 85th birthday.

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, September 28, 2025

9:00 AM – Worship with Communion

10:30 AM – Worship with Sanctuary Choir



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly News – Visit 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. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org).



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!** Members, friends, and visitors alike are encouraged to use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance today. Please read more about worship at stpaulsk.org/worship.

Sunday School News – *Sunday, Sept. 21, 10:30 AM.* All children are invited to attend Sunday School this week! Children in Pre-K and younger will be in the Nursery. Grades K-2 meet in Room 200. Grades 3-5 meet in the Parlor. Parents and guardians should drop off at the classroom and pick up at the classroom immediately after worship. Please find the online registration and emergency contact form for Sunday School students at stpaulsk.org/community/children or use a paper form at the classroom door. Youth in grade 6 and above will be in worship in the Sanctuary. Restless friends of any age (accompanied by an adult) are welcome to take a break in the Library near the restrooms or the Octagon room. Busy bags with quiet children's activities may be borrowed from the Welcome Desk.

Worship Hours – We have two opportunities each Sunday to join in worship in-person. The worship service at 9:00 AM includes Communion each Sunday. The worship service at 10:30 AM offers Communion on the first Sunday of the month and music led by the Sanctuary Choir each week. The 10:30 AM service is also available by livestream at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home.

Events and Information

- **Today: Organ Demonstration** – *Sunday, Sept. 21, 11:45 AM.* St. Paul's is fortunate to have the best pipe organ in town. Marvin Mills will give a brief tour of this magnificent instrument – with its 48 stops, 47 ranks, 2550 pipes and four keyboards – answering your questions and taking a peek inside.
- **Today: Sunday Film Series** – *Sunday, Sept. 21 at 12:00-2:00 PM.* Join us for a series where we watch powerful films exploring justice and resilience together.
 - *Will & Harper* – Sept. 21. When comedian Will Ferrell's long-time friend comes out as a trans woman, they embark on a cross-country road trip and make a documentary charting a new chapter in their relationship.
 - *Till* – Oct. 26. This feature film focuses on Mamie Till Mobley's brave quest for public accountability after her 14-year old son Emmett was brutally lynched while visiting relatives in Mississippi.

Screenings take place in the Octagon after worship. Free popcorn provided! Please bring your own lunch. All are welcome as we reflect, learn, and grow together through these impactful stories. Questions? Contact Pastor Joey (joeyhm@tpaulsk.org).

- **Today: St. Paul's Youth** – *Sunday, Sept. 21, 7:00-8:30 PM.* All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join SPY for faith, friendship, and fun! Fill out the registration and permission form for the 2025-2026 year online at stpaulsk.org/community/youth and contact Pastor Sheridan (sallmond@stpaulsk.org) if you have questions.
- **New! Save the Date: Church Conference** – *Saturday, Oct. 18, 10:00 AM.* The UMC's Baltimore-Washington Conference requires reports each year on multiple areas of the church's ministry, mission, health, and future plans. The annual Church Conference

for St. Paul's and other congregations in the Montgomery County Southwest Hub will be hosted this year at North Bethesda UMC (10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda MD). Copies of church conference reports are available after October 2 upon request. All church members and friends are welcome to attend.

- **This Week: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, Sept. 23, 12:00-1:30 PM.* Taste & Sing returns with St. Paul's Director of Music, Mr. Tom Pedersen, at the keyboard for this casual time of music, learning, food, and fellowship. We start with a short hymn-sing - feel free to request your favorites! Then Dr. Erin Steele will guide us through a short program about a composer, lyricist, or theme. We finish with a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation). No musical expertise necessary!
- **This Week: Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM.* Still Wednesday provides a weekly space for reflection and calm connection in a noisy world. Typically, Still Wednesday gathers in either the Sanctuary or the Octagon for a guided time of poetry, scripture, music, or art, with about 20 minutes of silent prayer.
- **Next Week: Children's Choir Begins!** – *Sunday, Sept. 28, 11:45 AM.* Perfect for kids in grades K-6 who are eager to learn and sing together. Rehearsals begin September 28 in the Multi-Purpose Room with Ms. Christina Griffin, Children's Choir Director, following the 10:30 worship service. Children's choir is a great way for your child to grow in their faith, learn music skills, and be part of a meaningful group!
- **Meal Train for Grace Graham** – Grace Graham has broken her right wrist in multiple places and faces an extended recovery time. Grace lives outside our normal "drop off zone" for meals, but appreciates help through gift cards in any amount to bring in meals. Sign up to help through Meal Train at <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/gzw743>
- **Next Month: RMN Anniversary** – *Sunday, Oct. 19.* This year we celebrate 5 years as a Reconciling Congregation! In worship, we'll give thanks for our journey of inclusion and renew our commitment to justice, welcome, and love for all people. Music at 10:30 will include guest musicians including James Woods and a new contemporary gospel anthem by Mark Miller. Wear your brightest clothes and rainbow colors as we fill the sanctuary with joy, love, and bold witness!
- **Next Month: Bible & Brews** – *Sunday, Oct. 19, 5:00-6:00 PM.* All are welcome for this time of interfaith conversation with Pastor Joey, Rabbi Adam, and neighbors from Temple Emanuel. This month's meeting is at BabyCat Brewery (10241 Kensington Pkwy, Kensington MD). Meetings are family friendly and you can purchase food or beverages as you like. Contact Pastor Joey with questions (joeyhm@stpaulsk.org).
- **St. Paul's Music** – The Music Department has fantastic opportunities for all ages and skill levels this year! Whether you're a seasoned musician or just looking to explore your passion for singing and ringing, we have something for you! Contact Tom Pedersen, Director of Music: tpedersen@stpaulsk.org

- **Children's Choir:** *Beginning Sunday, Sept. 28.* Perfect for kids in grades K-6 who are eager to learn and sing together. Rehearsals begin September 28 in the Multi-Purpose Room.
- **Joyful Ringers:** *Wednesdays at 7:00 PM.* An exciting handbell choir for adults that promises fun and fellowship. We welcome new ringers and those interested in learning bells!
- **Sanctuary Choir:** *Sundays at 9:30 AM.* Open to grades 7 and up and adult singers who enjoy leading worship and singing in an ensemble. We meet each week at 9:30 AM on Sundays in room 211 and sing for the 10:30 AM worship service. Singers are welcome week-to-week or on a continuing basis!
- **Lay Readers Wanted** – We're looking for lay readers! To serve at the 9:00 AM worship service, please sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/42v2k5em>. If you are interested in the 10:30 AM Lay Reader opportunities, or if you have questions, please contact Marge Higgins at higginsmarge@gmail.com.
- **Regular Activities** – Please contact group leaders for details!
 - **Community Pancake Breakfast** – *first Saturday of each month, 8:00-10:30 AM.* The United Methodist Men and volunteers invite all members of the community to the Fellowship Hall monthly for pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, and other breakfast specialties. Proceeds benefit local charities and St. Paul's programs.
 - **Lydia Circle Sisters** – *first Wednesday of each month, 2:30 PM.* All ladies interested in being part of the Lydia Circle are welcome. Contact Susan Schwarz at 301-339-8242 or susan10748@aol.com.
 - **Prayerwaves** – *Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 AM.* To pray together by phone, dial 425-436-6326 a few minutes before 10:00 AM, then enter access code 774042 followed by the # sign. To receive the prayer list by email, please contact Erin Steele in the church office at stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org.
 - **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. We will also plan the fall Craft Fair. Contact Karen Codner for up to date info: KDC811@gmail.com. Find the full schedule for Fall 2025 at stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events
 - **Sipping Ministry** – This fellowship time with beverages and snacks is held after worship whenever a group, family, or individual wishes to host. Sign up on the office bulletin board and take a "how to" instruction sheet.
 - **Stephen Ministers** – Please contact Martha Lipscomb (301-518-1642) to be connected to a Stephen Minister for confidential care and a listening ear.

- **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors** – To sponsor the flowers that grace the Sanctuary on Sunday morning, please add your name to the Flower Chart on the office bulletin board to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with the dedication information. The cost is \$45 and you may take your flowers after worship.
- **Hunger Ministry** – St. Paul’s year-round ministry provides grocery resources for about 150 households in our ZIP code. Learn more about this important way we serve the local community at stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry. Non-perishables pantry staples in good condition may be donated in the bins in the Narthex any time. Financial donations marked for “Hunger Ministry” help us place bulk orders and provide recipients with grocery store gift cards to enable them to buy fresh or frozen meat, dairy, produce, or hygiene products. Thank you for helping us serve beyond the walls of St. Paul’s!



SOURCES AND LICENSING

Livestreaming each week at 10:30 AM at 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 LAUDA ANIMA*, by Clara Gerdes Bartz, from *Oxford Hymn Settings, Vol. 9*, copyright 2024 Oxford University Press.

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer: *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2025*, ed. B. J. Beu and Mary Scifres (Nashville TN: Abingdon Press, 2023). Used by permission.

* Hymn: *At the Font We Start Our Journey*. Words: Jeffery Rowthorn (1991), copyright 1991 by Hope Publishing. Music: John Goss (1869), public domain.

Anthem: *Hear Ye, Israel!* by Felix Mendelssohn, from the oratorio, *Elijah, Op. 70*. Public domain

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

Hymn: *There is a Balm in Gilead*. Words & Music: Traditional Negro Spiritual, arr. Marvin Mills, copyright 2016 by Marvin Mills. Streamed by permission of the composer. All rights reserved.

Anthem: *Live-a Humble*, by Marvin Mills. Copyright 1998 by Mills Music. Streamed by permission of the composer. 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: *I Surrender All*. Words: J. W. Van Deventer (1896). Music: W. S. Weeden (1896). Public domain.

** Postlude: *Prelude on LAUDA ANIMA* by Marvin Mills, copyright 2009, Marvin Mills. Published in *African-American Organ Music Anthology, Vol. 11*, ed. Mickey Thomas Terry, copyright 2024 by MorningStar Music Publishers. All rights reserved.



LEADING AND SERVING

Senior Pastor: Rev. Sheridan Allmond, sallmond@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

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

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

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Team: Nathan Bazawada (coordinator), Aiden Bazawada, Ginny Hagberg,
Henry Montgomery, Vince Velasco, Jackson Weaver

Lay Readers: Meg Baker (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.





St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885