

## Thank you for worshiping 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. As we gather inperson, we will err on the side of caution and expect all those present today to wear masks, covering the mouth and nose, regardless of vaccination status. Other announcements and more helpful information can be found on the following pages.

## **Gathering for Worship**

(\* - please stand in body or spirit)

Announcements Lay Leader

Prelude (10:30 AM only) Praise to the Immortality of Jesus from Quartet for the End of Time

Olivier Messiaen

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

Lay Reader

Leader: Beyond our busyness,

above the cold winter floor there is a glory rising born of heaven and reaching out to each one of us:

People: Light that shines through the clouds, an invitation seeking all of who we are, that transfigures the world, that transforms darkness into hope,

L: that brings life from a cross where old life ends, and new life is born.

P: In glory Jesus meets us here, raising us from depths of valley to the height of the mountain carrying the weight of our humanity to the heights of heaven's glory.

L: Let us worship from the mountain and hear again: "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

\*Hymn #384 (9:00 & 10:30 AM) Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Opening Prayer (9:00 & 10:30 AM only)

Lay Reader

God, you have filled our lives with abundant manifestations of your creative hand. You gift us with diverse bodies and experiences and stories and dreams that all work together to help us better understand you and all of creation. Forgive us, O God, when we reject you by rejecting the belovedness of our neighbors. Give us the courage to recognize you anew in people, places, and ideas unexpected. Amen

Pastoral Prayer (9:00 & 10:30 AM)

Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton

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

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 AM only)

*Transfiguration*Sanctuary Choir

Craig Phillips

- O burning mountain, O chosen sun,
- O perfect moon, O fathomless well,
- O unattainable height,
- O unattainable light,
- O clearness beyond all measure,
- O wisdom without end,
- O mercy without all limit,
- O strength beyond all resistance,
- O crown of all majesty,

All creation sings your praise:

Bright stars, high mountains, depths of the seas, rushing waters,

All these break into song at heaven's proclamation:

This is my Son, my beloved, my Chosen One. Alleluia, alleluia.

Scripture Reading (9:00 & 10:30 AM)

Lay Reader

Luke 9:28-36, 37-43a (NRSV)

<sup>28</sup>Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. <sup>29</sup>And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>30</sup>Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. <sup>31</sup>They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. <sup>32</sup>Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him. <sup>33</sup>Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" — not knowing what he said. <sup>34</sup>While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. <sup>35</sup>Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" <sup>36</sup>When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

<sup>37</sup>On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. <sup>38</sup>Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. <sup>39</sup>Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. <sup>40</sup>I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." <sup>41</sup>Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." <sup>42</sup>While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. <sup>43</sup>And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Music Ministry Moment (10:30 AM only)

Christina Griffin

All children are invited forward. Children will continue masking and distancing

God's Love Will Never End

So I'll trust in God Wherever I am, I know I can So I'll trust in God 'Cos God has got a plan God has got a plan.

\*Hymn #367 (9:00 & 10:30 AM) He Touched Me

Sermon (9:00 & 10:30 AM) Are You Ready for a Miracle?

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

The following film clips are related to today's sermon message:

https://youtu.be/Q1vQUG6GFNE "Leap of Faith"

https://youtu.be/RXiVw3hiyWk "Miracles from Heaven" https://youtu.be/FG04jSDwtzY "Breakthrough"

## Response to the Word and Sending Forth

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

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Offertory (10:30 AM only)

Adagio

Antonio Vivaldi/arr. V. Fox

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\*Hymn #94 (9:00 & 10:30 AM)

Doxology

Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion

The Invitation (9:00 AM only)

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

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.

- 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)

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 (9:00 AM only)

Giving the Bread and Cup (9:00 AM only)

Please receive the wafer and juice packet, then take it with you and consume it prayerfully and safely at home following the service.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (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.

Verse 1: Walking (as printed) Verse 2: Dancing Verse 3: Singing Verse 4: Praying Verse 5: Marching



Liturgy of Blessing and Release to Sabbath Leave

Lay Reader: O God, for all the ways you have blessed Pastor Pat,

we give you thanks. In her service to you and the church, we have experienced your hand upon us, wiping away the tears of

life, pointing us always toward love and justice.

We have seen in Pastor Pat one who gives all she has

to invite the marginalized to the table of grace.

We are joined today by the unseen presence of those with whom she has stood in many places during her 15 years of ministry. Let us gather around Pastor Pat and send her forth into a time of Sabbath rest and renewal.

ALL: Pastor Pat, we send you out in the power of the Spirit.

We send you out in love – our love and the love of Christ.

We send you out in faith with a God who is faithful forever.

Stay still for a time, and rest in the peace of Christ.

Pastor Kate: Go in peace.

May God's table be spread before you.

May Christ be your host.

May the Spirit lead you into a new way of being.

ALL: Amen.

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

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Postlude (10:30 AM only)

Toccata

William Walond/arr. H. Wall



UPCOMING WORSHIP

Ash Wednesday: March 2, 2022, worship at 7:00 PM.

First Sunday in Lent: March 6, 2022

Sunday worship at 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

and livestreaming at 10:30 AM.

Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton, preaching

### **SYMPATHY**

We express our deepest sympathies to Marie Powell following the death of her brother and former St. Paul's member Charles David Powell.

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St. Paul's Sunday 10:30 AM worship services are streamed through stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home

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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. Permission to stream this music obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #735990-A. All rights reserved.

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **News and Upcoming Events**

**SPY News** – *Meeting Feb.* 27: *Middle School* 4:30-6:00 *PM*; *High School* 7:00-8:30 *PM*. Regular SPY times are back! Also, this Sunday is the deadline to sign up for our Combined Middle and High School Spring Retreat for the weekend of March 4-6. More information about the retreat and can be found at *stpaulsk.org/community/youth*. For questions, contact Micah Smartt at msmartt@stpaulsk.org.

Children's Programming – for Feb. 27. Nursery Care for infants and preschoolers is available during both worship services today. Children of all ages are encouraged to attend worship online at 10:30 AM or in-person through the end of February. Busy Bags with quiet activities are available at the Welcome Desk. While Sunday School is on a break this month, children in Grade 5 and younger (plus parents and teachers) are invited to a brief time of sharing via Zoom on Sunday at 11:45 AM. Use this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86312380845. Sunday School returns on March 6; during the season of Lent, all students will begin in the Sanctuary with their families and those in Grade 5 and younger may transition to their classrooms with their teachers following a

children's moment.

**Ash Wednesday Worship** – Worship will be held in the Sanctuary at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, March 2. The service will also be livestreamed at stpaulsk.org/worship/worship-at-home.

**Wednesday Study** – The Wednesday Study group will take a short break for Ash Wednesday on March 2 and will return with a Lenten study.

**Lenten Devotionals and Resources** – The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, and is a time of repentance, fasting, self-examination, and reflection in preparation for the coming of Easter. Among the resources we will have available in the Narthex for you to pick up and use this year: *Full to the Brim*, a weekly devotional using lectionary Bible readings, poetry, art, and journal prompts; *The Sanctuary for Lent* 2022, a guide with brief readings for each day from Ash Wednesday through Easter; *What is Lent*?, a children's coloring and activity book geared towards ages 6-9.

**Lenten Studies: Witness at the Cross** – *Tuesdays at 6:00 PM (begins March 8) OR Wednesdays at 4:00 PM (begins March 9).* This study, led by Dr. Meg Baker, will be offered at two different times and days of the week so participants can choose the meeting that's best for them. The text by Amy-Jill Levine (optional) is \$15. We will travel through the story of the crucifixion through the eyes of the witnesses along the way, including the soldiers, women, mothers, convicts, disciples, and friends present in the Gospels. To sign up, email mbaker@stpaulsk.org or use this form: https://forms.gle/bHPhWmK4AcAjo1TeA.

Lenten Studies: Queers the Word – *Wednesdays, March 9-April 20 at 6:30 PM by Zoom.*During Lent, St. Paul's UMC, Chevy Chase UMC, Bethesda UMC, and North Bethesda UMC are teaming up to present a Zoom study of "Queers The Word: A 40-Day Devotional For LGBTQ+ Christians" by Shannon Kearns and Brian Murphy. Participants will use the devotional as a springboard for weekly discussions facilitated by Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton. Anyone who identifies under the LGBTQ+ umbrella is welcome to participate, and there is no cost. Sign up at online at https://forms.gle/SxrgxKAooW7vye5m7 or by contacting Pastor Kate.

If you have questions, contact Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton (she/hers) directly (kfulton@stpaulsk.org, 301-933-7933 x103).

**Recognizing Our Volunteers in Ministry** – The St. Paul's SPRC knows many people work alongside our staff and clergy as volunteers, and they are vital to helping us maintain our beloved community. Please use this form to submit the names of those St.

Paul's servants and volunteers who have helped make our church special: https://forms.gle/DafEZY91hZeKpiX69. (Note – Music ministries will be recognized separately later in the year.)

**Second Saturday Bible Study** – *Saturday, March* 12, 10:00-11:00 AM, Zoom. These gatherings featuring the videos, studies, and podcasts from The Bible Project. All are welcome! No prep required. (Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86967492600).

New Members – If you are not yet a full member of St. Paul's but are interested in becoming one, contact Pastor Kate (kfulton@stpaulsk.org) to discuss what's involved. The next date we will be receiving new members in worship will be Sunday, March 13, 2022.

Church Council Meeting – *Tuesday, March 15 at 7:00 PM by Zoom.* At the March meeting the Council plans discuss the installation of new Lay Members to Annual Conference, the renovation, the Easter Special Offering designation, and the possibility of a "one board" model for 2023. All members of the St. Paul's community are welcome to attend, although only Church Council members will vote. For the Zoom link, email Pastor Kate at kfulton@stpaulsk.org.

Save the Date: Still Weekend Retreat – Register by March 18, Retreat April 8-10 at the Dayspring Retreat Center in Germantown, MD. If you desire time to unplug and deeply listen on your spiritual journey, join us for a variety of optional contemplative activities, rest, and time in nature. Contact Kenzie Raulin at kenzier@rcn.com or 301-237-1520 if you have questions. Register here: https://forms.gle/wpXZjQjMsLtJ584QA.

**Better Humans Book Club:** *Rising – Discussion March* 22, 7:00 *PM by Zoom. The* next selection is *Rising* by Elizabeth Rush, examining what global sea level rise means for people's lives. Under the umbrella of Justice & Compassion, the book club reads great fiction from historically underrepresented voices and nonfiction that challenges us to work for a better world. To join the discussion, email Travis Stalcup at justice@stpaulsk.org for the Zoom link.

**Read Through The Bible** – The entire congregation is invited to read through the Bible, in whole or in part, together over the next two years. Find the reading schedule at *stpaulsk.org/community/adult-education*. The March Zoom session to share thoughts and questions will be on March 31 at 6:30 PM.

**Help Wanted!** – We are in need of a few volunteers to staff the welcome table and guide people as they enter for worship on Sundays. To learn more about becoming part of the Welcome Ministry, contact Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org or 301-933-7933 ext. 104.

**Coffee Hour** – *Sunday, April 3.* The J&C Team will host their next coffee hour after the 10:30 worship service on April 3 in the courtyard by the Octagon. Come for coffee, cookies, and good cheer.

### **Announcements: Ongoing Activities**

**Hunger Ministry** – Over 100 families rely on our Hunger Ministry each month. Our volunteers make this possible! To volunteer, email hunger@stpaulsk.org. Can you donate a bag of groceries? Use the shopping list to fill a St. Paul's bag, or place individual items in the bins. To make a financial donation, visit *stpaulsk.org/giving* or make checks payable to St. Paul's UMC with "Hunger Ministry" on the memo.

**9:00 Lay Readers** – Would you like to assist with worship at 9:00 AM by serving as a lay reader? Go to *stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events* and click the button to be taken to the sign-up sheet. Sign up by simply typing in your name and email address. Contact Erin Steele in the church office at stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org if you have questions.

**Sanctuary Flowers** – To sponsor Sanctuary flowers, sign up on the flower chart in the main office. Forms for dedications are available next to the chart.

**Inclement Weather Policies** – For weekday inclement weather, St. Paul's follows Montgomery County Public Schools announcements for students regarding delays or closures. For Sundays, the pastors will assess the weather and make a decision about inperson services by Saturday evening.

**Renovation Update** – The conversations between the contractors and the church have concluded and a start date will be announced soon. Visit our Renovation page at *stpaulsk.org/community/renovation* for more details.

**Daily Breath** – *Tuesdays & Thursdays*, 9:00 AM. Live online sessions are designed to help keep us calm and connected during covid-19, and provide a time of sharing, prayer, or music led by St. Paul's clergy and staff. Visit *facebook.com/stpaulskensington*.

**Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays*, 7:00-8:00 PM. All are welcome! The exact format of Still Wednesday changes week to week, but typically includes 20 minutes of silent contemplative prayer. To Zoom, use Meeting ID: 815 9385 9811, passcode Oliver.

**Martha Circle** – Meetings usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 AM in the Octagon. All ladies interested may contact coordinator Ginny Hagberg (mdcatlover@aol.com, 301-770-7624) for updates.

**Lydia Circle** – Meetings usually held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. All interested ladies should contact Susan Schwarz (susan10748@aol.com or 301-339-8242) for the latest schedule.

**Yarn Ministry** – Meeting either by Zoom or in-person in the Library at St. Paul's twice a month. All crafters welcome! Contact Karen Codner (kdc811@gmail.com).

**Prayerwaves** – *Wednesdays*, 10:00 AM by phone. Call 425-436-6326 at 9:55 AM. When prompted for the "access code," type in 774042 followed by #.

**Stephen Ministry** – Trained lay-people provide comfort to those who need a listening ear as they navigate life's challenges. Contact Pastor Kate (kfulton@stpaulsk.org) or Virginia Bickford (301-598-5496) to learn more.

**Pledges & Thank You Gifts** – Each household that pledges for 2022 will receive a St. Paul's folding camp chair as a special "thank you." Blank pledge forms are available in the church office and at *stpaulsk.org/giving*.

**Pastoral Leave** – Beginning Thursday March 3 through Tuesday May 31, Pastor Pat will be on Sabbath Renewal Leave. During that time, Pastor Kate will lead the congregation. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Pastor Pat.

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### **Visitor Information**

Thank you for joining us! You are invited to tear out this section and leave this form with the offerings to let us know a little about yourself, or how we might be in touch. You may also email the office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org) or staff to say hello!

| Name(s):  |        |  |  |  |
|---|--------|--|--|--|
| Email:  |        |  |  |  |
| Phone:  |        |  |  |  |
| Home Ad   | dress: |  |  |  |
| How did you find us? (circle all that apply) Family/friend. Passing by. Internet search. Other: |        |  |  |  |

Are you interested in learning more about St. Paul's? (circle all that apply)
No, just visiting. Maybe; I have questions. Please tell me about joining St. Paul's.

## 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

## Minister of Youth and Design

Mr. Micah Smartt msmartt@stpaulsk.org

### **Director of Music**

Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen tpedersen@stpaulsk.org

### **Associate Pastor**

Rev. Kate Mackereth Fulton kfulton@stpaulsk.org

# Director of Communications and Administration

Dr. Erin Bone Steele stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org

### **Treasurer**

Mrs. Michelle Gregonis mgregonis@stpaulsk.org

### **Organist**

Mr. Marvin Mills mmills@stpaulsk.org

### Facilities Manager and Maintenance

Ms. Tracey Furman tfurman@stpaulsk.org

Mr. Marco Palma

# Assisting with Worship

### **Tech Team**

John & Biljana Regan

### **Usher Coordinator**

Nathan Bazawada

### Lay Readers

Deanna Hodgson, 9:00 AM Peggy Graham, 10:30 AM

### Children's Music Leader

Christina Griffin

All plans are subject to change as the covid situation evolves and we work to keep everyone as safe as possible. Thank you for your understanding!

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM Masks required. Appointments encouraged.