



# St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

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December 28, 2025

10:30 a.m.



## FIRST SUNDAY IN CHRISTMASTIDE

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

DECEMBER 28, 2025

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**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.*

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### **Gathering for Worship**

*(\* - please stand in body or spirit)*

Announcements

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Prelude

*Carillon on Antioch*

Mary Beth Bennett

\*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Praise the God of mercy and love.

**All: Praise God with angels in the highest heavens.**

Leader: Praise Christ, who came as a child.

**All: Praise Christ, with all God's children, young and old alike.**

Leader: Praise the Holy Spirit, who calls us here,

**All: Praise the Spirit from the depths of our souls.**

\*Hymn #240

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

**Loving God, we come into your presence with joy in this holiday season. But we also come with sorrow for a world struggling in pain. Bring hope to our weary world. Bring love to our hearts. Bring joy to our lives. And help us bring hope, love, and joy as we follow your Son, Christ Jesus. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

**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.**

### **Proclamation of the Word**

Matthew 2:13-23 (NRSVUE) *Pew Bible: New Testament p. 2*

Lay Reader

<sup>13</sup>Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” <sup>14</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt <sup>15</sup>and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

<sup>16</sup>When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi. <sup>17</sup>Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup>“A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

<sup>19</sup>When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, <sup>20</sup>“Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child’s life are dead.” <sup>21</sup>Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup>But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. <sup>23</sup>There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, “He will be called a Nazarene.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Response to the Word

\*Hymn #237

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

Sermon

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Invitation to Discipleship and Giving

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

*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

*Prelude on GREENSLEEVES*

Richard Purvis

\*Doxology #95

OLD 100TH

\*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

## Sending Forth

\*Hymn #246

*Joy to the World*

\*Benediction

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Postlude

*Prelude on In dulci jubilo BWV 729*

J. S. Bach



COMING UP

**Epiphany Sunday, January 4, 2026**

9:00 & 10:30 AM – Worship with Communion

*Office staff are on Winter Break through January 4.*



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Poinsettias are given by members and friends of St. Paul's, in honor and memory of loved ones. Please find individual dedications in the Poinsettia Bulletin.



## 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, links, 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)).



**Welcome!** – **Restrooms** including a family restroom with changing table can be found past the church office, near the water fountain. **Children** will be in worship with their families today. There is no nursery care available today. Those who need a break are welcome to use the Octagon room or the Library near the restrooms; an adult must stay with the child as there are no caregivers on duty. Busy bags with quiet children's activities can be borrowed from the Welcome Desk. **Large-print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in our Sanctuary. **Sign in!** Please use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance with us today. Read more at [stpaulsk.org/worship](http://stpaulsk.org/worship).

**Poinsettia Dedications** – Thank you to all who sponsored the beautiful poinsettia (cuetlaxochitl) plants that grace our Sanctuary and lovely door wreaths, given in honor or memory of loved ones. Please find all the dedications in the special Poinsettia Bulletin.

**Christmas Break** – Many activities and groups take a break during the time between Christmas and New Year's. Staff and clergy availability will vary. Please contact leaders directly for details about schedules and activities. St. Paul's offices will return to regular drop-in hours on Monday, January 5, 2025. If you have a pastoral emergency when the office is closed, please dial the emergency line for Rev. Sheridan Allmond at 410-205-5568 and she will be notified of your call.

### Regular Events, Activities, and Information

- **Pancake Breakfast** – *Saturday, Jan. 3.* Meet friends and neighbors at our all-you-care-to-eat community breakfast in the Fellowship Hall on the first Saturday of the month. Enjoy pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, grits, fruit, beverages, and a specialty treat, served 8:00-10:30 AM. Suggested donation at the door is \$20 for a family of four.
- **Grocery Donations** – Every month, year-round, St. Paul's provides grocery resources for hungry neighbors. Nonperishable items in good condition may be placed in the bins in the Narthex any time. Financial donations marked "Hunger Ministry" help us order bulk groceries through our food bank partners and provide grocery store gift cards enabling recipients to buy fresh or frozen foods or hygiene products. More information, our "most needed items" list, and volunteer opportunities can be found at [stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry](http://stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry).

- **St. Paul's Activities** – *Please contact group leaders directly to confirm meeting times!*
  - **Sanctuary Choir** – *Most Sundays*. Open to grade 7 and up and adult singers. We rehearse each week at 9:30 AM on Sundays in Room 211 and sing for the 10:30 service. We welcome new singers year-round! Contact Tom Pedersen (tpedersen@stpaulsk.org).
  - **Children's Choir** – *Most Sundays, 11:45-12:30*. Children in grades K-6 will meet in the MPR to prepare music to share in worship. Email Ms. Christina Griffin, director, at childrenschoir@stpaulsk.org.
  - **St. Paul's Youth** – Regular meetings are Sundays, 7:00-8:30 PM. All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join SPY for faith, friendship, and fun in the Multi-Purpose Room! Full schedule and contact info at [stpaulsk.org/community/youth](http://stpaulsk.org/community/youth).
  - **Prayerwaves** – *Wednesdays, 10:00-10:30 AM*. To pray together by phone, dial 425-436-6326 then enter access code 774042 followed by the # sign. To receive the prayer list by email, please contact Erin at [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org).
  - **Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays, 4:00-5:00 PM*. In this drop-in Zoom study, we watch a video of a sermon by a notable speaker, and then discuss it. Contact Dr. Meg Baker at [megbaker@verizon.net](mailto:megbaker@verizon.net) for the Zoom link.
  - **Joyful Ringers** – *Wednesdays, 7:00 PM*. A handbell choir for adults that promises fun and fellowship! Contact Tom Pedersen: [tpedersen@stpaulsk.org](mailto:tpedersen@stpaulsk.org)
  - **Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM*. (Please note we will not meet on Christmas Eve, December 24, or New Year's Eve, December 31.) 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. For questions, text/call Marty Bartley at 301-873-6630.
  - **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. Contact Karen Codner for up-to-date meeting info: [KDC811@gmail.com](mailto:KDC811@gmail.com).
  - **Bible & Brews** – *Saturday or Sunday once a month, 5:00-6:00 PM*. All are welcome at this family-friendly gathering for interfaith conversations with members of Temple Emanuel. Meeting location varies! Contact [joeym@stpaulsk.org](mailto:joeym@stpaulsk.org).
  - **Lydia Circle Sisters** – *Wednesdays once a month, 2:30-4:00 PM*. All ladies are welcome at Lydia Circle gatherings, usually on the first Wednesday of the month. Contact Susan Schwarz at 301-339-8242 or [susan10748@aol.com](mailto:susan10748@aol.com).
  - **Taste & Sing** – *Third Tuesday monthly, 12:00-1:30 PM*. With Tom Pedersen on piano and Erin Steele leading the singing, we enjoy a hymn sing in the Octagon – feel free to request your favorites! Stay for a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation).

- **Stephen Ministers** – Move through difficult seasons of life with a Stephen Minister by your side. Contact Martha Lipscomb (301-518-1642) to be connected to a trained Stephen Minister who can offer confidential care and a listening ear.
- **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors** – The flower chart for 2026 is now available in the church office! Please add your name to the chart to reserve a date, then fill out a yellow form with dedication information. The cost is \$45.
- **Sipping Ministry** – This fellowship time with coffee and snacks happens after Sunday worship whenever a family, group, or individual wishes to sponsor it. Sign up on the office bulletin board and take a “how to host” guide.



## SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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\*\* Prelude: Mary Beth Bennett, *Carillon on Antioch*, from *Oxford Hymn Settings, Vol. 1*. Copyright 2014, Oxford University Press. Public domain.

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

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*. Words: Charles Wesley (1734), alt. by George Whitefield (1753), et al. Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1840), arr. William H. Cummings (1856). 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.

\*\* *Sing We Now of Christmas*. Words & Music: Traditional French carol, harm. by Martin Shaw (1928), copyright Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

\*\* Offertory: Richard Purvis, *Prelude on Greensleeves*. Copyright 1944 by MCA music. All rights reserved.

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

*Joy to the World*. Words: Isaac Watts (1719). Music: Arr. from G. F. Handel (1741) by Lowell Mason (1848). Public domain.

Postlude: J. S. Bach, *Prelude on In dulci jubilo BWV 729*. Public domain.



## LEADING AND SERVING

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Sheridan Allmond, [sallmond@stpaulsk.org](mailto:sallmond@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)

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

**Communications & Administration:** Dr. Erin Bone Steele, [stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org](mailto:stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org)

**A/V Team:** John & Biljana Regan

**Children's Choir Director:** Ms. Christina Griffin

**Lay Leader:** Anne Dean

**Usher Coordinator:** Nathan Bazawada

**Lay Reader:** Bill Stephens



*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.*

