



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church



March 29, 2026

9:00 & 10:30 AM

ST. PAUL'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, KENSINGTON MD

PALM AND PASSION SUNDAY

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

MARCH 29, 2026

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 (10:30 AM)

Les Rameaux (The Palms)
Marquita Lister, soprano

Jean-Baptiste Fauré

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Lenten travelers, the journey to the cross begins with a procession into Jerusalem, a demonstration of Jesus' saving power.

People: We come to praise Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

Leader: The crowds line the path and shout "Hosanna! Save us!" as Jesus rides in, not on a mighty war horse, but on the backs of a donkey and a colt.

People: We come to call on Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

Leader: The city murmurs, wondering who this person is who demonstrates power through humility, strength without tyranny.

People: We come to witness Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

Leader: Lenten travelers, will you come on the journey to Jerusalem, following a Messiah who saves us to live after the pattern of the kin-dom of God, not the kingdoms of this world?

People: We come to follow Jesus, the Messiah, the One who saves!

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

Christ of both celebration and sorrow, be with us in our time of worship today and in the week ahead. Help us embrace the fullness of your story, both the triumph and the tragedy. Strengthen us to proclaim blessing and hope, no matter the circumstances, that we may be children of your promise, both now and forevermore. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Lord's Prayer (10:30 AM)

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 AM)

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna
Joyful Ringers Bells

Sandra Eithun

Children's Message

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Proclamation of the Word

Matthew 21:1-11(NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – New Testament page 23

¹When they had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ²saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. ³If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." ⁴This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

⁵“Tell the daughter of Zion,
Look, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

⁶The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; ⁷they brought the donkey and the colt and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. ⁸A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting,

“Hosanna to the Son of David!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

¹⁰When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, “Who is this?”

¹¹The crowds were saying, “This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee.”

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

*Hymn #301

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Sermon

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Invitation to Discipleship & 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 work engaging in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory (10:30 AM)

Arise, the Kingdom Is at Hand
Sanctuary Choir

Philip M. Young

Arise, the Kingdom is at hand, the King is drawing nigh.
Arise with joy, O faithful band, to meet the Lord most high.
The King is very near; look up, you drooping hearts, today;
O cast your griefs and fears away, for lo, your help is here.

Look up, you souls weighed down with care, salvation is not far;
Look up, faint hearts, from your despair, behold the Morning Star.
The Lord is with us now; who shall the sinking spirit feed
With strength and comfort at its need, to whom e'en death shall bow.
Arise, the Kingdom is at hand, foretold in ages past,
Arise with joy, O faithful band, the King has come at last.
For this to God alone, we raise on high a gladsome voice,
And evermore with thanks rejoice before God's glorious throne.

*Doxology #95

OLD 100TH

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion (9:00 AM)

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

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 AM)

The Great Thanksgiving (9:00 AM)

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 AM)

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 AM)

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 AM)

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 #581

Lord Whose Love Through Humble Service

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

Postlude (10:30 AM)

*IV. Carillon; Marcel Dupré
from Seven Pieces, Op. 27*

Marcel Dupré



Please visit the Octagon following the 10:30 worship service for a Sipping Ministry time of coffee, snacks, and fellowship hosted by Rachel Stalcup and Grace Graham.



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers are given today by **Thinh Bui & Leah Dodson**
in celebration of **Beckett's** second birthday.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER WORSHIP

Thursday, April 2: Maundy Thursday, 7:30 PM with Sanctuary Choir

Friday, April 3: Good Friday, 7:30 PM with Organ

Sunday, April 5: First Service of Easter: 7:00 AM in Clum-Kennedy Park

Sunday, April 5: Easter Worship, 9:00 & 10:30 AM with Choir, Brass, and Communion
in the Sanctuary



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!** 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.

Weekday Hours – The office is typically open for drop-in visits and phone calls Monday.-Thursday, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. We encourage appointments since staff hours vary! If you

have a pastoral emergency when the office is closed, please call the emergency line for Rev. Sheridan Allmond (410-205-5568) and she will be notified of your call.

Events, Activities, and Information

- **Today: No SPY** – St. Paul’s Youth is taking a break during Palm Sunday & Easter. Join us for the next SPY meeting when we return on April 12, 7:00-8:30 PM. All friends of St. Paul’s in grades 6-12 are welcome for fellowship, fun activities, Bible study, and food! Contact Pastor Sheridan (sallmond@stpaulsk.org) with questions.
- **Today: Easter Egg Hunt Donations!** – *March 29*. We’re planning now for a happy egg hunt experience on Easter Sunday! Donations of stuffed plastic eggs (no nuts or chocolates, please!) are appreciated! Please drop stuffed egg donations in the box at the church office until March 29.
- **This Week: Lydia Circle Sisters** – *April 1, 2:00 PM*. All ladies are welcome at the Lydia Circle gathering in the Octagon on the first Wednesday of the month. We’ll enjoy fellowship and a service project stuffing plastic eggs for the church Easter Egg Hunt. For up-to-date news on Lydia Circle activities, contact Susan Schwarz at 301-339-8242 or susan10748@aol.com.
- **This Week: Holy Week and Easter Worship** – *April 2-3*. Please join us for a meaningful journey through Holy Week and prepare for the joyful celebration of Christ’s resurrection to come.
 - ***Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:30 PM*** – Join in worship in the Tenebrae tradition. “Tenebrae,” meaning darkness, is an ancient Holy Week service that leads us from light into shadow as we remember the final hours of Christ’s life. This reflective evening begins in quiet light, singing “Were You There.” The Sanctuary Choir, joined by pianist Janghyo Yoo, violinist Hilde Singer, and cellist Amy Stennett Smith, will offer powerful and prayerful anthems including “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded.” The service concludes with “Drop, Drop, Slow Tears” by Orlando Gibbons, a poignant meditation on repentance, mercy, and grace.
 - ***Good Friday, April 3, 7:30 PM*** – Organist Marvin Mills will present a carefully selected program of organ music to underscore this service focusing on Christ’s death on the cross, with guest vocalists and a worship experience inspired by the Seven Last Words of Christ.
- **This Week: Let there be Light!** – *Saturday, April 4, 8:00-10:30 AM*. Folks from Montgomery County Energy Connection, a program of the Montgomery County Dept. of Environmental Protection, will be at St. Paul’s Pancake Breakfast in April to conduct a lightbulb exchange! Bring in your used incandescent or compact fluorescent light bulbs and exchange them for up to three free energy efficient LEDs. You can also drop

off additional used CFL, LED, or incandescent bulbs for recycling. Lighting accounts for about 12% of an average home's electricity use. Making the switch to LEDs is an easy way to lower your energy bills and keep money in your pocket. Questions? Contact Anne Rush (annesprush@gmail.com).

- **This Week: Pancake Breakfast** – *Saturday, April 4, 8:00-10:30 AM*. Come break out of winter hibernation with the all-you-care-to-eat Pancake Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall! This month we'll have delicious buttermilk pancakes, fresh sage sausage, scrambled eggs, grits, fruit, coffee, tea, or hot chocolate, and a special treat of blueberry pancakes. Diners are asked to make a generous donation at the door. Proceeds benefit local charities and causes at St. Paul's.
- **Next Week: Easter Worship** – *April 5*. Celebration the resurrection of Christ with worship on Easter Sunday.
 - **First Service of Easter**, *April 5, 7:00 AM* – Pastor Sheridan leads this service outdoors in the garden-like setting of Clum-Kennedy Park at 7:00 AM to correspond closely with sunrise. Parking is available between Johnson's flowers and Old Town Market on Kensington Parkway. David Weaver and Beth Pierce will provide simple guitar music to celebrate the day. As with our outdoor services in the past, please plan to bring your own chairs and dress comfortably for whatever the weather might bring.
 - **Easter Worship**, *April 5, 9:00 & 10:30 AM* – Both the 9:00 AM & 10:30 AM services in the Sanctuary of St. Paul's will include Communion and music from the Sanctuary Choir with festive brass. The children's Easter Egg Hunt will follow the 10:30 service - please read more below!
- **Next Week: Easter Egg Hunt** – *April 5*. All children in Grade 5 and younger are invited to bring a basket or bag to church to participate in the Egg Hunt following the 10:30 AM worship service on Easter. Children will begin in the Octagon and will be escorted by age group to Reinhardt Park, immediately across from St. Paul's front doors, for the egg hunt. To help with the egg hunt, contact Meg Baker at megbaker@verizon.net.
- **Next Week: Easter Special Offering** – *April 5*. As is our tradition, 100% of the Special Offering collected at Easter will go beyond the walls of St. Paul's to help those less fortunate. This year the offering will be divided between providing meals at the Interfaith Works homeless shelters in Montgomery County, and UMCOR's Area of Greatest Need for national and international disaster relief. Look for the special offering envelope in the Easter Sunday bulletin or donate by credit card online at stpaulsk.org/worship/lent-and-easter
- **Next Month: Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, April 21, 12:00-1:30 PM*. Come to the Octagon for this monthly hymn sing (feel free to request your favorites!), stay for a short program

about the stories behind our worship songs, then enjoy fellowship over a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation).

- **Looking Ahead: Save the Date for SPY Spaghetti Fundraiser** – *May 31, 12:00-1:30 PM.* Plan to come to the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, May 31 for a spaghetti lunch fundraiser to benefit St. Paul's Youth activities. Keep an eye on the announcements for more details, including online payment options!
- **Looking Ahead: Book Drive and *The Librarians*** – *May 31, 11:45 AM.* Save the date for a special event on May 31 following the 10:30 worship service. We will be hosting a screening of the documentary *The Librarians* in the Octagon, a film that explores the critical role librarians play in protecting access to information and intellectual freedom in their communities. This event will coincide with a used book drive to benefit Friends of the Library, Montgomery County. Start gathering gently used books to donate soon!
- **This Month: Pasta Sauce in Plastic Jars!** – This month our donation focus is: *pasta sauce – in plastic!* It's easy to find glass jars, but those break in transit and create a hazard (and a mess!) for recipients and volunteers. Please help by looking for plastic jars of pasta sauce. We gratefully accept other non-perishables as well! Make sure containers are in good condition and have not passed their use-by/sell-by date. Through your help, we serve over 160 households each month. To find out about volunteer opportunities, please reach out to Mr. Pat Maloney at hunger@stpaulsk.org.
- **Ongoing 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. 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, for up to date schedules and info.
 - **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 meeting info: KDC811@gmail.com.
 - **Joyful Ringers** – *Wednesdays, 7:00 PM.* A handbell choir for adults that offers fun and fellowship! Contact Tom Pedersen: tpedersen@stpaulsk.org
 - **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.
 - **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 for the Zoom link.

- **Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM.* Still Wednesday gathers in either the Sanctuary or the Octagon for a guided time of poetry, scripture, music, and about 20 minutes of silent prayer. Text/call Marty Bartley at 301-873-6630.
- **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.
- **Bible & Brews** – *Saturday or Sunday, once a month.* Join us at a local restaurant for family-friendly interfaith conversations with Rabbi Adam and neighbors from Temple Emanuel. Full schedule at stpaulsk.org/community/calendar-events or contact Pastor Joey: joeyhm@stpaulsk.org.
- **Pancake Breakfast** – *First Saturday each month.* Meet friends and neighbors and enjoy pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, grits, fruit, beverages, and a specialty treat, served 8:00-10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. \$20 for a family of four.
- **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.
- **Sanctuary Flower Sponsors** – The flower chart for 2026 is 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** – To host this fellowship time with coffee and snacks, sign up on the office bulletin board and take a “how to host” guide.
- **St. Paul’s Leadership Team Meeting** – St. Paul’s leaders will be meeting on the fourth Monday of the month throughout the year to attend to the mission, ministry, and wellbeing of the church. All St. Paul’s Leadership Team meetings are open to the public. To confirm meeting dates, ask questions, or to find out about virtual attendance options, contact Chairperson Bill Stephens (wtstephens@verizon.net). To learn more, go to stpaulsk.org/community/meet-the-staff and scroll down to the Leadership Team section.



SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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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, stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org

A/V Team: John & Biljana Regan

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: John Stephens (10:30 AM)

Guest Musician: Marquita Lister, soprano





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.





Visitor Invitation

Thank you for joining us today! 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 share information in the attendance register pad found in each pew, or email the office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org) or staff to say hello!

Name(s):

Email:

Phone:

Home Address:

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

United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885