



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

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

DECEMBER 31, 2023

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.

Gathering for Worship

(- please stand in body or spirit)*

Announcements

Prelude

Carillon on Antioch

Mary Beth Bennett

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: We are keeping watch.

ALL: We say goodbye to the old year and look hopefully into the new year.

Leader: Though the darkness is deep, the Light of the World guides our way.

**ALL: Even though we don't really know what is to come,
we know that God is with us.**

Leader: Quietly, reverently, open your hearts to God.

ALL: Praise be to God, who was and is and is to be. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

ALL: Lord of the opening way, we bring to you this day our past, with all that has happened in our lives, our hopes and our dreams, our successes and our failures, our gains and our losses. We bring to you our present, lives filled with exhaustion, wonder, fear, concern. We come to you with hearts open to

receive your word for us, for the future. We want to be part of your new heaven and earth, to serve you by serving others. Speak to us, heal us, teach us, lead us, for we ask these things in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Proclamation of the Word

Gospel Reading, Luke 2:8-14

(NRSVUE)

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Old Testament Reading, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

(NRSVUE)

¹For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:

²a time to be born and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;

³a time to kill and a time to heal;

a time to break down and a time to build up;

⁴a time to weep and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn and a time to dance;

⁵a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;

⁶a time to seek and a time to lose;

a time to keep and a time to throw away;

⁷a time to tear and a time to sew;

a time to keep silent and a time to speak;

⁸a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace.

Old Testament Reading, Isaiah 43:19

(NRSVUE)

¹⁹I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Homily

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Invitation to Giving

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Offerings by check may be made out to St. Paul's UMC. Scan the QR code here to see online giving options at stpaulsk.org/giving. Thank you for supporting all of St. Paul's efforts to engage in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory

Prelude on What Child Is This?

Wilbur Held

*Doxology #95

OLD 100TH

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Holy Communion

The United Methodist Hymnal

The Invitation

Confession & Pardon (*UM Hymnal* p. 12)

Passing the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving (*UM Hymnal* p. 13-14)

The Lord's Prayer (*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
(*Communion bread is gluten-free.*)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

**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

Farewell to 2023

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Closing Litany

Leader: What a year this has been!

People: **So many things have happened. Some of them have been wonderful;
others very sad.**

Leader: In all of this our Lord has been with us, guiding, healing, comforting,
and rejoicing.

People: **Thanks be to God for God's continual presence with us.**

Leader: Now we are on the threshold to a new tomorrow.

People: **We don't know what it will hold for us.**

Leader: In all of what is to come, our Lord will be with us.

People: **Guiding, healing, comforting, and rejoicing with us.**

ALL: **Thank you, Lord, for your steadfast love and presence. AMEN.**

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Postlude

Prelude on In dulci jubilo BWV 729

J. S. Bach



COMING UP

Sunday, January 7, 2024

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM worship

The building is closed and staff are off for winter break through January 1.

Regular Drop-in Office Hours return January 2:

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM Monday-Thursday and by appointment



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly News – Visit stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news or scan the QR code to find all the announcements and event details shared in our Weekly News. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org).



Featured Events and Upcoming Activities

- **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 the dedications in the special Poinsettia Bulletin.
- **Pastor Joey Renewal Leave** – Please be in prayer for Pastor Joey as he takes Renewal Leave, and will rejoin us on Easter Sunday. Full announcement at stpaulsk.org/we-are-all-about/the-pastors-page
- **Parking Lot Door Hours** – Beginning Sunday January 7, 2024, the parking lot entrance to the building will be locked on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM as part of an effort to increase building security and keep all who worship here safe. After 11:00 AM, please enter the building through the front doors on Armory Avenue or use the Mitchell Street entrance by the church office. (You may still exit through any door.) If you have questions, please contact Pastor Pat.
- **Offices Closed for Christmas Break** – Through January 1, 2024, staff will be off for Christmas Break and the building will be closed (except for Sunday worship on Dec. 31 at 10:30 AM). We will not share a Daily Breath or the Weekly News email during the break. St. Paul's returns to regular hours on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.
- **Year-End Giving Deadlines** – Offerings dated December 31, 2023 or earlier, and received in the office or through online/bank transactions by January 2, may be counted toward 2023 giving goals and should appear on Year-End Giving Statements for 2023, which will be mailed at the end of January.

Welcome! – Restrooms including a family restroom with changing table can be found past the church office, near the water fountain. **Children** in grades K-5 will be in worship with their families this Sunday. Busy bags with quiet children’s activities are available at the Welcome Desk, and those who need a break may use the Octagon room across from the main Sanctuary door or the Library near the restrooms. Families with infants and preschoolers may make use of the Nursery on the second floor. Sunday School classes for children in Grades K-5 will resume on January 14. To receive Sunday School updates by email, contact Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org. **Large print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in our Sanctuary. **Say Hello!** Please use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and note your attendance with us today. **Masks** are optional in St. Paul’s spaces. Please read more at stpaulsk.org/worship.



SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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** Prelude: *Carillon on Antioch*; by Mary Beth Bennett from *Oxford Hymn Settings, Vol. 1*, copyright 2014 Oxford University Press.

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer & Closing Liturgy: Rev. Nancy C. Townley, “Watchnight (New Year’s Eve),” pub. 7 Dec 2012, <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3452/watchnight-new-years-eve>

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

** Offertory: *Prelude on What Child Is This?* by Wilbur Held, copyright 2001 Birnamwood Publications (MorningStar Music Publishers).

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





LEADING AND SERVING

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen, pallen@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

Facilities: Ms. Tracey Furman, tfurman@stpaulsk.org

Minister of Spiritual Care & Formation: Dr. Meg Baker, mbaker@stpaulsk.org

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

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

Children's Choir Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Marge Higgins

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada





St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885