



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885

9:00 & 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

DECEMBER 3, 2023

CELEBRATING THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 (10:30 only)

Prelude (10:30 only)

Gabriel's Message

Michael Bedford

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

Lay Reader

Leader: John the Baptist said, "Prepare the way."

So family of faith, how do we prepare our minds for worship?

ALL: We silence the inner critic. We let go of busy thoughts.

We make space for God to speak.

Leader: How do we prepare our hearts for worship?

ALL: We bless all emotions. We feel what we feel.

We open ourselves up to be moved.

Leader: How do we prepare our bodies for worship?

ALL: We take in the scent, sight, and feel of this space.

We breathe in God's mercy. We exhale God's love.

Leader: How do we prepare our souls for worship?

**ALL: We bring our full selves into this space.
We wear our hearts on our sleeves. We trust that even now, God is here.
Family of faith, what we practice in worship, we must live out in our
daily lives. So prepare the way. Let us worship Holy God.**

*Hymn #196 (9:00 & 10:30) *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

Lighting the Advent Candle (9:00 & 10:30) Lisa, Steve, and Grace Babb (10:30 AM)

Reader A: I dream of the first pitch of opening season.

Reader B: I dream of a laundry day, where each sock finds its mate.

Reader C: I dream of family home for the holidays.

Reader B: I dream of good books and homemade meals.

Reader A: I dream of sunset drives with the windows down.

Reader C: These are beautiful dreams, but I also have urgent dreams.

Reader A: I dream of conversations across party lines.

Reader B: I dream of more bridges and less walls.

Reader C: I dream of more laughter and less fear.

Reader B: I dream of more listening and less tears.

Reader A: But most of all, I dream of peace like a river.

Reader C: Today we light the candle of peace.

ALL: May it remind us that there is another way. Amen.

Candle Lighting.

Pastoral Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Anthem (10:30 only)

Fairest Lord Jesus
Sanctuary Choir

Mary McDonald

*Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature, O Thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor, Thou my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands, robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer, Who makes the woeful heart to sing.
Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight, and all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer than all the angels heaven can boast.
Beautiful Savior! Lord of all nations! Son of God and Son of man,
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forever more be Thine. Amen.*

Proclamation of the Word

Luke 1:21-24a NRSVUE (9:00 & 10:30)

Pew Bible: New Testament p. 56

²¹Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering at his delay in the sanctuary. ²²When he did come out, he was unable to speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. ²³When his time of service was ended, he returned to his home.

²⁴After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion.

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message (10:30 only)

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

*Hymn #206 (9:00 & 10:30) *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

Sermon (9:00 & 10:30)

"The Delayed Dream"

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Response to the Word

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

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

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. Thank you for supporting all of St. Paul's efforts to engage in meaningful worship and vibrant ministry in our community.



Offertory (10:30 only)

Prelude on Houston

Wayne L. Wold

*Doxology #95 (9:00 & 10:30)

OLD 100TH

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

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Holy Communion (9:00 & 10:30)

The United Methodist Hymnal

The Invitation

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

Passing the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

Spoken Responses (*UM Hymnal* p. 13-14) – 9:00 AM

Musical Setting A (*UM Hymnal* p. 17-18) – 10:30 AM

The Lord's Prayer (*UM Hymnal*, #895)

Breaking the Bread and Giving the Bread & Cup (*Communion bread is gluten-free.*)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (9:00 & 10:30)

All: 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 #202 (9:00 & 10:30)

People Look East

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

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Postlude (10:30 only)



COMING UP

Drop-in office hours: Monday -Thursday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Staff & clergy available other times by appointment!

Worship on Sunday, December 10, 2023

9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Music Sunday

Celebrating the Third Sunday in Advent

Advent and Christmas schedule available at stpaulsk.org/worship/advent-christmas



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

are given today by Cathy Knepper, with gratitude to God and in celebration of the birthdays of **Mabel Baker** and **Cathy Knepper** on December 3.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly News – Visit stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news or scan the QR code to find all the announcements in our Weekly News. For questions about announcements, please contact Erin Steele in the church office (stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org). Here are some featured events:



- New Members Interest Meeting – contact Pastor Pat (pallen@stpaulsk.org) by Dec. 3
- Poinsettia Orders – now-Dec. 10
- Holiday Giving Project: \$25 Target gift cards or financial donations welcome. Read more at stpaulsk.org/service/holiday-giving – now-Dec. 10
- Music Sunday – Dec. 10 at 10:30 AM worship
- Scattered for Service, stpaulsk.org/service/scattered-for-service – now-Dec. 20
- Funeral for Margaret Thurlow – Dec. 16 at 10:00 AM in the Sanctuary
- Christmas worship schedule and seasonal information available at stpaulsk.org/worship/advent-christmas.

Welcome Visitors! – **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 today; “busy bags” with quiet children’s activities can be found at the Welcome desk. Childcare for infants and preschoolers is available in the 2nd floor Nursery. 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!** Use the attendance pads in the pews to share your name and, if you wish, contact information. **Masks** are optional. 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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** Postlude: *Carillon on Besançon* by Rebecca Groom TeVelde, from *Oxford Hymn Settings, Volume 1*, copyright 2014 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.





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, stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org

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

Children's Choir: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Marge Higgins

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Deanna Hodgson (9:00) and Mabel Anderson (10:30)

Advent Readers: Lisa, Steve, and Grace Babb (10:30)





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