



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church



FROM
GENERATION
TO GENERATION...

God meets us in our fear

December 4, 2022

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

ORDER OF WORSHIP

DECEMBER 4, 2022

Thank you for worshipping 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. Announcements and helpful information can be found on the pages following the order of worship.

Gathering for Worship

(* - please stand in body or spirit)

Announcements (9:00 & 10:30)

Lay Leader

Prelude (10:30 AM only) *Meditation on Veni Emmanuel*

Philip Moore

Opening Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

Lay Reader

Holy God, whether it's through angels or music, friendships or sermons, study or nature — when you speak, we long to hear it. In a world as chaotic and broken as ours, we could use your words of hope and healing. With gratitude we pray, amen.

*Hymn #211 (9:00 & 10:30) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verse 1: All Verse 2: Women Verse 3: Men Verse 6: All Verse 7: All

Advent Wreath Lighting (10:30 AM reader names listed)

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason: Over a hundred people, from the ages of two to eighty years old, were asked the question, "What are you afraid of?"

Sebastian Patch: Not being enough.

Anna Longsworth: Not making enough of a difference.

Madeline Patch: Falling down.

Kim Longsworth: That we will forget we belong to one another.

Sebastian: Climate change.

Anna: My child having to learn gun violence drills at school.

Madeline: Spiders.

Kim: Not having someone to take care of me;
not having someone who knows my stories.

Sebastian: My mental health slipping.

Anna: Ending up alone.

Madeline: Nightmares.

Kim: Stopping short of following God all the way.

Anna: Today we light the candle of peace, because we so desperately need God's peace in the midst of all we fear.

The pastor lights the advent candles.

Anna: May this light be a reminder that Christ is coming. God was with generations before, God is with us today, and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way. Amen

Anthem (10:30 AM only) *A Voice Cries Out, Prepare the Way of the Lord* Lloyd Larson
Sanctuary Choir with Noah Beye, tenor

Refrain: A voice cries out, "Prepare the way of the Lord,
Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain made low."

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed; all people shall see it together.
The mouth of the Lord has spoken it. The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. (*Refrain*)

Comfort, comfort my people; proclaim the promise of the Lord:
His name shall be called Emmanuel! The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. (*Refrain*)

Pastoral Prayer (9:00 & 10:30) Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Proclamation of the Word

Luke 1:26-38 (9:00 & 10:30) Lay Reader

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

Isaiah 1:1-10 (9:00 & 10:30)

Lay Reader

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord

as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.


People: Thanks be to God.

Children's Message (10:30 AM only)

Dr. Meg Baker & Linda O'Reilly

Children will be invited forward and will learn the refrain for "Mary's Song." The congregation will be invited to sing along. Following the Children's Moment, children will transition to Sunday School with their teachers or may return to sit with their families.

Refrain



O, mag - ni - fy the Lord with me, for
he is wor-thy to be praised, and ho - ly is,
ho - ly is, and ho - ly is God's name.

*Hymn #216 (9:00 & 10:30) Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Sermon (9:00 & 10:30) "God Meets Us in Our Fear"

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Affirmation of Faith (9:00 & 10:30)

We believe in a God who knows our fears. We believe in a God who says, "Be not afraid." We believe in a God who kicks off her shoes and wades into the muck of our lives with us. We believe in a God who stitches herself to our heels, and invites us to dance. We believe in a God who hemmed stars into the night sky so that we can find our way home, and who sends us friends with open doors, so we can find our way to love. We believe in a God who finds us in our fear and does not leave us alone. Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Response to the Word

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

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Offertory (10:30 AM only) *Prelude on Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen*

Mary Beth Bennett

*Hymn (9:00 & 10:30)

Doxology

Tune: DUKE STREET

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

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

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion (9:00 & 10:30)

Responses at 9:00 AM worship will be spoken

Responses at 10:30 AM will be sung using the United Methodist Hymnal starting on p. 17 (Musical Setting A).

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Holy One be with you.

People: And also with you.

L: Open your hearts to the One who is Love.

P: We open our hearts to you, O God.

L: Let us give thanks to God with us.

P: To the One who took on flesh, we give thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks, remembering God's acts of salvation and concludes:

L: Therefore we join our voices with your people on earth and all the company of the heavens, singing praise to you:

P: (Hymnal p. 17) 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: In remembrance of all you have done to save us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith.

P: (Hymnal p. 18) Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The pastor continues and concludes:

L: Meet us in this bread and this cup and hear the prayers of your people in this aching world. Come, O Come, Emmanuel. In collective longing for a taste of your Kindom on earth, we join together in echoing the prayer of Jesus:

P: Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kindom 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 trespassed against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kindom, the power, and the glory for ever.

Following the prayer, the people sing the Amen:

P: *(Hymnal p. 18)* **Amen.**

Breaking the Bread (9:00 & 10:30)

Giving the Bread & Cup (9:00 & 10:30)

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Prayer after Receiving (9:00 & 10:30)

God, we recognize the ways you still make yourself vulnerable to us today. In gratitude for a taste of your Kindom, may our discipleship shape us into fierce protectors of the vulnerable, give us courage to practice our own vulnerability, and help us to honor the sacredness of our need for one another. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Sending Forth

*Hymn #202 (9:00 & 10:30) People, Look East

*Benediction and Dismissal (9:00 & 10:30) Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude (10:30 AM only) *Carillon on Besançon* Rebecca Groom Te Velde



WORSHIP NEXT WEEK, DECEMBER 11, 2022

9:00 & 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

Third Sunday in Advent / Music Sunday

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen, preaching



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

9:00 AM – 29 10:30 AM – 146 Online – 72 Total – 247



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Flowers in the Sanctuary today are given by **Bill Butz**
in honor of **Michael Butz** and in celebration of his youth at St. Paul's.



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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

News and Upcoming Events

Today: Welcome Visitors! – Thank you for joining us for worship! Please use the black attendance pads in the pews to share your name and/or contact information so we may welcome you. Our ushers are happy to answer questions, provide large-print hymnals, and direct you to the restrooms and water fountain.

Today: Children's Programming – *Sunday, Dec. 4.* Children will begin in the Sanctuary with their families at 10:30. Following the Children's Message, children and teachers will transition to Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall. Quiet children's activities are available at the Welcome Desk. Childcare for babies and preschoolers is available in the Nursery. For Children's programming questions, contact Dr. Meg Baker (mbaker@stpaulsk.org).

Today: The Giving Tree – *now- Dec. 6.* Pick a tag (or several tags!) from the Giving Tree in the Narthex today and return a wrapped gift or \$25 Target card with the tag securely attached by Tuesday (office hours: 10AM-3PM). In addition to serving our Hunger Ministry families, St. Paul's is proud to be a local partner of the Montgomery Co. Dept. of Health & Human Services "Holiday Giving Project."

Today: Poinsettia Orders – *Dec. 4-11.* Poinsettias will brighten our Sanctuary for Christmas. You may sponsor a poinsettia (\$20 per plant) and make a dedication in honor or memory of loved ones. Order by credit card at stpaulsk.org/community/poinsettias or for cash/check orders see Betsy Sanford in the Narthex immediately after worship.

Today: SPY – *Sundays, Dec. 4 & 11. Meetings times: Middle School 4:30-6:00 PM, High School 7:00-8:30 PM.* All friends of St. Paul's are welcome! Next week, we will have an early Christmas Party! Then we'll take a break until after the New Year. Questions? Contact Mr. Micah Smartt (msmartt@stpaulsk.org) or go to stpaulsk.org/community/youth.

This Week: Scattered for Service – *now-Dec. 20.* You have most likely received many mail and e-requests for support from many respected organizations. With our Scattered for Service "one-stop alternative giving shop," we can do the paperwork for you and your donations will support the organization(s) you designate. Personalized cards are available so you can share with loved ones that you made a gift in their honor. Read more and order online at stpaulsk.org/service/scattered-for-service.

This Week: The Heart That Grew Three Sizes – *Wednesdays, now – Dec. 21, 4:00-5:00 PM by Zoom.* This drop-in Advent study invites us to look at the lessons in the familiar pop-

culture classic *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* through the lens of faith. For more info or to receive the Zoom invite, contact Meg Baker (mbaker@stpaulsk.org).

Next Week: Giving the Gifts – *Dec. 11 & 12.* Volunteers are needed following worship on Sunday, Dec. 11 to sort Holiday Giving Project gifts, and to help with distribution night, Dec. 12. Contact Pastor Pat at pallen@stpaulsk.org if you can help. Bakers, please consider donating cookies for the cocoa & cookies “goodie bags”! Contact cookie coordinator Dupeh Palmer at dupehpalmer@gmail.com. (No nuts or peanut butter, please.)

Taste & Sing – *Tuesday, Dec. 20, 12:00-1:00 PM.* Meet in the Octagon for a Christmas Carol sing-along! Stay for a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg. No musical experience is needed and there is no cost (although donations for lunch are welcome).

Pledge Your Support – Thank you to all who returned pledge forms!

If you haven’t yet had the chance, we continue to gratefully receive pledges.

Your pledges directly affect how our leaders plan the upcoming year of ministry, worship, and work in the community. Use the QR code, or paper forms in the Narthex.



Announcements: Ongoing Activities & Information

Inclement Weather Policies – We follow Montgomery County Public Schools students’ schedule for weekday inclement weather delays, early dismissals, or closures. If Montgomery Co. students report on a 2-hour delay, St. Paul’s offices will also be on a 2-hour delay. When students do not go to school, St. Paul’s is closed. For worship, pastors will track weather events and make a determination by 5:00 PM on the day before. Always use your own best judgment before venturing out in wintry conditions.

Hunger Ministry – We provide food assistance year-round for hungry families in the 20895 ZIP code. New volunteers and those able to help month-by-month are welcome! Find the grocery items we need and more information: stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry.

Joyful Ringers—*Wednesdays, 7:00 PM, Room 109.* Come ring in our bell choir! To learn more, contact Tom Pedersen, director of music, at tpedersen@stpaulsk.org.

Sanctuary Choir – *Sundays, 9:30 AM, Room 211.* The Sanctuary Choir continues to welcome new members! We sing for the 10:30 worship service weekly. Questions? Contact Tom at tpedersen@stpaulsk.org.

Still Wednesday – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM, in –person and Zoom.* The exact format changes week to week, but typically this peaceful time offers: poetry, scripture, or art; 20

minutes of silent contemplative prayer; a chance to reflect privately or share. For up-to-date info, contact Kenzie Raulin (301-237-1520, Kenzie@krdesign.net).

Read-Thru-the-Bible – For the reading schedule and information, visit stpaulsk.org/community/adult-education. You can jump in at any time!

Daily Breath – *Wednesdays, 9:00 AM*. These once-a-week online sessions provide a morning time of sharing, prayer, or music led by St. Paul's clergy, staff, or volunteer leaders. Visit facebook.com/stpaulskensington.

Lydia Circle – The Lydia Circle sisters meet the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. Ladies who are interested should contact Susan Schwarz at susan10748@aol.com or 301-339-8242 for more information.

Tuesday with Friends – This group, open to all men and women, will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 11:00 AM for fellowship and interesting lessons. Those who would like to stay for Taste & Sing will enjoy lunch afterwards. Contact Ginny Hagberg if you have questions: 301-770-7624.

UMM Driver Service – The United Methodist Men offer a service to take adult St. Paul's members to local medical-related appointments. A list of volunteer drivers is posted in the church office. Questions? Contact Rich Higgins at rgh1954@verizon.net.

Stephen Ministry – Trained lay-people provide comfort to those who need a listening ear as they navigate life challenges like birth and death, job changes, divorce, illness, or depression. Contact Meg Baker (mbaker@stpaulsk.org) to learn more.

Yarn Ministry – Meeting by Zoom twice a month. All crafters welcome! Contact Karen Codner (kdc811@gmail.com).

Prayerwaves – *Wednesdays, 10:00 AM by phone*. Pray with St. Paul's friends for our community and people around the world. Call 425-436-6326 at 9:55 AM. When prompted for the "access code," type in 774042 followed by #.

Masks Optional – Masks are now optional in nearly all St. Paul's spaces. We expect all members of the St. Paul's community to treat others with respect, whether mask-wearing or non-mask-wearing. You can read more mask-related FAQs at stpaulsk.org/worship.



St. Paul's Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen
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Dr. Meg Baker
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Director of Music

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Facilities Maintenance

Mr. Marco Palma

Assisting with Worship

Tech Team

John & Biljana Regan

Usher Coordinator

Nathan Bazawada

Lay Leader

Marge Higgins

Lay Readers

Meg Baker - 9:00
Vivienne Scott - 10:30

Advent Readers

Kim Longsworth
Anna Longsworth
Sebastian Patch
Madeline Patch

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

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