



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885

EPIPHANY SUNDAY

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM

JANUARY 4, 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. Sheridan Allmond

Prelude (10:30)

I. Moderately - II. Lightly, dancing - III. Singing

James Woodman

*Call to Worship

Lay Reader

Leader: Arise, shine; for your light has come!

People: The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Leader: Darkness shall cover the earth, but the Lord will arise upon you.

People: Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

ALL: Let us worship the God who reveals Christ to the world!

*Hymn #254

We Three Kings

Opening Prayer

Lay Reader

O God of light and revelation, as you once guided the Magi by a star, guide us now by your Word and Spirit. Shine your truth into our lives, that we may see clearly the path you set before us. Awaken in us the desire to walk in your ways, to renew our covenant, and to live as your faithful people. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Proclamation of the Word

Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSVUE)

Lay Reader

Pew Bible – Old Testament page 690

¹Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

²For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

³Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

⁵Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

⁶A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Children's Message

*Hymn #606

Come, Let Us Use the Grace Divine

Sermon

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Invitation to Discipleship and Giving

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

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 only)

Caravan of the Three Kings

Richard Purvis

*Doxology #94

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Sheridan Allmond

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion

The Invitation

Confession & Pardon

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.

The Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

**Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.**

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.

**And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.**

**And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.**

Passing the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

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

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

All 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

*Hymn #245

The First Noel

*Benediction and Dismissal

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude (10:30 only)

Prelude on God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Alfred V. Fedak



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



WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, January 11, 2026

9:00 AM – Worship with Communion

10:30 AM – Worship with Sanctuary Choir



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 (stpaulsunitied@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. 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.

Winter Break – Many groups take a break around New Year's. Staff and clergy availability will vary. Please contact leaders directly for details about schedules and activities. 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

- **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 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.
- **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. 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.
 - **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.
 - **Joyful Ringers** – *Wednesdays, 7:00 PM*. A handbell choir for adults that offers fun and fellowship! Contact Tom Pedersen: tpedersen@stpaulsk.org
 - **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.
 - **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.
 - **Bible & Brews** – *Saturday or Sunday once a month, 5:00-6:00 PM*. Location varies for this family-friendly interfaith conversation with Rabbi Adam of Temple Emanuel. Contact Pastor Joey: joeyhm@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.
- **Taste & Sing** – *Third Tuesday monthly, 12:00-1:30 PM.* Enjoy a hymn sing in the Octagon with Tom Pedersen and Erin Steele. Feel free to request your favorites! Stay for a tasty lunch prepared by Ginny Hagberg (\$5 donation).
- **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.



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: Willa Stalcup (10:30 AM)



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.

