



St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

Journeying Together Since 1885

SECOND SUNDAY IN EASTERTIDE

9:00 AM & 10:30 AM WORSHIP

APRIL 7, 2024

Thank you for worshipping 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)

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Prelude (10:30 only)

Prelude on Trentham

Philip Moore

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

Lay Reader

Leader: Leader: God of love and miracle, you have raised Christ from the dead!

All: **We thank you. We praise you. We worship you.**

Leader: And yet we long to see Christ in the flesh.

All: **We long to touch his wounded, healing hands.**

Leader: We wait for you.

All: **We reach for you.**

Leader: And yet even in our not seeing, not knowing, you are here.

All: **We thank you. We praise you. We worship you.**

*Hymn #307 (9:00 & 10:30)

Christ Is Risen

Opening Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

Lay Reader

God of Resurrection, receive our past, gather it into your grace, and usher us into your new future. We who seek Jesus wait with eager hope. We search with earnest hearts. We reach out with trembling hands. May Christ come to us, that we may see anew, and live in faith. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Proclamation of the Word

John 20:19-31 NRSVUE (9:00 & 10:30)

Pew Bible: New Testament p. 115

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the religious authorities, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Response to the Word

Children's Message (10:30 AM only)

Dr. Meg Baker

*Hymn #420 (9:00 & 10:30)

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

Sermon (9:00 & 10:30)

"Seeing Is Not Believing"

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

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

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

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 AM only)

The Easter Song of Praise
Sanctuary Choir

Richard Shephard

*Sing choirs of heaven! Let saints and angels sing! Around God's throne exult in harmony.
Now Jesus Christ is risen from the grave! Salute your king in glorious symphony.
Sing, choirs of earth! Behold, your light has come! The glory of the Lord shines radiantly,
Lift up your hearts, for Christ has conquered death! The night is past, the day of life is here.
Sing church of God! Exult with joy outpoured. The gospel trumpets tell of victory won.
Your Saviour lives: he's with you evermore! Let all God's people shout the long Amen.*

*Doxology #94 (9:00 & 10:30)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

*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)

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 (9:00 & 10:30)

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 #310 (9:00 & 10:30)

He Lives

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

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude (10:30 only) *Paraphrase on See, the conqu'ring hero comes!*

Alexandre Guilmant

You are invited to remain in a posture of worship for the Postlude.



SYMPATHY

We offer our deepest condolences to the family of

M. Frank Johnson

following his death on March 30.

COMING UP

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

Staff & clergy available other times by appointment!

We follow Montgomery County Schools for weather-related delays and closures.

Sunday Worship

April 14, 2024

9:00 AM and 10:30 AM



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 Information

- **Memorial Service for Frank Johnson** – *Saturday, April 13, 11:00 AM*. All are welcome at the service to celebrate the life and faith of Mr. M. Frank Johnson, who passed away on March 30. There will be a visitation time with light refreshments in the Octagon following the service. Frank had been a member of St. Paul's since 1953 and was active in the choir.
- **Save the Date: Heritage Sunday** – *Sunday, April 28, 10:30 AM*. Rev. Claire Matheny, former St. Paul's Associate Pastor, returns as the guest preacher for Heritage Sunday, our annual celebration of St. Paul's long history in the community. We will also recognize faithful friends who have been members at St. Paul's for 50 years or longer. This is a Special Sunday and we will worship together as one community with a single service at 10:30 AM only. SAM leaders are sponsoring a robust Sipping Ministry fellowship time following worship.
- **Taste & Sing** – *Tuesday, April 16, 12:00-1:00 PM, Octagon*. This time of food and song opens with some hymns suggested by the group, then we have a short program about our worship songs. No musical experience needed! Stay for lunch (\$5 donation).
- **Zoom Bible Study: Sermon Safari** – *Wednesdays starting April 10, 4:00-5:00 PM by Zoom*. In this drop-in, come-as-you-can study, we watch a sermon by a different notable preacher each week and then have a discussion guided by Dr. Meg Baker. To receive the Zoom link, email mbaker@stpaulsk.org.
- **Yarn Ministry** – *April 8 & 22, 7:00-8:00 PM*. Bring your knitting, crochet, or other projects to the Library at St. Paul's and craft along with friends. Contact Karen Codner for details: kdc811@gmail.com.
- **Meal Train** – *now-April 20*. St. Paul's member Olivia Scott is recovering from surgery and the family of two adults and two kids could use some help with meals. Please find details and consider signing up for a meal: <https://mealtrain.com/5zmk5z>. Please contact Rachel Stalcup with questions at rachelstalcup@gmail.com.
- **Still Wednesday** – *Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM*. During this time of contemplative prayer, all are welcome to enter the Sanctuary in silence, light a candle, and listen for

the facilitator to introduce a form of contemplative prayer. Come if you need some stillness in your life, in community.

- **Flower Sponsor** – The flowers that enliven our Sanctuary are sponsored by members and friends and may be dedicated in memory or honor of a loved one or a celebration. Spots are available April 14, May 5 & 26, and summer Sundays. Please use the flower chart in the church office to reserve a date and the yellow form for the dedication.
- **Register Now: VBS** – *June 17-21, 9:00AM-12:00 noon, at Bethesda UMC.* St. Paul's is partnering with Bethesda UMC and Chevy Chase UMC to bring Vacation Bible School to kids age 3 through Grade 5. All activities will take place at Bethesda UMC (8300 Old Georgetown Rd., Bethesda, MD). Go to <https://vbspro.events/pl/events/d42030> to register.
- **Donations for Love Your Neighbor Coalition Work** – In March 2024, St. Paul's SAM leadership body voted to donate to the Love Your Neighbor Coalition, a consortium of fifteen UMC justice-related organizations encompassing LGBTQ inclusion, racial justice, environmental justice and more. LYNC is raising funds for their work at the United Methodist Church's General Conference in May 2024 in Charlotte NC, including promoting justice-related legislative items and providing translation services for international delegates. If you wish to make an additional contribution to the LYNC, please donate to St. Paul's UMC with "LYNC" in the memo line or use the miscellaneous giving option at stpaulsk.org/giving with LYNC as the designated cause.
- **Notes for New Ones in Faith** – Please write a note of encouragement, scripture, or prayer for the young people in Confirmation Class, and place it in the basket in the Narthex. Notes will be presented to the students at their confirmation.

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. **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.

Children's Programs Today – Children should join their families in the Sanctuary for worship on April 7, when a children's message will be offered. Busy Bags with quiet activities for children's use during worship may be found at the Welcome Desk. Childcare for infants and preschoolers is available in the Nursery, located on the second floor, during the 10:30 worship service. Sunday School classes for children in K-5th grades will resume on April 14. To receive Sunday School updates by email, contact Dr. Meg Baker at mbaker@stpaulsk.org. To learn more about Children's Choir, contact Christina Griffin at clgriff18@gmail.com.





SOURCES AND LICENSING

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

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** Doxology: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow (LASST UNS ERFREUEN)*. Words: Thomas Ken (1674), adapt. Gilbert H. Vieira (1978). Music: *Geistliche Kirchengesange* (1623), harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906). Adapt. copyright 1989, The United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved.

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Postlude: *Paraphrase on See, the conqu’ring hero comes!*, by Alexandre Guilmant. 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

Bookkeeping & 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 Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Deanna Hodgson (9:00 AM); Henry Montgomery (10:30 AM)

