



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

BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

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

JANUARY 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. Dr. Patricia Allen

Prelude (10:30 only)

Caravan of the Three Kings

Richard Purvis

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

Lay Reader

Leader: The Magi had a dream.

ALL: They dreamed of a Messiah.

They dreamed of just rulers.

They dreamed of a new day for all people.

Leader: The Magi had a dream, and this dream led them to action.

ALL: They journeyed to unknown places.

They followed a star.

They walked for days to get to Jesus.

Leader: So may we be like the Magi,

ALL: May our dreams inspire action.

May we worship the one true God. Amen.

Opening Prayer of Confession (9:00 & 10:30)

Lay Reader

God, I love to worship you when the stars are bright above me.

I love to worship you when the sky is clear, and the breeze just right.

I love to worship you when the journey to Bethlehem is an easy one.

Unfortunately, as you know, this journey of life, love, and faith is rarely easy.

Now and again, the stars disappear.

My feet get blisters, and the journey is far too long and lonely.

On these days, forgive me for giving up quickly.

Forgive me for allowing the dream to die and for taking the shortcut home.

I want to be as brave as the Magi. I want to persevere.

Guide my feet. Show me the stars. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Proclamation of the Word

Mark 1:4-11 NRSVUE (9:00 & 10:30)

Pew Bible: New Testament p. 34-35

⁴[So] John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem (10:30 AM only)

The Shepherds' Farewell
Sanctuary Choir

Hector Berlioz

*Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare,
Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share,
Loving father, loving mother, shelter thee with tender care!
Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling ever to thy heart be dear!
Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heav'nly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you, guide you safely through the wild!*

Response to the Word

Service of Holy Baptism (10:30 AM only)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Casey Joseph Hodgson

Presentation of the Candidate for Baptism (10:30 AM only)

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith (10:30 AM only)

Congregational Response (10:30 AM only)

Pastor: Do you, as Christ's body, the Church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin
and your commitment to Christ?

People: We do.

Pastor: Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include
this person now before you in your care?

**People: With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to
the example of Christ. We will surround this person with a community of
love and forgiveness, that they may grow in their service to others. We will
pray for them, that they may be true disciples who walk in the way that
leads to life.**

The Apostle's Creed (10:30 AM only)

Pastor: Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the
Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Do you believe in God the Father?

People: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Thanksgiving Over the Water (10:30 AM only)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Eternal God: When nothing existed but chaos, you swept across the dark waters and brought forth light. In the days of Noah you saved those on the ark through water. After the flood you set in the clouds a rainbow. When you saw your people as slaves in Egypt, you led them to freedom through the sea. Their children you brought through the Jordan to the land which you promised.

People: Sing to the Lord, all the earth. Tell of God's mercy each day.

Pastor: In the fullness of time you sent Jesus, nurtured in the water of a womb.

He was baptized by John and anointed by your Spirit. He called his disciples to share in the baptism of his death and resurrection and to make disciples of all nations.

People: Declare Christ's works to the nations, his glory among all the people.

Pastor: Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and those who receive it, to wash away their sin and clothe them in righteousness throughout their lives, that, dying and being raised with Christ, they may share in his final victory.

People: All praise to you, Eternal Father, through your Son Jesus Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns for ever. Amen.

Baptism (10:30 AM only)

Congregational Welcome (10:30 AM only)

Pastor: Now it is our joy to welcome our new sibling in Christ.

People: Through baptism you are incorporated by the Holy Spirit into God's new creation and made to share in Christ's royal priesthood. We are all one in Christ Jesus. With joy and thanksgiving we welcome you as a member of the family of Christ.

Pastor: Members of the household of God, I commend this person to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love.

People: We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of The United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Reaffirmation of Our Vows of Baptism (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Introduction (9:00 & 10:30)

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith for the Congregation (9:00 & 10:30)

Pastor: And so I ask you, will you turn away from the powers of sin and death?

People: We renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of our sin!

Pastor: Will you let the Spirit use you as prophets to the powers that be?

People: We accept the freedom and power God gives us to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves!

Pastor: Will you proclaim the good news and live as disciples of Jesus Christ, his body on earth?

People: We confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put our whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as our Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races!

Pastor: Will you be living witnesses to the gospel, individually and together, wherever you are, and in all that you do?

People: We will remain faithful members of Christ's holy church and serve as Christ's representatives in the world.

Pastor: Will you receive and profess the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

People: We affirm and teach the faith of the whole church as we put our trust in God, the Father Almighty; in Jesus Christ, his only Son; and in the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Thanksgiving Over the Water (9:00 & 10:30)

Pastor: The Spirit of the Lord is with us.

People: Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, the life you birthed in us by baptism into Jesus Christ will never die. Your justice never fails. Your mercy is everlasting.

People: Your healing river flows. Your Spirit blows where you will. We cannot stop you, God!

Pastor: But sometimes we try. We try to block the flow, we redirect the winds of the Spirit, or we walk so far away from the life-giving Stream that we do not hear its sound, and we forget its power. We parch ourselves.

People: We are dry and thirsty, O God. Come, refresh us!

Pastor: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

People: Come upon us, Holy Spirit!

Pastor: Come upon these waters.

People: Come upon these waters.

Pastor: Let these waters be to us drops of your mercy.

People: Let these waters remind us of your righteousness and justice.

Pastor: Let these waters renew in us the resurrection power of Jesus.

People: Let these waters make us long for your coming reign.

Pastor: Most Holy God, Abba, Father!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Jesus Christ, Savior, Lord!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Spirit of fire, Spirit over the waters, Spirit of holiness!

People: Glory to you!

Pastor: Eternal God, One in Three and Three in One!

People: All glory is yours, now and forever. Amen!

Renewing Vows at the Water (9:00 & 10:30)

Leader: Remember that you are baptized, and rejoice!

Children's Message (10:30 AM only)

Dr. Meg Baker

*Hymn #245 (9:00 & 10:30)

The First Noel

Sermon (9:00 & 10:30)

“Jesus, Man of Mystery: The Reveal”

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

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 AM only)

*Meditation on Wie schön leuchtet
(How Brightly Shines)*

David Bednall

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

OLD 100TH

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

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

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 #251 (9:00 & 10:30) *Go Tell It on the Mountain*

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

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

*Distribution of Star Words

St. Paul's Wise Men

Postlude (10:30 only)

Prelude on Go Tell It on the Mountain

D. Byron Arneson



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

are given today by **Frank A. Walker, Jr.**
in loving memory of his spouse, David George Fischer.

OFFICE SCHEDULE

Drop-in office hours, Jan. 8-11: Monday–Thursday, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Staff & clergy available other times by appointment!

WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Sunday, January 14, 2024

9:00 AM and 10:30 AM

*Please note we will be closed on Monday, January 15, 2024 in observance of the holiday
honoring Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*



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

- **Parking Lot Door Hours** – Beginning this 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.
- **Hunger Ministry Food Distribution** – Monday, January 8. Donations and volunteers welcome. <https://stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry> or contact hunger@stpaulsk.org.
- **Taste & Sing** – Tuesday, January 16, 12:00-1:00 PM, Octagon. Enjoy casual hymn singing and lunch for \$5 donation. <https://stpaulsk.org/community/adult-education>
- **Drumming the Beloved Community** – Wednesday, January 17, 7:00-8:00 PM, Sanctuary. Guest leader and renowned drummer Katy Gaughan leads a contemplative prayer form using the rhythm of drums. No experience necessary; drums provided or bring your own. <https://stpaulsk.org/worship/still-wednesday>
- **Contemplative Art Workshop Retreat** – Saturday, January 27, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM. Facilitated by Kenzie Raulin. Read more and register online: <https://www.krdesign.net/workshops>
- **Lenten Study Classes** – In-person study classes, book groups, and online Zoom classes will meet in 2024 during Lent. Sign up now-February 11. <https://stpaulsk.org/community/adult-education>
- **Sipping Ministry** – This “coffee hour” following worship is held whenever a group, family, or friends decide to host. If you feel called to sponsor this fellowship time, find the instructions and sign-up sheet on the church office bulletin board.
- **Pastor Joey Renewal Leave** – Rev. Joey Heath-Mason is on Sabbath Renewal time and will return to St. Paul’s on Easter Sunday. Full announcement at stpaulsk.org/we-are-all-about/the-pastors-page.

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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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 Director: Christina Griffin

Lay Leader: Anne Dean

Usher Coordinator: Nathan Bazawada

Lay Readers: Bill Butz (10:30 AM)

