

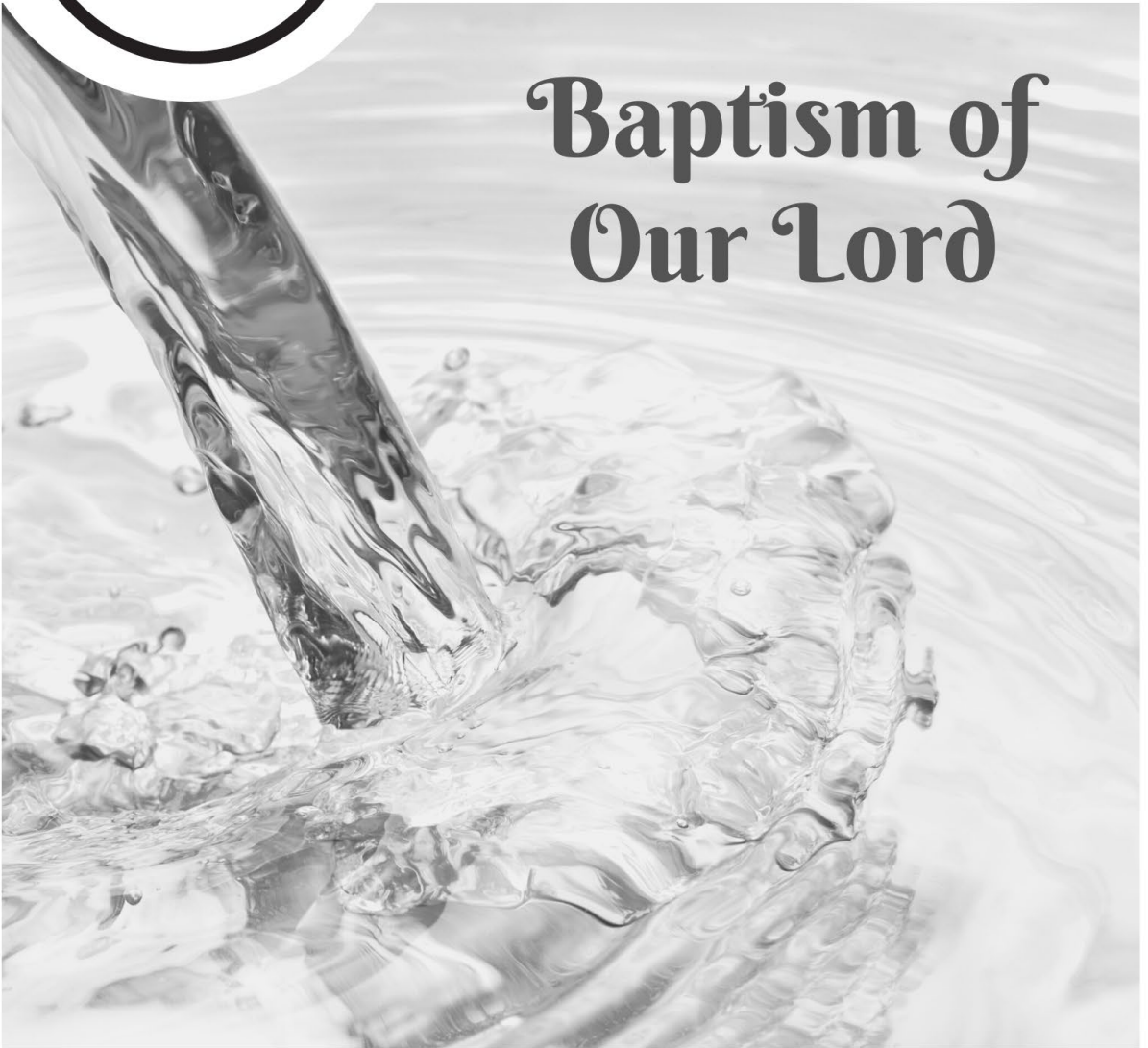


# St. Paul's

United Methodist Church

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## Baptism of Our Lord



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January 8, 2023

9:00 & 10:30 A.M.

# BAPTISM OF THE LORD SUNDAY

ORDER OF WORSHIP

JANUARY 8, 2023

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## 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.*

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## Gathering for Worship

(\* - please stand in body or spirit)

Prelude (10:30 only)      *Schönster Herr Jesu (Fairest Lord Jesus)*      Hermann Schroeder

Call to Worship (9:00 & 10:30)      Lay Reader

Leader: In the beginning, O God, all is darkness, formless and empty.

**All: "Light!" you say, and there is light, and the light is the life of all people.**

Leader: In the desert, water flows, and you invite us.

**All: Christ, river of life, we come to you.**

Leader: Spirit, dove of peace, pure energy of love, you sing out in us.

**All: We are your beloved in whom you are well pleased.**

Leader: We plunge into your grace, and we are made new.

**All: We rise, newborn and gleaming. In praise and thanksgiving we worship you. Alleluia!**

\*Hymn #605 (9:00 & 10:30)      Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters

Opening Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

**God of love, as Jesus was immersed in the waters of the Jordan, immerse us in your love. As Jesus heard you speak, so may we hear your Word, your promise, your ever-present, deeply loving voice. Baptize us in your Spirit, O God, and birth us anew in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Anthem (10:30 only)      *Down to the River to Pray*      arr. Sheldon Curry  
Sanctuary Choir

Prayer of Confession (9:00 & 10:30)      Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

**We are incredibly stubborn, O Lord. We have entered the season in which Your Light has been given to the world, your blessings have been poured out on the world, and yet all we can think about is our own problems, our own needs, our own desires.**

**Help us to desire you, Holy One. Help us to yearn for your presence. Pour your baptismal waters over us again, cleansing us from our self-pity and arrogance. Nourish and heal us so that we may joyfully serve you. Wash away our jealousy, greed, and all negative thoughts and behaviors that stand in the way of our truly being the people you have called us to be.**

**Again let us receive the blessings offered in creation, in the birth and baptism of Jesus, and in the ministry of the saints of light.**

**We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

Pastoral Prayer (9:00 & 10:30)

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

The Lord's Prayer (10:30 only)

The United Methodist 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.**

### **Proclamation of the Word**

Matthew 3:13-17 (9:00 & 10:30)

Lay Reader

<sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

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

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message (10:30 only)

Dr. Meg Baker

\*Hymn #252 (9:00 & 10:30)      When Jesus Came to Jordan

Sermon (9:00 & 10:30)    “The Gift of Committed Community”      Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Invitation to Giving (9:00 & 10:30)      Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Offertory (10:30 AM only)      *His Name So Sweet*      Richard Billingham

\*Doxology #94 (9:00 & 10:30)      LASST UNS ERFREUEN

\*Prayer of Dedication      Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen

Remembrance of Baptism (9:00 & 10:30)      Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Leader: Eternal God, in the beginning your Spirit brooded over the waters.

**All: You breathed into us the spirit of life.**

L: The Red Sea was the water of our womb, where we came to life by your grace.

**All: We have come out into the world as your children, your beloved in whom you delight.**

L: Jesus invites us into the waters of his baptism, into his tears, his suffering, his death.

**All: And with him we are raised to new life, born again of water and the Word.**

L: God anoints us with the Spirit, to be a light to the nations, to establish justice, to open the eyes of the blind, to set free the prisoners.

**All: Alleluia! We are baptized into Christ, and transformed by your grace. Alleluia!**

Baptismal Blessing (9:00 & 10:30)

The Great Thanksgiving and Communion (9:00 AM only)

The Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

L:      Lift up your hearts.

**P:      We lift them up to the Lord.**

L:      Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**P:      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 he 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 (9:00 AM only)

The United Methodist Hymnal, #895

Breaking the Bread and Giving the Bread & Cup (*Gluten-free wafers available upon request.*)

Prayer after Receiving (9:00 AM only)

**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.**

\*Hymn #608 (9:00 & 10:30) This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

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

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason

Postlude (10:30 AM only) *Christe sanctorum (Christ of the Saints)*

David Blackwell



WORSHIP NEXT WEEK: JANUARY 15, 2022

9:00 & 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary *and* 10:30 AM livestreaming through [stpaulsk.org](http://stpaulsk.org)



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Announcements** – News of events and activities at St. Paul's are shared through our Weekly News message. Read the latest message at [stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news](http://stpaulsk.org/community/epistle-weekly-news).

**Welcome Visitors!** – Thank you for joining us! **Restrooms** including a family restroom with changing table can be found past the church office and down the hall near the water fountain. **Large print Bibles and Hymnals** are available from our ushers. **T-coil hearing aids** work in our Sanctuary; people with digital hearing aids that have telecoil receivers may listen to the service directly by turning on the “t-coil.” If your hearing aid does not have a “t-coil,” you may request a headset from the ushers. **Attendance pads** in the pews provide a space to share your name and, if you wish, contact information so we may welcome you.

**Today: Children's Programs** – *Sunday, Jan. 8.* Families will begin in the Sanctuary at 10:30 AM. Following the Children's Message, children and teachers will transition to Sunday School; adults should pick up their children in the Fellowship Hall after worship. Nursery care is available during both services. Questions? Contact Meg Baker, [mbaker@stpaulsk.org](mailto:mbaker@stpaulsk.org).

**Today: "Just Curious"** – *Sunday, Jan. 8.* Those who RSVP'd are invited to join the pastors in the Octagon at noon for a casual conversation about what it means to be a St. Paul's member.

**Today: SPY** – *Sunday, Jan. 8, 4:30-6:30 PM.* St. Paul's Youth will have one meeting time for Spring 2023 and all friends in grades 6-12 are welcome. Use the door on Fawcett Street to enter the Multi-Purpose Room. Questions? Contact Mr. Micah Smartt ([msmartt@stpaulsk.org](mailto:msmartt@stpaulsk.org)).

**This Week: RSVP for Visioning Retreat** – *RSVP by Jan. 13, retreat Saturday Jan. 21, 10AM-2PM.* Every generation, members, and friends are invited to come together for the sacred work of creating the vision for St. Paul's UMC, Kensington. There is no cost; registration ensures we have refreshments and materials. Go to [stpaulsk.org/we-are-all-about/the-pastors-page](http://stpaulsk.org/we-are-all-about/the-pastors-page) and click the button to register. Registration ends Friday, Jan. 13, 2023.

**Read-Thru-the-Bible** – It's a new year and a new opportunity to start fresh. Each month a video and reflection questions will be available at [stpaulsk.org/community/adult-education](http://stpaulsk.org/community/adult-education). Jump in!

**Altar Flowers in 2023** – The flower chart for 2023 is now available on the bulletin board in the church office. Reserve a date and use the yellow form to sponsor the Sanctuary flowers.


**Communion Bread** – Copies of the St. Paul's Communion Bread recipe and a sign-up sheet for bakers are now available on the bulletin board in the church office.

**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](http://stpaulsk.org/service/hunger-ministry).

**Daily Breath** – *Wednesdays, 9:00 AM.* Enjoy about 10-20 minutes of sharing, prayer, or music led by St. Paul's clergy, staff, or volunteer leaders. Go to [facebook.com/stpaulskensington](https://facebook.com/stpaulskensington).

**Tuesday with Friends** – *Third Tuesday of each month, 11:00 AM.* This group, open to all men and women, meets for fellowship and interesting lessons. Those who would like to stay for Taste & Sing enjoy lunch afterwards. Contact Ginny Hagberg: 301-770-7624.

**Lydia Circle** – *First Wednesday of each month, 2:30 PM.* Ladies interested in joining the Lydia Circle sisters should contact Susan Schwarz at [susan10748@aol.com](mailto:susan10748@aol.com) or 301-339-8242.

**Masks Optional** – Masks are optional in nearly all St. Paul's spaces. You can read more mask-related FAQs at [stpaulsk.org/worship](http://stpaulsk.org/worship). 

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# St. Paul's Staff

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## **Senior Pastor**

Rev. Dr. Patricia Allen  
pallen@stpaulsk.org

## **Minister of Spiritual Care and Formation**

Dr. Meg Baker  
mbaker@stpaulsk.org

## **Director of Music**

Mr. N. Thomas Pedersen  
tpedersen@stpaulsk.org

## **Minister of Youth and Design**

Mr. Micah Smartt  
msmartt@stpaulsk.org

## **Associate Pastor**

Rev. Joey Heath-Mason  
joeyhm@stpaulsk.org

## **Director of Communications and Administration**

Dr. Erin Bone Steele  
stpaulsunited@stpaulsk.org

## **Organist**

Mr. Marvin Mills  
mmills@stpaulsk.org

## **Facilities Manager**

Ms. Tracey Furman  
tfurman@stpaulsk.org

## **Facilities Maintenance**

Mr. Marco Palma

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# Assisting with Worship

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## **Tech Team**

John & Biljana Regan

## **Lay Readers**

Meg Baker - 9:00 AM  
Sebastian Patch - 10:30 AM

## **Usher Coordinator**

Nathan Bazawada

## **Lay Leader**

Marge Higgins

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## Office Hours

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

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10401 Armory Ave, Kensington, MD 20895 | 301 - 933 - 7933 | [stpaulsk.org](http://stpaulsk.org)