

St. Paul United Methodist Church

A Good Neighbor

501 Grant Street, SE • Atlanta GA 30312

404-688-7501 • fax 404- 688-4421

Rev. S. Ellen Hopkins

Pastor

Kevin Hill

Minister of Music

Jeff Hammack

Organist

Joe Riddle

Director,

Recreation Ministries

Contextual Education Intern

Ashley Waite

Contextual Education Intern

Becky Wellman

Director,

Golden Age Center

Ginny Pavey

Office Manager



Madonna and Child
1855

Franz Ittenbach
(18 April 1813 – 1 December 1879)

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2014

The Worship of God

Preparing Our Hearts for Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

Angels from the Realms of Glory (Page)

Jeff Hammack

***Call to Worship**

Prepare the way of the Holy One.

Prepare the way of our God.

Make ready the paths of peace.

Prepare the way of our God.

Make ready your hearts for the coming of the Lord.

Prepare the way of our God.

***Hymn**

Angels from the Realms of Glory

UMH 220

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles' Creed

UMH 881

***Hanging of the Greens**

Rev. Ellen Hopkins

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the King?

With branches of cedar, the tree of royalty.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of the eternal Christ?

With garlands of pine and fir, whose leaves are ever living, ever green.

How shall we prepare this house for the coming of our Savior?

With wreaths of holly and ivy, telling of his passion, death, and resurrection.

How shall we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Son of God?

By hearing again the words of the prophets, who foretold the saving work of God

For God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

Glory to God in the Highest!

Greeting

We want to know that you were here worshipping with us today, especially if you are a first time visitor. Please introduce yourself to your neighbors, fill in a Visitor's Card (found in your pew), and place it in the offering.

**Lighting of the Second Advent Candle:
The Candle of Love**

Annika and Olivia Egerstedt,
and Danielle Hanson

First Reader: This is the second Sunday in Advent. Today, we light two purple candles. Last Sunday, we lit the candle of hope. This Sunday, we light the candle of love.

Some people may not know the love of other people. That makes it harder for them to understand God's love. During Advent, we pray that we may remember again God's gift of Jesus to the world and know that God's love for all people is the reason for this gift.

(Light the first and second candles.)

Second Reader: When we look at the second candle, we remember God's love. Psalm 85:9-11 says: "Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land. Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other. Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky."

When we read the words of the psalmist, we know of God's greatness and care. We remember God's love at Advent when we remember that God sent Jesus to us to help us know that God is loving and just.

Third Reader: John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

Prayer: Dear God: Thank you for your son, Jesus. Thank you for the words found in our Bible that help us remember your love and care. Help us see how we can bring God's message to the people we meet in our schools, at our jobs, and in our neighborhoods. Help us be messengers of God's love for everyone. AMEN.

Reading and Sharing the Word

Scripture Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Celebration of Our Children

Children's Offering

*Hymn

People Look East

UMH 202

Sermon

Rev. Ellen Hopkins

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

Always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image and breathes into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God,
and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day

when justice shall roll down like waters

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream,

when nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war anymore.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

**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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ,

whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations.

You scatter the proud in the imagination of their hearts

and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation.

You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree.
You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send empty away.
Your own Son came among us as a servant,
to be Emmanuel, your presence with us.
He humbled himself in obedience to your will
and freely accepted death on a cross.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Amen.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ,
redeemed by his blood.
By your Spirit, make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.
Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

**Our Father (Creator) 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.**

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Music

Star in the East

Chancel Choir

Departing to Love and Serve

Announcements

***Hymn**

In the Bleak Midwinter

UMH 221

***Benediction**

***The Congregational Blessing**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe,
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

***The Light Goes Forth**

Postlude

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying (Chesterton)

Jeff Hammack

*Stand as you are able.

WE REJOICE TO WELCOME YOU to this service of worship at St. Paul United Methodist Church. We pray God's blessing upon you this morning. We are pleased you chose to worship with us today. If you are just visiting, we encourage you to fill in a Visitor's Card (found in your pew) and place it in the offering so we can be in touch with you. If you are looking for a church home, look no further—you have found one at St. Paul. If this community can assist you in any way, please let us know. If you are interested in becoming a member of this church or want to talk about membership, please speak with our Pastor, Rev. Ellen Hopkins, after the service. **Welcome. Welcome. Welcome!!!**

WORSHIP LEADERS AND SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Presider: Rev. Ellen Hopkins

Liturgist: Trea Caldwell

Children's Time: Joe Riddle

Sound Board: Don Wallace, Baedrian Cline

Acolytes: Angela and Cooper Russell

Ushers: Don Wallace (Head Usher), Baedrian Cline, Bill Ericson

Altar Guild: Karen Merritt

Loving Childcare: Sonia Fuller

Coffee, Cookies and Conversation: Sonia Fuller

Counters: Jon Mickle

Want more information about what's happening at St. Paul? We generally send out emails weekly. If you'd like to be on our email list, contact the church office at office@stpaulgrantpark.org or 404-688-7501.

Activities. Members, visitors, friends, all are invited to participate in the various ministries at St. Paul. If you need more information please call the church office 404-688-7501.

Every Sunday:

- 10am **Sunday School** (all ages)
- 8:45am **Worship First** (casual, contemporary service with Holy Communion)
- 11am **Morning Worship** (traditional service)
- 12-ish **Hospitality:** Coffee, Cookies and Conversation (Chester Commons, most Sundays)

Every Wednesday:

- 7:00pm **Chancel Choir** [kevinhowardhill@gmail.com]

Youth Group

- Variable schedule. Contact Ashley Waite (waite.ashley@gmail.com) to be placed on her contact list.

Nursery is available for infants and toddlers on the 3rd floor of the education building prior to and during the worship service. After the Children's Sermon, children under kindergarten age may go up to child care in the gym on the third floor.