

The Worship of God

Preparing Your Hearts for Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

In the days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hill;
all the nations shall stream to it.
Many peoples shall come and say:

**"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that God may teach us God's ways
and that we may walk in God's paths." (Isaiah 2:2-3 alt.)**

With what shall we come to God's house?
Bring branches of cedar and holly,
bring evergreens and a pine tree,
hang wreaths and garlands.

**Make the church fragrant
with the smell of living things and our holy play.
In acts of hanging greens
and listening to the words of prophets and seers
let us make our hearts and this space
a place of inward and outward preparation
for the One who comes to give us second birth.**

***Introit**

Make Way, Make Way

Chancel Choir

***Hymn**

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH 196

***Prayer**

**Good Lord, by your mercy guide our outward actions in such ways
that our inward being is formed in faith, hope, and love.
May the decorations we offer engage our senses during the days of Advent
and enliven our praise and worship, in the name of the child of Bethlehem,
our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Affirmation of FaithThe Apostles' Creed*

UMH 881

Greeting

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

**Lighting of the First Advent Candle:
The Candle of Hope**

 Danielle Hanson,
Annika and Olivia Egerstedt
Advent Song*From Paradise to Earth I Come*

Verse 1

The musical score consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

1 "From heaven a - bove to earth I come to bring good
 2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your
 4 "These are the signs which you shall mark: the swad - dling
 5 We too must join the an - gel throng to sing a -

news to ev - ery home! Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; he will him - self your
 clothes and man - ger dark. There you shall find the
 gain this joy - ful song: "All glo - ry be to

joy I bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
 low - ly birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be, from all your sins to set you free.
 in - fant laid by whom the heavens and earth were made."
 God in heaven, who un - to us his Son had given."

Reading and Sharing the Word

Psalm 122 UMH 845

Scripture Lesson Romans 8:18-25

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God

Celebration of our Children

Children's Offering

***Hymn** *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* UMH 206

Sermon Rev. Ellen Hopkins

Responding to the Word

Call to Prayer *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent* Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**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 Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Musical Offering *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* Chancel Choir

***The Doxology**

UMH 94

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

We Depart to Love and Serve

Announcements

***Hymn**

Like a Child

TFWS 2092

***Benediction**

***The Congregational Blessing**

Go Now in Peace

**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

*Please stand in body or spirit.

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: Larry Johnson

Advent Liturgy: Danielle Hanson, Annika and Olivia Egerstedt

Children's Time: Bryan Russell

Loving Childcare: Michael Solberg

Acolytes: Clay and Quinn Elrod

Ushers: Marc Gowan (Head Usher) Olivia Egerstedt, Baedrian Cline, Danielle Hanson, Susan Johnson

Altar Guild: Karen Merritt

Coffee, Cookies and Conversation: Angela Mickle

Counters: Ron Rezendes and Michael Solberg

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 Treah Caldwell (miss.treah@gmail.com) to be placed on her contact list.

Nursery is available for infants and young toddlers on the 3rd floor of the education building prior to and during the worship service. After the Children's Sermon, children ages 3 through 2nd grade may go up to Children's Church on the third floor or remain in their pews with their parents.

