

The Worship of God

Preparing Your Hearts for Worship

Chiming of the Hour

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Lord, this year, we will follow the Star of Bethlehem.

Too long we've gone the wrong way

Followed the wrong stars!

We went South following movie stars, greed, and lust.

Star of Wonder...

We went East following stars of militarism, nationalism, and war.

Star of Light...

We even went North following our own visions, our own intuition,
and our own way.

Star with Royal Beauty Bright...

Lord, this year, we will follow the Star of Bethlehem.

The Star of Hope.

The Star of Peace.

The Star of Joy.

The Star of Love.

The Star that is You.

[by the Rev. Nathan Decker, www.umcdiscipleship.org]

*Hymn

We Three Kings of Orient Are

UMH 254

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.

Reading and Sharing the Word

Psalm 72

UMH 795

*Gospel Lesson

Matthew 25:31-46

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Celebration of our Children

Children's Offering

*Hymn

He Is Born

UMH 228

Sermon

Rev. Ellen Hopkins

Responding to the Word

Call to Prayer

Love Has Come

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

I Saw Three Ships

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!**

Departing to Love and Serve

Announcements

***Hymn**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

***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: Jeff McCord

Children's Sermon: Clayton Davis

Sunday Shepherd: Rev. Clara Welch

Acolytes: Clay and Quinn Elrod

Ushers: Don Wallace (Head Usher), Robin South, Patrick Lynn, Talley Wells

Coffee, Cookies and Conversation: Nancy Erwin

Counters: Clay Elrod

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 **Adult and Children's Sunday School**
- 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:

- 7pm Choir Rehearsal

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 with the Sunday Shepherd to the third floor or remain in their pews with their parents.

St. Paul United Methodist Church ▪ 501 Grant St. SE ▪ Atlanta, GA 30312
www.stpaulgrantpark.org ▪ 404-688-7501

CCLI #3189032