

St. Paul United Methodist Church
501 Grant St. SE
Atlanta, GA 30312

www.stpaulgrantpark.org ▪ 404-688-7501



Fourth Sunday in Advent
December 23, 2018



The Worship of God

Preparing Your Hearts for Worship

Chiming of the Hour

***Call to Worship**

Let us prepare our hearts as we await the coming of our Lord.

**Let us watch for the one who heard our cries
and shouldered the suffering of the world.**

Let us anticipate the coming of Christ's eternal world
with wholeness, reconciliation and plenty for all.

**Let us wait in expectation for the day
when God's glory is revealed in all its fullness.**

[Christine Sine (2012)]

***Hymn**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

UMH 234

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Modern Affirmation

UMH 885

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 Connect 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 Fourth Advent Candle, The Candle of Love

Chris Cline and
Ron Rezendes

Advent Candle Song

Light four candles, Christ is coming,
Christ, the Love of the World.

Light four candles, Christ is coming,
Christ is coming soon.

Reading and Sharing the Word

Old Testament Lesson

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Micah 5:2-5a

***Gospel Lesson**

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:39-55

Celebration of our Children

***Hymn** *Love Has Come* TFWS 3059

Sermon *Jesus is Coming* Rev. Cassie Rapko

Responding to the Word

Call to Prayer *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* 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 *Before the Marvel of This Night* Chancel Choir

***The Doxology** UMH 95

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;
Praise God, the Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

We Depart to Love and Serve

Announcements

***Hymn** *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* UMH 230

***Benediction**

***The Congregational Blessing**

Star-Child, earth-Child, go between of God,
Love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lightning rod,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
When Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

***The Light Goes Forth**

*Please stand in body or spirit.

WORSHIP LEADERS AND SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Presider: Rev. Cassie Rapko

Liturgist: Rebecca Wallace

Children's Time: Talley Wells

Acolytes: Jack and Elliott Warner

Ushers: Dannielle Hanson, Marcus Merritt, Annika and Olivia Egerstedt

Altar Guild: Karen Merritt

Coffee, Cookies and Conversation: Spencer Adair

Counters: Michael Solberg

WE WELCOME YOU if you can sing like Andrea Bocelli or if you only sing in the shower. You're welcome here if you're "just browsing," just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you're more Catholic than the Pope, or haven't been in church since little Joey's Baptism. We are glad you are here.

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)

Choir Practice most Wednesdays at 7 pm and Sundays at 10:15 am.

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, Kindergarten aged and pre-K children may go up to the nursery on the third floor or remain in their pews with their parents.