

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

www.stpaulgrantpark.org ▪ 404-688-7501



**First Sunday of Christmas
December 30, 2018**



The Worship of God

Preparing Your Hearts for Worship

Chiming of the Hour

*Call to Worship

We who knelt in the stable—

Let us come and kneel in the temple!

Let our hearts give thanks, and our hands rejoice!

Let our spirits sing, and our bodies dance!

O children, enter the house of the Lord!

Enter God's presence, and be reborn!

[ministrymatters.com]

*Hymn *Joy to the World!* UMH 246

*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.

Reading and Sharing the Word

Psalm 148 UMH 861

*Gospel Lesson Luke 2:41-52

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Celebration of Our Children

*Hymn *What Child Is This?* UMH 219

Sermon Chris Rapko

Responding to the Word

Call to Prayer

Some Children See Him

Chancel Choir

Pastoral Prayer

Rev. Cassie Rapko

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

Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head

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**

Go Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

***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: Bill Ericson

Children's Time: Jeff McCord

Acolytes: Richard, Sam and Nicholas Quartarone

Ushers: Dannielle Hanson, Marcus Merrit, Annika and Olivia Egerstadt

Altar Guild: Karen Merritt

Coffee, Cookies and Conversation: Annie Jackson

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.