

St. Paul United Methodist Church

A Good Neighbor

501 Grant Street, SE • Atlanta GA 30312

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Susan Allen Grady, Pastor

Doug Hollis, Family Life Minister

Jonathan DeLoach, Organist

Becky Wellman, Golden Age Center Director

Laura Rappold, Deacon in Residence

Kevin Hill, Minister of Music

Ginny Pavey, Office Manager



**First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2008**

The Worship of God

The Community Gathers

10:55 am Worship Begins

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion!

For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord.

[UMBOW]

***Hymn**

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

#196

Welcome and 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. If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with our Pastor or our Deacon after the service.)

Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Karen and Marcus Merritt

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come . . . in the evening, or at midnight, or at dawn. Keep awake. (Mark 13:24-26, 32, 33, 35, 37)

Such amazing things happen in the sky to herald the return of the Son of Man:

- . . Jesus, coming in the clouds
- . . . the sun grows dark
- . . . the moon doesn't shine
- . . . and stars fall from the heavens

So different from that first coming more than 2000 years ago:

- . . . with angels singing of God's glory and peace on earth
- . . . with the single star guiding the way to the manger
- . . . with shepherds and wisemen -- rich and poor -- coming to worship.

And so we watch, and wait, and stay alert, waiting again for the coming of Jesus.

And we light a single candle in preparation for that glorious day.

[Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.]

- . . . And even if the sun should grow dark
- . . . even if the moon refuses to shine
- . . . even if the stars should fall from the sky
- . . . we will have Jesus, the Light of the World, to shine brightly in our hearts, lighting our way.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

(Please take a couple of minutes to greet one another with God's love. If you're not sure of someone's name, it's a great time to ask. Please speak to someone you don't know that well...it will make a difference for all of us).

Celebration of Our Children

(after which, children 5 and under are invited for loving childcare upstairs during the rest of the service. Children need to be escorted upstairs by an adult.)

***Hymn**

O Day of God Draw Nigh

#730

Psalm 80

#801

Concerns and Celebrations

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 Word Read and Shared

***Scripture Lesson**

Mark 13: 24-37

Langston Daniels

Reader: The Word of God for the people of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain (Carolyn Jennings)

Chancel Choir

Sermon

Natalie Stadnick

Responding to the Word

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Musical Offering

***The Doxology: 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

***Hymn**

Soon and Very Soon

#706

***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

**Stand as you are able.*

MINISTERS OF WORSHIP & SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Presider: Susan Allen Grady

Student Day Preacher: Natalie Stadnick

Liturgist: Jenny Stevens

Student Day Reader: Langston Daniels

Children's Time: Shelly Hart

Altar Guild: Langston Daniels

Acolytes: David and Spencer Scott

Sound Team: Tom Sweeny and Langston Daniels

Ushers: Marc Gowan (Head Usher); Robin South; Jim Mason; Louis Lindic

Nursery: Sherri Scott, Alex Diaz-Williams