

# **St. Paul United Methodist Church**

*A Good Neighbor*

501 Grant Street, SE • Atlanta GA 30312

404-688-7501 • fax 404- 688-4421

Susan Allen Grady, Pastor

Doug Hollis, Family Life Minister

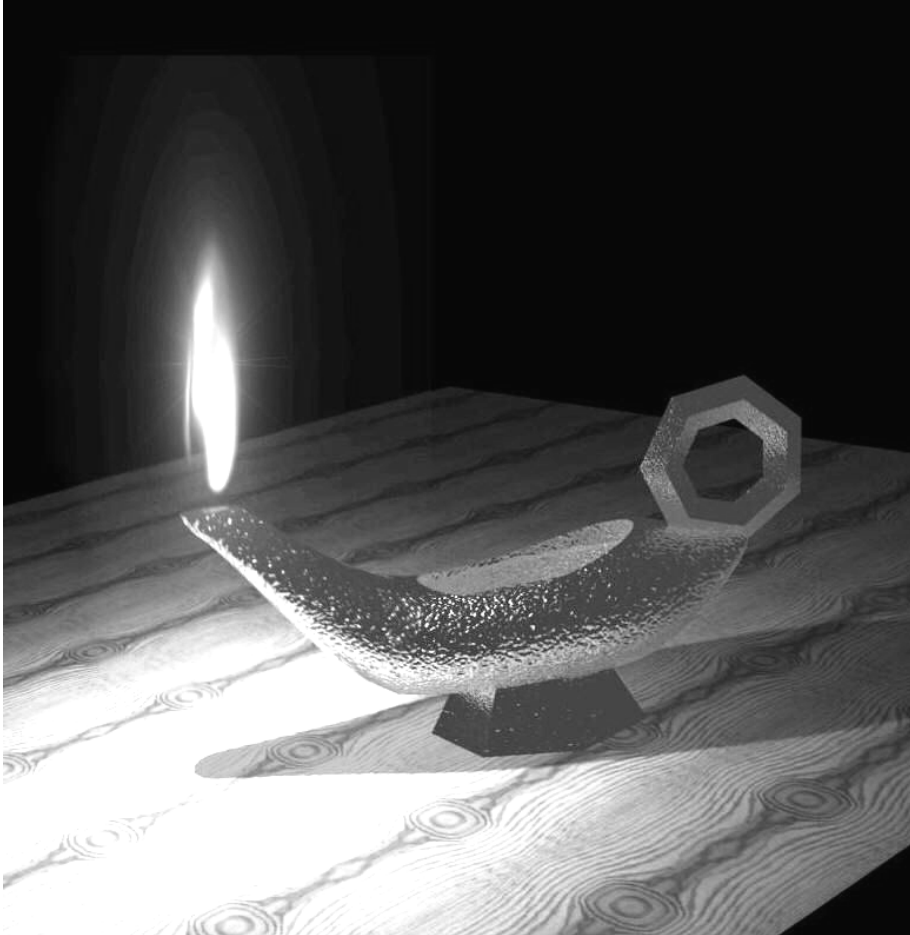
Jonathan DeLoach, Organist

Becky Wellman, Golden Age Center Director

Laura Rappold, Deacon in Residence

Kevin Hill, Minister of Music

Ginny Pavey, Office Manager



**Second Sunday of Advent  
December 7, 2008**

# *The Worship of God*

## The Community Gathers

**10:55 am Worship Begins**

### **Prelude**

#### **\*Call to Worship**

Lift up your heads, O gates!

**and be lifted up, O ancient doors!**

**that the King of glory may come in.**

[Psalm 24:7]

#### **\*Hymn**

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

#211

**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.*)

### **Announcements**

#### **Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Jonathan Kidwell and Jen Heald

*[Light the first candle on the Advent wreath.]*

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" (Mark 1:2-3)

And John, the messenger of God, proclaimed to all the people who came to him in the wilderness that they must repent of their sins and be baptized. Many people heard his message, repented, and were baptized in the river Jordan.

It has become our custom to prepare for the birth of the Messiah by decorating our cities and homes, hanging lights inside and out, singing of Frosty the Snowman and Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, and measuring the quality of our Christmas morning by the number of gifts we receive on Christmas morning.

*[Light the second candle on the Advent wreath.]*

As we light this second candle in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, perhaps we need to listen again to John the Baptizer's message, preparing the way of the Lord:

- . . . make straight the paths
- . . . repent of your sins
- . . . be baptized
- . . . and live holy lives devoted to God.

**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 3 to 5th grade are invited upstairs for Children's Church. Children under 3 are invited for loving childcare upstairs during the rest of the service. Children need to be escorted upstairs by an adult. )*

## Concerns and Celebrations

### Pastoral Prayer

Laura Rappold

### \*Hymn

*People Look East*

#202

### The Word Read and Shared

### \*Gospel Lesson

Luke 21:25-36

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

### Anthem

*Before the Marvel of This Night*

Chancel Choir

### Sermon

“Get Ready”

Rev. Jim Cantrell

### Responding to the Word

### The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

### Musical Offering

*Laudamus Te (Gloria, Vivaldi)*

Laura Rappold  
and Liz Almond

**\*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.**

### The Great Thanksgiving

### The Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Communion Music

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent  
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

#626  
Chancel Choir

### We Depart to Love and Serve

### \*Hymn

*Lift Up Your Heads*

#213

### \*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

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

Bell Choir

\*Stand as you are able.

## **MINISTERS OF WORSHIP AND SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS**

Guest Presider: Rev. Jim Cantrell

Liturgist: Becky Boyette

Children's Time: Shelly Hart

Altar Guild: Jessica Gaines

Acolytes: Teresa Davis and Elise Nanista

Sound Team: Don Wallace and A. J. Seymour

Ushers: Don Wallace (Head Usher); Louis Lindic; Robin South; Bob Vermillion

Nursery: Laura Wells, Talley Wells, Jenny Stevens

**WE REJOICE TO WELCOME YOU** to this service of worship at St. Paul United Methodist Church. We are pleased you chose to worship with us today, and we hope you will return often. We pray God's blessing upon you this morning. There are large-print materials and audio listening devices available for your use. Please stop by the Accessibility Table at the side entrance or speak to one of the ushers or greeters. If this community can assist you in any way, please let us know. If you have questions about becoming a member of this church, please speak with our Pastor or our Deacon after the service.

**Welcome.**

**Email – Want to know what's happening at St. Paul?** We generally send out emails once or twice weekly, and we circulate the *Epistle*, our church newsletter, once a month. If you'd like to be on our email list, contact the church office at [office@stpaulgrantpark.org](mailto: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:**

- 8:30am **Worship First** (casual, contemporary service)
- 9:30 **Fellowship Breakfast** (Huiet Hall, this week sponsored by the Back Yard Bible Class)
- 10am **Sunday School** (all ages)
- 10:55am **Morning Worship** (traditional service)
- 5pm **Disciple I** (Bible Study) [[shelly.hart@emory.edu](mailto:shelly.hart@emory.edu) or 678-362-5893 (cell) or 404-727-4431 (work) ]

### **Every Wednesday:**

- 5:30-6pm **Children's Handbell Group (does not meet 2nd Wednesday)** [[Sherri.Scott@ihg.com](mailto:Sherri.Scott@ihg.com)] and **Little Angels Preschool Choir** [(404) 627-6756 or [lauraandtalley@mindspring.com](mailto:lauraandtalley@mindspring.com)]
- 6-6:45pm **Fellowship Supper** [\$6/adults, \$3/children 4-10, under 4 free. Reservations before Tuesday morning to [stpaulgrantpark@earthlink.net](mailto:stpaulgrantpark@earthlink.net) or 404-688-7501. Menu for December 10th: Chicken Pot Pie with Biscuit Topping, Green Salad, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Spaghetti for wee ones.
- 6:30-8pm **Disciples of the Trinity Youth Group** [[seedoug@hotmail.com](mailto:seedoug@hotmail.com)]
- 6:45-7:15pm **Little Saints Elementary School Choir** [[lauraandtalley@mindspring.com](mailto:lauraandtalley@mindspring.com) or (404) 627-6756]
- 6:45-7:30pm **Adult/Youth Handbell Group** [[Sherri.Scott@ihg.com](mailto:Sherri.Scott@ihg.com)] and **Worship First Praise Team Contemporary Choir**
- 6:45-7:45pm **Book Discussion Group** [[susan@stpaulgrantpark.org](mailto:susan@stpaulgrantpark.org)]
- 7 pm **Companions in Christ: The Way** (spiritual formation study) [[rdavis280@aol.com](mailto:rdavis280@aol.com)]
- 7:30pm **Chancel Choir**