

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21, 2008

The Worship of God

The Community Gathers

10:55 am Worship Begins

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

We wait for the word of the Lord as we wait for the rains,
and our God shall come down upon us like gentle dew.

[Traditional Monastic Liturgy]

***Hymn**

To a Maid Engaged to Joseph

#215

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

Lindsey and Sarah Brown

[Light the first three candles of the Advent wreath.]

After the angel came to Mary and told her that she would conceive the child in her womb and would call him Jesus, Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:38, NRSV)

And Mary sings her Song of Praise:

... My soul magnifies the Lord . . . he has scattered the proud
... He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
... He has lifted up the lowly
... He has filled the hungry
... He has provided for the poor ([Luke 1:46-55](#), NRSV)

We marvel at Mary, the mother of the Messiah, herself a single, teenage mother, herself poor and powerless. But she understood that the baby she would call Jesus was sent, not just to her, but to the world:

... To the hungry
... To the weak
... To the very young and the very old
... To those who suffer or are in pain

[Light the fourth candle of the Advent wreath.]

We light this fourth candle to remember Mary, the mother of Jesus. May the light of this candle also remind us that the light of Jesus shines for everyone.

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 upstairs for loving childcare upstairs during the rest of the service. Children need to be escorted upstairs by an adult.)*

Concerns and Celebrations

Morning Prayer

Jenny Stevens

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.

Anthem

Still, Still, Still (arr. Norman Luboff)

Chancel Choir

The Word Read and Shared

*Gospel Lesson

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:26-38

Special Music

Carol of the Bells (Arr. Sherri Scott)

Bellissimos Adult/Youth Handbell Choir
A.J. Seymour, Mallets

*Lisa Roberson, David Carlock, David Scott, Suzanne Stevens, Lisa South,
Collin Seymour, Michael George, Eddie Hardy, and Gretchen Garrett*

Sermon

Doug Hollis

Responding to the Word

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Musical Offering

Gabriel's Message

Liz Almand, Soloist

*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

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

#218

*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 AND SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Preacher: Doug Hollis

Liturgist: Becky Boyette

Children's Time: Brenda Brown

Altar Guild: Karen Merritt

Acolytes: Amir, Cathy and David Carlock

Sound Team: Tom Sweeny and Langston Daniels

Ushers: David Hardy (Head Usher); Rob MacGregor; Gretchen Garrett; Collin Seymour

Nursery: Daniel Hanson, 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 Deacon in Residence, Laura Rappold, or Doug Hollis, our Family Life Minister 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 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 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] and **Little Angels Preschool Choir** [(404) 627-6756 or 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 or 404-688-7501. **THERE WILL BE NO FELLOWSHIP SUPPERS DECEMBER 24TH OR 31ST. NEXT SUPPER: JANUARY 7, 2009.**
- 6:30-8pm **Disciples of the Trinity Youth Group** [seedoug@hotmail.com]
- 6:45-7:15pm **Little Saints Elementary School Choir** [lauraandtalley@mindspring.com or (404) 627-6756]
- 6:45-7:30pm **Adult/Youth Handbell Group** [Sherri.Scott@ihg.com] and **Worship First Praise Team Contemporary Choir**
- 6:45-7:45pm **Book Discussion Group** [susan@stpaulgrantpark.org]
- 7 pm **Companions in Christ: The Way** (spiritual formation study) [tdavis280@aol.com]
- 7:30pm **Chancel Choir**