

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



***Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion
December 24, 2008***

The Worship of God

The Community Gathers

11:00 pm Worship Begins

Prelude

Call to Worship

One: Jesus Christ is born!

All: **O come, let us adore him!**

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.)*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Tim Hill

[Light the first four candles in the Advent wreath]

“While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.” (Luke 2:6-7)

Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of parental love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a muffled cry squeezes out to greet the world.

Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth—regardless of circumstances—reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, the promise of God.

On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the lowly-Lord. And now we know...He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

[Light the Christ Candle]

We Depart to Love and Serve

Candlelight Carol

Silent Night

#239

***Benediction with Blessing**

May the Christ who by his Incarnation
gathered into One things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing
of God, the love of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be upon you
and remain with you always.

Light up your world. Love up your people. Raise up our hearts.

Go forth in peace and joy!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

***The Light Goes Forth**

Postlude

*Stand as you are able.

MINISTERS OF WORSHIP AND CHRISTMAS VOLUNTEERS

Guest Presider: Rev. Jim Cantrell

Liturgist: Becky Boyette

Advent Wreath: Tim Hill

Altar Guild: Bill Ericson

Acolytes: Amir, Cathy and David Carlock

Ushers: Gretchen Garrett, Tom Trimble, Greg Barron, Michelle Levan

