

# **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

Laura Rappold, Deacon in Residence  
Kevin Hill, Minister of Music  
Ginny Pavey, Office Manager  
Becky Wellman, Golden Age Center Director



**Christmas Eve Family Service**  
**December 24, 2008**

# *The Worship of God*

## The Community Gathers

**5:00 pm Worship Begins**

### **Prelude**

**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.*)

**\*Processional Hymn**      Come,  Come Emmanuel (v.1-2)     #211

### **Bidding Prayer**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

Chris, Tori, Reuben,  
Cate and Elle Lutkowski

*[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]*

### The Word Read and Shared

**Carol**                      *○ Little Town of Bethlehem*                      #230

**Old Testament Lesson**    Isaiah 11:1-10

**Hymn**                      *○ Come, ○ Come Emmanuel (v. 3-4)*                      #211

**Special Music**                      *Lo, How a Rose*                      Chancel Choir

**Carol**                      *The First Noel*                      #245

**Psalm 98**    #818

**Hymn**                      *○ Come, ○ Come Emmanuel (v. 5-6)*                      #211

**Special Music**                      *Coventry Carol*                      Chancel Choir

**\*Gospel Lesson**    Luke 2:1-14

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Special Music**                      *We Three Kings*                      Patres Hillis,  
Rachel Quarterone,  
Annette Wawerma

**Homily**                      *The Greatest Gift*                      Rev. Jim Cantrell

### Responding to the Word

**Offertory Prayer**

**Musical Offering**                      *○ Holy Night*                      Tim Hill, Soloist

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

### We Depart to Love and Serve

**\*Carols**                      *○ Come, All Ye Faithful*                      #234  
*Silent Night*                      #239

**\*Benediction and 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 EVE VOLUNTEERS**

Guest Presider: Rev. Jim Cantrell

Liturgist: Vanessa Jackson

Advent Wreath: Chris, Tori, Reuben, Cate and Elle Lutkowski

Altar Guild: Bill Ericson

Acolytes: Zxelema and Kiwani Howard

Ushers: Robin South, Bill Ericson, Tom Sweeny, Jim Mason

