

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
Lori Clayton, Contextual Education Intern
Ginny Pavey, Office Manager



His Name is John,
Daniel Bonnell

Second Sunday of Advent
December 6, 2009

The Worship of God

Gathering

10:55 am Worship Begins

Prelude *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (Malcolm Archer)*

***Call to Worship**

We are together partakers of grace;

**He who began good work in us will bring it to completion in the day of
Jesus Christ.**

[Philippians 1]]

***Hymn** *Hail to the Lord's Anointed* #203

Lighting of the Advent Wreath Paul Bowman and Larry Wolberg

Greeting and Announcements

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.

***Passing of the Peace**

Celebration of Our Children *(After the children's sermon, children 3 years to 5th grade are invited upstairs for Children's Church, after which children are invited to return to their seats or go upstairs for loving childcare for the duration of the service. Children need to be escorted by an adult at the beginning of loving childcare and at the end of the service.)*

Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* #216

Morning Prayer Lori Clayton

The Word Read and Shared

***Gospel Lesson** *Luke 1:67-80*

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon C. Douglas Hollis, Jr.

Advent Wreath Meditation

Scripture: Luke 1: 67-80 *Zechariah's Prophecy*

Then [John the baptist's] father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

‘Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our
days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.
By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.’

The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Reflection

Christmas is intended to be a transforming event, not a lovely interlude in business as usual. What we do in Advent in preparation for Christmas will be our means of getting ready for a new way of looking at life -- a new way of living.

The son of Zechariah is not just a miracle of childbearing but the one who will call the world's attention to the Messiah who is coming. John is one who will prepare the way of the Lord

- . . . one who reminds us of the covenant of God
- . . . one who refines and purifies us in faithfulness

. . . one who offers us forgiveness of sins in the name of the one toward whom he points us: Jesus.

How then do we prepare to be transformed by the coming of the Lord?

. . . by allowing the light of hope to awaken our spirits?

. . . by making room for the Lord to write the covenant on our hearts?

. . . by living in gratitude for what we receive in the Lord?

. . . by listening to the warning of the prophet John?

. . . by remembering the covenant that God has made with us through the generations of God's people on earth?

If we prepare ourselves by renewing our covenant with God, then we will be truly transformed as Christ comes again into our lives.

Candle Lighting Liturgy

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, says the Lord of hosts.

[Here relight the first Advent candle.]

The light of hope has awakened our spirits.

A voice cries out in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Renew in us your covenant, O God, that we may be ready for the dawn of your salvation.

We light a second candle to bring light to every darkness, and to guide us in the way of peace.

[Here light the second Advent candle.]

With gratitude for your light, O God, we will prepare to welcome a new birth of your love.

Responding to the Word

Reception into Membership of John and Julie McCrae

The Giving of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Musical Offering

So Blest a Sight

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.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Music

*Blessed Be the God of Israel
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent*

#209
Chancel Choir

We Depart to Love and Serve

***Hymn**

Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light

#223

***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.*

WE REJOICE TO WELCOME YOU to this service of worship at St. Paul United Methodist Church. We pray God's blessing upon you this morning. We are pleased you chose to worship with us today. If you are just visiting, we encourage you to fill in a Visitor's Card (found in your pew) and place it in the offering so we can be in touch with you. If you are looking for a church home, look no further—you have found one at St. Paul. If this community can assist you in any way, please let us know. If you are interested in becoming a member of this church or want to talk about membership, please speak with our Pastor, Rev. Susan Allen Grady, our Deacon, Rev. Laura Rappold, or Family Life Minister, Douglas Hollis, after the service. **Welcome. Welcome. Welcome!!!**

MINISTERS OF WORSHIP AND SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Presider: Rev. Susan Allen Grady

Guest Preacher: Doug Hollis

Liturgist: Lori Clayton

Children's Time: Susan Allen Grady

Altar Guild: Bill Ericson

Acolytes: Amir, Cathy and David Carlock

Sound System: Don Wallace/A.J.Seymour

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

Nursery: Tori Lutkowski, Greg Bley

Accessibility Table: There are large-print materials and audio listening devices available for your use. Please stop by the Accessibility Table at the side entrance of the sanctuary or speak to one of the ushers or greeters about any special needs.

Want more information about what's happening at St. Paul? We generally send out emails 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)
- 10am **Sunday School** (all ages)
- 10:55am **Morning Worship** (traditional service)
- 12-ish **Hospitality:** Covered Dish Fellowship Lunch (Huiet Hall, First Sundays); Coffee, Cookies and Conversation (Chester Commons, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays)

Every Wednesday:

- 6:00-6:30 **Children's Choirs** [lmwells2009@comcast.net]
- 6:30pm **Wednesday Night Supper** [terrycockrum@bellsouth.net]
- 6:30-8pm **Disciples of the Trinity Youth Group** [seedoug@hotmail.com]
- 7:00-8:00 pm **Wednesday Night Book Discussion** [susan@stpaulgrantpark.org]
- 7:30pm **Chancel Choir** [kevinhowardhill@gmail.com]

Every Thursday:

- 6:45-7:30pm **Worship First Praise Team** Contemporary Choir [tomtrimble52@aol.com]

Tin Lizzy's Cantina offers \$5.00 off Sunday brunch to anyone who brings in a Church bulletin mentioning this offer.