

# St. Paul United Methodist Church

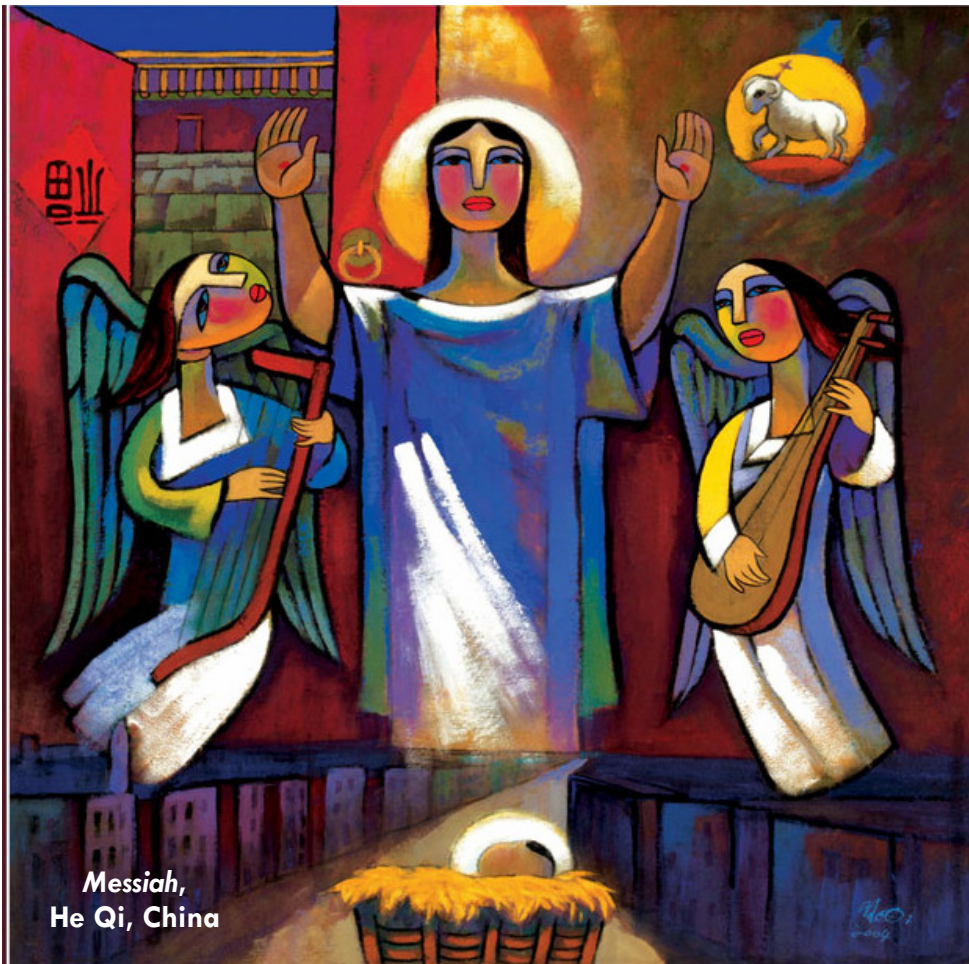
*A Good Neighbor*

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



**Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 20, 2009**

# *The Worship of God*

## Gathering

**10:55 am Worship Begins**

**Prelude**

*In Dulci Jubilo* (M Dupre)  
"In Quiet Joy"

**\*Call to Worship**

Arise, shine, for our light has come.

**And the glory of the Lord has risen on us.**

[Isaiah 60]

**\*Hymn**

*Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

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**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

the Wallace family

**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 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**

○ *Little Town of Bethlehem*

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**\*Pastoral Prayer**

## The Word Read and Shared

**\*Gospel Lesson**

Luke 2:25-32

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*What Sweeter Music* (John Rutter)

Chancel Choir

**Sermon**

Rev. Susan Allen Grady

## Advent Wreath Meditation

### *The Song of Simeon*

Scripture: Luke 2: 25-32

<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, <sup>29</sup>'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation, <sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

Hebrew custom called for male children to be presented in the Temple along with a sacrifice of praise, thanking God for the gift of life. When Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem for his presentation, they were met there by a priest named Simeon who had waited all of his life for the promise of the Messiah. Upon seeing and holding the Son of God in his hands, Simeon praised God for God's faithfulness to Simeon, letting him live long enough to greet the Savior of the world.

We often wait a long time for things:

- . . . jobs
- . . . life-partners
- . . . children
- . . . recovery from a disease
- . . . healing of broken relationships

How then do we live as those who believe that the promises of God will be fulfilled?

- . . . as those who lift up their souls to God?
- . . . as those who walk a path of love and faithfulness?
- . . . as those who work for justice and righteousness?
- . . . as those who live in the light of hope?

If we are alert to the promise of the Lord and live in the light of hope, we will be truly blessed as Christ comes again into our lives.

### **Candle Lighting Liturgy**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promises I have made.  
*[Here light the first three Advent candles.]*

**To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls: In you, O God, we trust.**

The one who is coming will show us the path of steadfast love and faithfulness.

**Teach us your ways, O God of our salvation.**

We light this candle in the sure hope that God's promises endure.

*[Here light the first Advent candle]*

**We will live in the light of hope as we await the coming of the Lord.**

## Responding to the Word

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

#### **Musical Offering**

*Jesu Bambino*

Chancel Choir

**\*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**

*O Come All Ye Faithful*

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#### **\*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

Liturgist: Laura Rappold

Advent Wreath Readers: Don, Rebecca and Billy Wallace

Children's Time: Jeff McCord

Altar Guild: Langston Daniels

Acolytes: Bryan and Telia Garner

Sound System: Tom Sweeny/Langston Daniels

Ushers: Head Usher – David Hardy; Rob MacGregor; Collin Seymour; Melissa Mason

Nursery: Tori Lutkowski and Doug Hollis

**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.