

# SAINT PAUL'S

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**



**December 14, 2025**

**“A Service of Lessons and Carols”**

**9:30 a.m.**

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**December 14, 2025, 9:30 a.m**  
**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**

<b>Welcome</b>		Rev. Carolyn Williamson
<b>Prelude</b>	<i>Bring a Torch Jeannette Isabella</i>	arr. D. Lasky
<b>Lighting of the Candles</b>	Bliss Amort-Murphy/Coraline Kline	
<b>Bidding Prayer</b>		Rev. MaryAnn Piccioni

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing, which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity and brotherhood within the church He came to build, and especially in this community.

And because this would greatly rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, upon another shore, and in a great light, that multitude which cannot be numbered, whose hope is in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises we do humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

## **Grades K-5 Kids@Art Choir**

James Andrews	Mark Woodward	Andie Merritt
Madeline Scott	Zoey Aristando Montafar	Nathanael Scott
Mary Jo Batailles	Harber Herndon	William Miller
Blair Andrews	Henry Alexander	Frankie Batailles
Maria Alexander	Mackenzie Cook	Livia Nystrand
James Fernandes	Seamus Fernandes	Cora Fernandes
Wren Thacker	John Woodward	Bliss Amort-Murphy
	Kaia Martin	

## **The Service of Lessons and Carols**

The Service of Lessons and Carols originated in 1880 at the Cathedral of Truro in Cornwall, England. Designed as a worship service for Christmas Eve with readings from Scripture and carols sung by the choir, this format has become one of the greatest Christmas musical traditions in all parts of the English-speaking world. Bishop E.W. Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury, shaped the service as we know it today: the lessons, beginning with the Fall of Man, were chosen to illustrate the story of redemption, from Old and New Testaments. Readers of the lessons formed a sequence of rank from a member of the choir to the bishop himself.

In 1918, the service was modified for use in the King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. At this time the service was shortened and the Christmas Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer were introduced. In an effort to strengthen the ties between the college and the community, the readers of the lessons included representatives from the college, the church, and the community. Almost immediately, other churches adapted the service for their own use. On Christmas Eve, 1928, the British Broadcasting Company first broadcasted the service throughout the world. In 1954 a special service was prepared for television.

In the words of Dean Milner-White, planner of the 1918 King's College service, "the main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God as seen throughout the windows and words of the Bible. The center of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads."

## THIS WEEK AT SAINT PAUL'S

- Sunday, Dec. 14** - A Service of Lessons & Carols, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Sunday School, 10:45 a.m.  
Starting Point Class, 10:45 a.m., Side Narthex  
Youth Movie Day/Christmas Party, 12:30 p.m., Parlor  
Contemporary Service, 6:00 p.m., Sanders Hall
- Monday, Dec. 15** - Chair Yoga Class, 11:00 a.m., Sanders Hall  
Daisy Scouts, 6:00 p.m., Room 301
- Tuesday, Dec. 16** - Men's Reading Community, 8:30 a.m., Ology Northside  
Trustees Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Room 325  
Ed Wynn Luncheon, 10:30 a.m., Sanders Hall  
Alzheimer's Support Group Lunch, 11:30 a.m., Parlor  
Girl Scout Troop 67, 6:00 p.m., Parlor  
Covenant Chancel Choir, 6:15 p.m., Choir Room
- Wednesday, Dec. 17** - Prayer Meeting, 8:00 a.m., Zoom  
PreSchool Music, 5:10 p.m., Room 200  
Wednesday Night Dinner (Pizza Night), 5:15 p.m., SH  
Youth Christmas Caroling, 6:15 p.m.  
A Service of Light in the Darkness, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary
- Thursday, Dec. 18** - Circle of Support Group, 10:00 a.m., Parlor
- Friday, Dec. 19** - Alzheimer's Respite, 9:00 a.m., Parlor
- Saturday, Dec. 20** - Manna on Meridian, 8:00 a.m., Faith Presbyterian
- Sunday, Dec. 21** - Sunday Worship, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Children's Christmas Pageant, 9:30 a.m., Sanctuary  
Sunday School, 10:45 a.m.  
Contemporary Service, 6:00 p.m., Sanders Hall

### LARGE PRINT HYMNALS

Large print hymnals are available to those who would like to use them during worship. Please ask an usher.