



**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**  
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."  
**Sunday, November 30th, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service**  
**First Sunday of Advent ~ "Hope"**



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*We welcome you, trusting that this time of worship will open our hearts to experience the Spirit's movement among us. Together, we seek peace, health, and wholeness as we gather in God's presence.*

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*\*Indicates a standing portion of the service. Please stand as you are able.*

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**GATHERING**

**Gathering Music** "Signs" *Molly MacMillan, piano*  
by Les Emmerson

**Welcome & Greeting** *Pastor Alicia*

**Lighting of the Advent Candle** *Patty Sipman & John Marohn*

**\*Opening Unison Prayer**

**Here, at the nativity of your birth,  
give us the courage to face this moment  
with humility and hope.  
Open us to new understandings of  
the unfolding story of your presence among us.  
Show us the true meaning of the kingdom on earth  
as it is in heaven.  
We pray in the name of the Child,  
the One Who Reigns in our hearts and lives.  
Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn** "King of Kings" (*sing twice*) *FWS #2075*

**\*Sharing Love and Peace with All**

**PROCLAIMING**

**A Message for All God's Children** *Pastor Alicia Wood*

**Special Music** "Prelude op 28 no. 17 in Ab Major"  
by Frederic Chopin *Miles Hall, piano*

**Scripture:****Lamentations 3:46-57***Jaekah Chase*

Our enemies laugh at us with open mouths.  
 The snare and pit of the hunter lie ahead of us—  
 devastation and ruin!  
 Rivers of water run from my eyes  
 because my people are destroyed.  
 Tears flow continuously from my eyes,  
 refusing all comfort—  
 all of this while YHWH watches from the heavens.  
 My spirit is grieved as I see the fate of children in my city.  
 Those who became my enemies without provocation  
 chased and harangued me like a bird.

**Luke 2:1-5**

In those days, Caesar Augustus published a decree ordering a census of the whole Roman world. This first census took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people were instructed to go back to the towns of their birth to register. And so Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to “the city of David”—Bethlehem, in Judea, because Joseph was of the house and lineage of David; he went to register with Mary, his espoused wife, who was pregnant.

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

**Thanks be to God!**

**Message**

“Signs of Hope”

*Pastor Alicia Wood***RESPONDING**

**\*Hymn of Response** “Jesus, Name Above All Names” (*sing twice*) FWS #2071

**Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer***Ann Bohman***Offering Our Gifts to God****Offertory**

“Benediction at God’s Acre”

by Gwynyth Walker

*Molly MacMillan,*  
*piano & vocals*  
*Maia Finkel, vocals*

**\*Doxology**“What Gift Can We Bring” (*verse 4*)

UMH #87

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (in unison)

**God full of hope, we give these gifts with the hope and courage that the hungry will be fed, the homeless will find a place that feels like home and the lost will be found. We ask that you continue to offer your hope**



**Children and Worship** – Children are always welcome in worship! To help keep small hands busy, we have books and toys on the black cart near the main sanctuary door. **Children aged 4 to 11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers” following the “Message for Children” segment during worship (except on Communion Sundays).**

### ***Advent Study Group Begins Tomorrow Evening***

Our hybrid Advent Study Group will start meeting **tomorrow night at 7-8:15pm**. We'll be discussing the book, "The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope." **Please read pages 1-24 before class December 1<sup>st</sup>.** To purchase a copy, please stop by the office and see Dee. The cost of the book is \$11. If paying by check, please make out to “SPUMC” with “Advent Study Group” in the subject line. Please join us if you can!

### ***Share A Coffee with the Pastor This Wednesday***

Coffee with the Pastor will meet **this Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:45-10:45am**, continuing every Wednesday after until December 17 (maybe 23<sup>rd</sup>). We'll gather to discuss the Daily Journal for Advent that follows our Advent worship series, "What Child IS This? Beyond the Lullaby." Stop by the office for a copy; if you'd prefer to follow along online or download a copy at home, (go to link to come.) Let us go deeper on our journey of faith this season.

### ***Mark Your Calendar for the OAM Holiday Luncheon***

The Older Adult Ministry team invites you to join them for a festive holiday lunch, carol singing, and homemade cookies to be held in the Memorial Rooms on **Thursday, December 11, from 11:30-1:30**. Look for an invitation in your email or contact the church office by Sunday, December 7, if you would like to attend.

### ***Time to Decorate Christmas Cookies!***

St Paul's will be holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Intergenerational Cookie Decorating on **Sunday, December 14 in the Memorial Room after worship at 12:15pm**. Everyone is invited to participate and to bring friends! Please sign-up ASAP with Dee at [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org) or call 607-273-5971 so we have enough cookies and decorating items on hand for everyone.

### ***Calling All Cookie Bakers***

We need 15 dozen sugar or gingerbread cut-out or flat drop cookies for our Cookie Decorating party on December 14th. A few dozen gluten-free cookies are needed as well. If you can bake cookies to decorate, please contact Joellyn Tuttle at [jrwuttute@gmail.com](mailto:jrwuttute@gmail.com) or ring/text her at: 315-289-7187. Thank you in advance!

**\*It's almost time to order your holiday poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one! You'll find an order form in the 2025 Winter Newsletter, as well as on our website. Dee in the office will have copies as well. Don't delay!**

#### **Our Staff**

**Rev. Alicia (Pastor Alicia) Wood** / Senior Pastor / [pastor@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Jami Breedlove-Crouch** / Loving Care Ministries Coordinator / [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Dee Levine** / Church Administrative Assistant & Communications / [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org)  
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**Maia Finkel** / Choral and Ensembles Director / [choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Molly MacMillan** / Pianist / [pianist@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pianist@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**David Kingsley** / Technical Director / [dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Dorothy Preston** / Festival Chimes Director / [dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Sue Orzel** / Custodian

#### **St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

402 North Aurora St., Ithaca, NY

Find us at [www.stpaulsithaca.org](http://www.stpaulsithaca.org), Facebook and Instagram

**Church Office Hours are 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Sunday – Thursday**

Office Phone: 607-273-5971 Pastoral Care Line: 607-269-5509

# King of Kings

2075

①



② (*opt. harmony*)



*May be sung as a canon.*

WORDS: Sophie Conty and Naomi Batya (Isa. 9:6; Rev. 17:14)

MUSIC: Anon.

KING OF KINGS  
Irregular

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# Jesus, Name above All Names

2071



Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful



Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord. Em - man - u - el, God is



with us, bless - ed Re - deem - er, liv - ing Word.

WORDS: Naida Hearn (Matt. 1:23; John 1:14; Phil. 2:9)

MUSIC: Naida Hearn

NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Irregular

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## What Gift Can We Bring

*Unison*

1. What gift can we bring, what present, what to-ken?  
 2. Give thanks for the past, for those who had vi-sion,  
 3. Give thanks for to-mor-row, full of sur-pris-es,  
 4. This gift we now bring, this present, this to-ken,

What words can con-vey it, the joy of this day?  
 who plant-ed and wa-tered so dreams could come true.  
 for know-ing what-ev-er to-mor-row may bring,  
 these words can con-vey it, the joy of this day!

When grate-ful we come, re-mem-bering, re-joic-ing,  
 Give thanks for the now, for stud-y, for wor-ship,  
 the Word is our prom-ise al-ways, for-ev-er;  
 When grate-ful we come, re-mem-bering, re-joic-ing,

what song can we of-fer in hon-or and praise?  
 for mis-sion that bids us turn prayer in-to deed.  
 we rest in God's keep-ing and live in God's love.  
 this song we now of-fer in hon-or and praise!

## Precious Name



1. Take the name of Je - sus with you,  
 2. Take the name of Je - sus ev - er,  
 3. O the pre - cious name of Je - sus!  
 4. At the name of Je - sus bow - ing,



child of sor - row and of woe;  
 as a shield from ev - ery snare;  
 How it thrills our souls with joy,  
 fall - ing pros - trate at his feet,



it will joy and com - fort give you;  
 if temp - ta - tions round you gath - er,  
 when his lov - ing arms re - ceive us,  
 King of kings in heaven we'll crown him,



take it then, wher - e'er you go.  
 breathe that ho - ly name in prayer.  
 and his songs our tongues em - ploy!  
 when our jour - ney is com - plete.

*Refrain*

Pre - cious name, O how sweet!  
 Pre - cious name, O how sweet!

Hope of earth and joy of heaven. Pre-cious name,  
 Pre-cious name,

O how sweet! Hope of earth and joy of heaven.  
 O how sweet, how sweet!