



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."

Sunday, December 28th, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service

Epiphany Sunday



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.*

GATHERING

Gathering Music "Standing on the Promises" *Alejandro*
by R. Kelso Carter *Bernard-Papachryssanthou, piano*

Greeting & Welcome

Centering Music "Great is Thy Faithfulness" *Alejandro*
by Thomas O. Chisholm *Bernard-Papachryssanthou, piano*

Lighting of the Advent Candle

***Opening Prayer** (unison)

**Holy God,
Here, at the nativity of your birth,
give us the courage to face this moment
with the desire for justice.
Open us to new understandings of
the unfolding story of your presence among us.
Show us the true gifts we must bring to our moment,
as we seek a better kin-dom on this earth.
We pray in the name of the Child,
the One Who Reigns in our hearts and lives.
Amen.**

***Opening Hymn Sing**

***Sharing Love & Peace with All**

PROCLAIMING

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

Special Music "Mary, Did You Know?" *Alejandro*
by Buddy Greene/Mark Lowry *Bernard-Papachryssanthou, piano*

Scripture **John 1: 1-18 (CEB)** *Marilou Slattery*

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God

and the Word was God.
The Word was with God in the beginning.
Everything came into being through the Word,
and without the Word
nothing came into being.
What came into being
through the Word was life,
and the life was the light for all people.

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.
A man named John was sent from God. He came as a witness to testify concerning the light, so that
through him everyone would believe in the light. He himself wasn't the light, but his mission was to
testify concerning the light.

The true light that shines on all people
was coming into the world.
The light was in the world,
and the world came into being through the light,
but the world didn't recognize the light.

The light came to his own people,
and his own people didn't welcome him.
But those who did welcome him,
those who believed in his name,
he authorized to become God's children,
born not from blood
nor from human desire or passion,
but born from God.

The Word became flesh
and made his home among us.

We have seen his glory,
glory like that of a father's only son,
full of grace and truth.

John testified about him, crying out, "This is the one of whom I said, 'He who comes
after me is greater than me because he existed before me.'"

From his fullness we have all received grace upon grace;
as the Law was given through Moses,
so grace and truth came into being through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God.

God the only Son,
who is at the Father's side,
has made God known.

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!
Thanks Be to God!

Message

"The Work of Christmas Begins"

Pastor Alicia Wood

RESPONDING

***Hymn Sing**

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Jami Breedlove-Crouch

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory

“Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior”
by Fanny Crosby

Alejandro
Bernard-Papachryssanthou, piano

***Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH#94

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

Radiant God, the light of your wisdom and love shines for all who seek you, guiding us not with force, but with grace. Like the Magi, we come bearing gifts, not to earn your favor, but in response to the gift of Christ you’ve given us. Use these offerings to reflect your light into dark places, so that others might be drawn to your love, your justice, and your joy. Keep us faithful in our seeking, generous in our sharing, and willing to be led wherever your star shines next. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

SENDING FORTH

Announcements

***Closing Hymn Sing**

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude

“His Eye is On the Sparrow”
by Civilla D. Martin

Alejandro
Bernard-Papachryssanthou, piano

-----PRAYERS-----

For **Prayer Chain Requests**, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

Prayer Requests: Family of Melissa Gould; Joan Reppert; Linda Yetter; Ruth Lovelace; Andrea Downing Zheng and family; Larry Roberts; Mary and Matthew Boardman. Pray for healing within the United Methodist Church as we live into the new reality of being a fully inclusive denomination.

Prayer requests will be published in the bulletin for four weeks. If you would like someone to remain on the list, Jami Breedlove-Crouch at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org or 607-269- 5509. Please remember that we also need permission from the person listed.

St. Paul’s Ministries ~ Week of December 28th, 2025

Monday, December 29th

Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, December 30th

Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 31st – New Year’s Eve

Church Offices Closed

Thursday, January 1st – New Year’s Day

Church Offices Closed

Friday, January 2nd

Church Offices Closed

Saturday, January 3rd

Sunday, January 4th

10:30am – Worship w/Communion– Sanctuary

11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room

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 ages 4 to 11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers” following the “Message for Children” segment during worship (except on Communion Sundays).** * Please note “Faith Explorers” has wrapped up for the season. Classes will resume January 11, 2026.

We Need Your Help

We'll be taking down Christmas Decorations in the Sanctuary on **January 11th** following worship. Many hands make light work! Please help if you can.

New Study Group to Start in January

In January we'll begin a small group study, "The United Methodist Way: Living Our Beliefs." We'll explore a basic explanation of the beliefs and practices of the United Methodist Church. Uncover a deeper understanding and experience of Christian faith as we embrace the United Methodist way. Join us Mondays at 7:00pm or Tuesdays at 11:00am. To sign up, contact Dee at office@stpaulsithaca.org. For questions, email Pastor Alicia at pastor@stpaulsithaca.org.

United Women in Faith Meets January 22nd

Email Wendy Kimble Dugan at wendykaydee@gmail.com for questions and details.

LGBTQ Vow Renewal at St. Paul's on February 15th

St. Paul's and our Reconciling Team will be offering the congregation a “Vow Renewal Ceremony” for those LGBTQ couples that were married in another state, country, or outside the church. This ceremony is open to any already married same gender couple. For more info and to be included in the vow renewal, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: Breedlove.Jami@gmail.com.

Mission of the Month

In January, we'll be highlighting Code Blue through donations and awareness. Please email Jami at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org for a list of needed donation items.

Connections Resumes in February

Connections, our young adult group, will resume their monthly meetings on Sunday, **February 1st** after worship at noon. Lunch will be provided.

Coffee with the Pastor

Coffee with the Pastor will continue on Wednesday Mornings at 9:45am in the Memorial Room. Come to pray, talk, and ask questions. All are welcome!

Our Staff

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

St. Paul's United Methodist Church

402 North Aurora St., Ithaca, NY

Find us at 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

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

Harmony

God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Unison

Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

Harmony

Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a unison setting of 'Alleluia'. It consists of two staves: a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are placed between the two staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first two phrases are followed by exclamation points, while the third phrase ends with a period. The music features a variety of note values, including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests. There are several instances of beamed eighth notes and quarter notes, and a few half notes. The piece concludes with a final cadence on the word 'ia!'.