

**EPIPHANY & NEW
YEAR'S DAY**

1

1 January 2012
11:00 am

Bishop

Mary Virginia Taylor

District Superintendent

Dr. Charles Johnson

Pastor

Rev. Murray A. Snow
murray.snow@gmail.com
Cell: 864-414-8864

Director of Music

William H. Searcy, Jr.

Ushers

Captain:

Tommy Head

Ushers:

Charlie Robertson
Diane Robertson,
David Pool
Taunja Pool

Counters:

Tommy Head
Charlie Robertson



MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of Saint Paul United Methodist Church is to be the people of God who praise God in worship, celebrating God's love and healing presence in Jesus Christ. We are called to be signs of hope and healing to all people in our community and the world, reaching out in ministries of love, compassion and care as we seek to follow the example of Jesus Christ.

Saint Paul United Methodist Church

In the Historic West End

1107 South Main Street
Greenville, South Carolina 29601

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The Order of Worship

Let the people be in silent meditation and prayer upon entering the Sanctuary

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*PRELUDE “O How Joyfully” ... Traditional German Carol, arr. Leazit

*LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

*CALL TO WORSHIP “Emmanuel, Emmanuel” Choir and Congregation

“Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.
“Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.
God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel.”²

*GREETING

At Christmas we celebrate the coming of God to earth in human form.

The shepherds listen to the songs of angels,

And the Magi follow the stars,

But the glory of God shines in a manger.

"Go, tell it on the mountain,

Over the hills and everywhere,

Go, tell it on the mountain

That Jesus Christ is born!"³

*INVOCATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us pray . . .

*HYMN NO. 249

“There’s a Song in the Air”

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, Hymnal No. 880

“The Nicene Creed”

*THE GLORIA PATRI, Hymnal 70

“Glory Be to the Father

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Let us Pray: **Great God, today we are reminded of the wondrous gifts of the Magi brought for the Prince of Peace. We have traveled to this time of worship, hoping to discover the thrill of new birth. And, indeed, we have smiles on our faces as we lift up our eyes, look around, and experience the presence of Jesus. We place these gifts, our gifts, upon your altar and rejoice in God's radiant love. Praise the Lord! Amen.**⁴

Offertory "Still, Still, Still" ... Salzburg Melody, c. 1819, arr. Leazitt

*THE DOXOLOGY, Hymnal 95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND PARDON (*responsive*)

. . . Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.⁵

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 60:1-6

THE ANTHEM

"Go Tell It On The Mountain" ... Steve Vaughn, Bass Solo

*GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON

“Star of Wonder, Star of Light”

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

HYMNAL, Page 15

This is the Lord’s Table. All are invited to partake of the Sacrament.
Receive the bread as it is placed in the palm of your hand and hold it until the cup is presented to you. The bread is lightly dipped into the cup and eaten.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN NO. 254

“We Three Kings”

*BENEDICTION “The Lord Bless You and Keep You” Choir and Congregation

“May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his light be always in thee.
May he keep you safe from harm, Give shelter from the storm,
May he grant you, May he grant you, his peace, Amen.”

*POSTLUDE “Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!” ... Old German Chorale ... J. S. Bach

¹ Clip Art for the Liturgical Year . Clemens Schmidt and Placid Stuckenschneider. Liturgical Press, Collegeville, MN. 2003

² *The United Methodist Hymnal*. “Emmanuel. Emmanuel” 204.

³ From *Litanies and Other Prayers for the Revised Common Lectionary: Year A*, by Everett Tilson and Phyllis Cole. Copyright © 1989, 1992 by Abingdon Press.

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⁵ The United Methodist Book of Worship. Copyright © 1992 The United Methodist Publishing House. 7-8