

CHRISTMAS DAY

1

25 December 2011
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

Captains:

Troy Gamble
Rebecca Roper

Ushers:

Young Adults

Counters:

Calvin Bostic
Troy Gamble



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

Office: 864.235.3494
saintpaulumc1107@bellsouth.net
www.saintpaulumc.net

The Order of Worship

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

*PRELUDE

*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

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
**And the Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory.**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. 246

“Joy to the World”

*HYMN NO. 234

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

***A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe in God, the creator and giver of life, who brought all creation to birth, who mothers us and fathers us, protecting, nurturing, and cherishing us.

We believe in Jesus Christ: God born among us as a fragile baby, embodying both love and the need for love, and calling us to rest in God as trustingly as a tiny child.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, breathed into us at our birth, always drawing us on to be born again, encouraging, exhorting, comforting, nourishing our growth and inspiring our living.

We believe in the reconciliation of the world to God, through Christ. Hunted at birth and humiliated at death, Christ entered our fearful darkness so that we might enter his glorious light and share the life of his resurrection.

**And we believe that each new child is a glimpse of the face of God, a sign of the life to come, and a call to live in peace and celebrate living together. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.⁴
Amen.**

***THE GLORIA PATRI, Hymnal 70**

“Glory Be to the Father”

STAFF RECOGNITION

OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD

Let us Pray: **Holy One, as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we seek to honor you with these monetary gifts. We know that everything in this world is a gift from you, O God, so we humbly return a generous portion of these gifts to you. We pray that these gifts may help this church to change people's lives and to spread your message of salvation. In the name of the Babe lying in the manger, we pray. Amen.⁵**

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY, Hymnal 95**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ANTHEM "Born Is the Light of the World" ... Sally Defoyd

*GOSPEL LESSON John 1:1-14

SERMON "Children of God"

*HYMN NO. 230

*HYMN NO. 251 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

*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

¹ unknwn

² *The United Methodist Hymnal*. "Emmanuel. Emmanuel" 204.

³ *The United Methodist Book of Worship*. 272.

⁴ Nathan Nettleton, 1999, incorporating some lines from "Midwife of our lives" by Kathy Galloway published in Kathy Galloway (ed.) *The Pattern of Our Days*, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, 1996, p.138. Posted on Nettleton's Laughingbird.net website.

⁵ Copyright © 2008 David S. Bell Any local church, regardless of denominational affiliation, or any United Methodist organization may reprint any or all of these prayers provided that the author is cited..