

WEEKLY BULLETIN

2101 WILDWOOD AVENUE, COLUMBUS, GA 31906

First Sunday of Advent

Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year—a four-week season of anticipation leading us to the celebration of Christ's birth and the hope of His return. The word Advent comes from the Latin *adventus*, meaning "arrival" or "coming." The earliest Christians observed Advent as both preparation and longing: preparation for the incarnation and longing for the day when Christ will make all things new. Over the centuries, the Church has kept these weeks as a sacred time to slow down, lift our eyes above the noise, and remember that God enters our world not on our schedule but in his timing.

Throughout church history, Advent was shaped by reflection, fasting, and prayer. It was a counter-rhythm to the frantic pace of ordinary life. The early Church understood something we often forget: to wait is to trust. To wait is to confess that salvation is not something we manufacture but something we receive. Advent invites us to step away from the hurried frenzy of a world obsessed with instant results and immediate gratification. It teaches us that God's promises unfold steadily, quietly, and faithfully often in the hidden places long before they become visible.

This makes the discipline of waiting one of the most powerful acts of spiritual resistance we can offer. In a culture that praises speed, productivity, and constant motion, choosing to wait becomes a holy protest. It is the declaration that our worth is not measured by how fast we move. It is the reminder that God is not rushed and neither must we be. Waiting stretches our hearts, clears our vision, and trains us to see God's grace at work in ways we would otherwise miss because we are too busy.

When we learn to wait, something inside us begins to shift. We discover we are less angry and less reactive because waiting teaches us to trust rather than control. Therefore, we are more at peace because stillness roots us in God's presence rather than the pressure of our circumstances. We become more ready to love, because unhurried hearts have room for compassion, patience, and joy. Advent forms this posture within us, one candle, one prayer, one week at a time. May this season awaken in us the courage to slow down, the faith to wait well, and the hope that Christ—our long-expected One—will meet us in the waiting.



Shane

Traditional Worship
8:30 A.M.

Illges Chapel (M250)

Rev. Dr. Shane Green

O Holy Night: The Ache of Waiting
(A Weary World Rejoices)

Isaiah 9:1-7

Contemporary Worship
9:00 A.M.

Fellowship Hall (M220)

Rev. Dr. Shane Green

O Holy Night: The Ache of Waiting
(A Weary World Rejoices)

Isaiah 9:1-7

Traditional Worship
11:00 A.M.

Sanctuary (M260)

Rev. Dr. Shane Green

O Holy Night: The Ache of Waiting
(A Weary World Rejoices)

Isaiah 9:1-7

Broadcast Live at 11:00
at stpaulcolumbus.live

Blue is used on November 30 because it marks the beginning of Advent, a season of hopeful expectation. We use blue to symbolize the hope of Christ's coming, reminding us that the Light of the World is about to dawn.

EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

“Share the Joy!” We’re creating Christmas Eve goodie bags for our firefighters and need candy canes, snack cakes, crackers, nuts, granola bars, and gum. Please bring donations to the church office by December 19. To help deliver bags on Christmas Eve, contact Grace.

Adult Ministries: Join us Sat., Dec. 6 for Shine at Columbus Botanical Gardens and dinner at Outback. \$15 for Shine (payable to St. Paul); dinner dutch treat. Bus departs 5:30 p.m. from the church. RSVP by Dec. 4 to grace@stpaulcolumbus.com

Join us on Sunday, December 7 at 6:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary, as our Chancel Choir presents **Handel’s Messiah**. This beloved masterpiece draws us into the wonder of Christ’s coming with powerful scripture and music. Come, experience the hope of the season.

Be a **“Messenger of Love!”** On Sunday, December 7, Messengers will be delivering poinsettias to those who are unwillingly absent from church or have recently lost loved ones. Let’s share God’s love during this Advent season. Contact Grace Bailey at grace@stpaulcolumbus.com

The next **American Red Cross Blood Drive** will be next Sunday, Dec. 7 in the Youth Building. You may register for the event with Ken at kchung@graddyconstruction.com. Walk-ins are also welcome! Please give the gift of life this season!

St. Paul members and friends, you are invited to **travel with St. Paul to Italy** June 2–11! We’ll explore our rich Christian history by visiting Florence, Rome, Pompeii, and more beautiful cities. It’s a deal for \$5390 per person. RSVP with the church office at 706-327-7419.

The **Altar Guild** helps to enhance the beauty of our worship services during Advent. Look for information in your bulletin insert so that you can support our year-round work. If you are interested in helping decorate this season, please call Liz Lampton: 646-236-1442.

Wayne Martz’s Retirement Lunch will be after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday, Dec. 14, in the Fellowship Hall. Please mark the date on your calendar. Wayne retires at the end of 2025 and we would love to have you help celebrate 21 years!

PASTORS & PROGRAM STAFF

Rev. Dr. Shane Green
Senior Minister

Rev. John Fugh, Jr.
Associate Minister

Philip Badcock
Church Administrator

Grace Bailey
Director of Christian Education

Lauren Coleman
Administrative Assistant

Dr. Bruce Getz
Broadcast Operations Manager

Donna Hightower
Director of Children’s Ministry

Roy Hightower
Assistant to Director of Children’s Ministry

Theresa Holzknecht
Communications Director

Catherine Hutchings
Receptionist

Shannon Land
Executive Assistant

Wayne Martz
Director of Music Ministry

Laura Marvets
Director of Youth Ministry

Cindy Shavers
Financial Records & Administration



Advent



CHILDREN'S CHOIRS

We are back tonight to practice for our upcoming Children's Christmas Musical, "A Christmas Yarn," which will be on Wednesday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the old CWC! Congrats to those given acting/singing parts!



KIDMIN MOMENTS



On December 5 we have **Sabbath before Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. and **Club 45 Dinner and Ice Skating** at 5:00 p.m. Please see Donna or Roy for details so that you don't miss out on these fun activities.



Our **Birthday Party for Jesus** will be on December 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join us for this day of celebration! Youth, you are being asked to serve and volunteer. Please go to our events page to sign up.

SPY MINISTRY

No Sunday Night Youth for November 30th! We have had a full month for November; this Sunday we want to focus on Sabbath rest before December hits us with the events leading up to Christmas. We encourage you to spend time with family and/or friends, but maybe do it without your phones and go outside in nature. Spend 5 minutes meditating on a passage of Scripture from the YouVersion Bible app. Do something that is restful without social media or technology. God longs to connect with you; the question is will you create space to spend time with him? We hope everyone has had a great Thanksgiving break!



Sunday, November 30
8:30 AM Traditional Worship (M250)
9:00 AM Contemporary Worship (M220)
9:30 AM Weekly Communion (M250)
10:00 AM Bridges SS Class (M235)
10:00 AM Disciple 1 Bible Study (Library)
10:00 AM Foundry Class (Y101)
10:00 AM High School Youth SS Class (Y104)
10:00 AM Middle School Youth SS Class (Y106)
10:00 AM New Life SS Class (Y102)
10:00 AM Seekers Class (M234)
10:00 AM Wesley/Miller-Wilson Class (M232)
10:00 AM Wildwood Class (M150)
11:00 AM Traditional Worship (M260)
2:00 PM Spring Harbor Worship (Off Campus)
6:00 PM Children's Choirs Rehearsal (M235)

Monday, December 1
1:30 PM Staff Meeting (M203)

Tuesday, December 2
9:30 AM Yoga Redeemed (M235)
10:00 AM TMBS (M232)
11:00 AM Grace Bible Study (M235)
4:00 PM Spring Harbor Bible Study (Off Campus)

Wednesday, December 3
5:00 PM Handbell Practice (M270)
6:00 PM Family Night Supper (M220)
7:00 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal (M260)

Thursday, December 4
6:30 AM Men's Bible Study (M232)
9:30 AM Preschool Moms Bible Study (M234)

Friday, December 5
4:00 PM Sabbath Before Sunday (Y210)
5:00 PM Club 45 Dinner and Ice Skating (Off Campus)

Saturday, December 6
5:30 PM Shine at Botanical Gardens and Dinner (Off Campus)

Today's Sunday School Lesson for Preschool and Elementary Children Mary's Story (Luke 1:26-38, 46-47)

Anchor Point – We celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Say the Bible verse together: "A child is born to us." (Isaiah 9:6)

Questions for family discussion:

- How do you think Mary felt when she found out she was going to be the mother of the Son of God?
- What would you do if an angel appeared to you?
- Why do you think God chose Mary to be the mother of Jesus?

Prayer:

Dear God, help us to pray like Mary—with all our hearts we will glorify the Lord. We rejoice in God our savior. Amen.

SERVING THIS WEEK

- (8:30) Acolytes: Parker Varner and Rob Springer
- (11:00) Acolytes: Bennett Fields and Louise Fowler
- Cross Bearer: McKay Godwin
- Acolyte Helper: Jessica Adams

ALTAR GUILD

- Sanctuary: Betty Roberts
- Chapel: Mimi Copelan and Joyce Johnson
- Delivery: Becky Baker and Mary Pat King

USHERS

- (8:30) Ken Crumpler, Stan Copelan
- (11:00) Ron Daniel (Lead Usher), Will Cliatt, Wade Cliatt, Ryan Sheffield, Billy Byrd, Michael Bleke

The Season of Advent

The flowers on the Sanctuary Altar today are given to the glory of God and in honor of **Sally Beck** on her 18th birthday, and in remembrance of her beloved grandfather, **Dr. W. David Varner, Jr.**

MEMORIAL & HONORARIUM GIFTS

Media Fund

In memory of **Marilyn Fugh**

- by Karen and Ron West
- by Courtney and Mark Ellis

Music Ministry

In honor of and with grateful appreciation for **Jeanne and Wayne Martz**

- by Beth Thomas

Wesley/Miller-Wilson Class

In memory of **Susie Fowler**

- by Betty and Mike Hipps

In memory of **Carol Auten**

- by Karen and Ron West

Wynnton Neighborhood Network

In honor of **Mary Lou Jarrell**

- by Betty and Mike Hipps

In memory of **Kathy Day**

In memory of **Donna Hunt**

In memory of **Anne Douglas**

- all by Karen and Ron West

Please keep our **Music Ministry Search Committee** in your prayers as they discern the next leader to guide and inspire our worship through music. Pray for wisdom, unity, and clarity as they continue to interview candidates and listen for the Spirit's direction. May God prepare both our church and the person(s) God is calling to this vital ministry of praise.

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 30, 2025
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

First Sunday of Advent

The Chiming of the Hour

The Welcome & AnnouncementsMrs. Grace Bailey

The Choral Call to Worship.....*Prepare the Way of the Lord*

The Cross and Flame Come to the Altar

The Prelude.....*Adagio from Sonata No. 1 in G Minor, by J.S. Bach*
Violin: McKenzie Feters

The Hymn of Celebration.....*Hail to the Lord's Anointed (#203)*

The Affirmation of Faith*The Apostles' Creed (#881)*

The Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it
was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath.....Adele and Hofer Stone Family

Advent Reader: *Today we light the Candle of Hope.*

Congregation: *We name the ache of a world that waits in darkness.*

Advent Reader: *Yet we trust the promise of a light that will not be
overcome.*

Congregation: *As we light this candle, we remember that even in the
long night, God is already at work bringing dawn. "Long lay the world
in sin and error pining..."*

Chancel Choir Response: *Fall on your knees, O hear the angel
voices...*

O night divine, O night when Christ was born!



The Pastoral Prayer with the Lord’s Prayer.....Mrs. Bailey

Hymn of Preparation.....*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* (#196)

The Leader: *Let Us Worship God with His Tithes and Our Offerings.*

The Offertory Prayer.....Mrs. Bailey

The Offertory.....Mother and Child from Suite for Violin and Piano, by W.G. Still
Violin: McKenzie Feters

The Doxology
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below: praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Scripture Lesson.....Isaiah 9:1-7

Leader: *The Word of God for the People of God.*

Congregational Response: *Thanks be to God.*

The Passing of the Peace
Leader: *The Peace of Christ be with you.*
Congregational Response: *And also with you.*

The Welcome and Registration of Attendance

The Children’s Moment.....Mrs. Donna Hightower
(After the Children’s Moment, ages K4-2nd graders are dismissed to go to Children’s Church; children 3 and younger are taken to the nursery by parents, Room M235)

The Anthem.....*Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, by J.S. Bach
Violin: McKenzie Feters, Cello: Mason Stokes

The Sermon.....*O Holy Night: The Ache of Waiting*
(A Weary World Rejoices), Rev. Dr. Shane Green

The Hymn of Consecration.....*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* (#213)

The Cross and Flame Go Before Us into the World

The Choral Benediction and Amen.....*Dresden Amen*

The Postlude.....*Wachet auf*, arr J. Bender

The Church Returns to His World to Serve Him