



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

*We follow Jesus, welcome all, and nurture ministries.*



*Online Bulletin*

## The First Sunday after Christmas Day December 31, 2017 8 a.m.

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### *Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.*

*Whether this is your first visit or you have been a member for years, we're glad you're here! This bulletin is designed to guide you through the service. Hymnals, Bibles and the Book of Common Prayer are in the pews and available for your use as well. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to make your time with us more enriching and enjoyable.*

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### Holy Eucharist *Liturgy of the Word*

**Prelude** *Instrumental*

*Please stand at the sound of the bell*

**Entrance Hymn** **All glory be to God on high** **Hymnal 421**

**Opening Salutation** *Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 323*

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name: through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:  
Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
**Christ, have mercy upon us.**  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.

We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

### Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

*As Episcopalians, our custom is to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest Holy Scripture. You are invited to do so right here in your bulletin.*

### First Reading

**Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 147:13-21

- 13 Jerusalem will worship you, O God; \*  
and Zion will praise your name.
- 14 For you have strengthened the bars of our gates; \*  
and have blest our children within us.
- 15 You have established peace on our borders; \*  
and satisfied us with the finest wheat.
- 16 You send out your command to the earth, \*  
and your word runs very swiftly.
- 17 You give snow like wool; \*  
and scatter hoarfrost like ashes.
- 18 You scatter your hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against your cold?
- 19 You send forth your word and melt them; \*  
you blow with your wind and the waters flow.
- 20 You declare your word to Jacob, \*  
your statutes and your judgments to Israel.
- 21 You have not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them you have not revealed your judgments.  
Alleluia!

## Second Reading

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader      The Word of the Lord  
People      **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*Please stand.*

**John 1:1-18**

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.  
*People* **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

## Sermon

The Reverend Anthony Guillén

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## Nicene Creed

*All stand and say together.*

*Book of Common Prayer p. 326*

## Prayers of the People

*Please stand or kneel as is your custom.*

*Book of Common Prayer p. 328*

*Deacon*

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

*Leader*

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Teach us, O God, to treasure the differences that distinguish one person from another. Help us to overcome fear and hatred. Open our hearts to see thy radiance in every human soul. Give us the courage to combat prejudice and intolerance, and bless us with compassion, with kindness, and with peace. <sup>1</sup>

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers *especially our bishops John and Diane; our clergy Susan, Ed, and Dick;* that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land *especially Donald, our President; the congress and courts; Jerry, our Governor,* that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor **Lillian, Wayne, Marilyn, Adele, Babs, James, Jacob, Scott, Jim, Carolyn, Stephanie, Tom, Maggie, Duncan, Shelia, Frank, Julie, Helen, Kevin, Doug, Carol, Marguerite and Kathy.** *And those enduring a long term illness especially Virginia, Gigi, Margery, Sheila, Carrie, Linda, Judy, Michelle, Lucille, Rachel, Kathy* and those others on our hearts and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*(See page 7 for other parish petitions and prayers of thanksgiving.)*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear especially *David Baarstad, Virginia Brandon, Frank Millard, Richard Kay Smith and others whose names we bring before God,* beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Paul and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

*Book of Common Prayer p. 330*

### **Peace**

*All stand as they are able.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And with thy spirit.**

### **Announcements**

*Please be seated.*

### **Prayers for birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions.**

## *Liturgy of the Table*

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

**Offertory** *Instrumental*

**Presentation Hymn** **Good Christian friends, rejoice** **Hymnal 107**  
*Please stand.*

**Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer I)** *Book of Common Prayer p. 333*

**The Lord's Prayer** *Book of Common Prayer p. 336*

**Breaking of the Bread** *Book of Common Prayer p. 337*  
*A period of silence is kept.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

This is the Banquet of the Lamb. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who fear you have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is the Lamb's will that those who want him should meet him here.

*Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome at communion. Our custom is to receive the bread in your open palm. Please tell the priest if you prefer a gluten-free wafer. Sip the wine, if you wish it, from the common cup, guiding the chalice gently with your hand or the Eucharistic Minister will dip the bread for you. Otherwise, cross your arms over your chest as a sign you wish a blessing from the priest.*

**Communion Music** *Instrumental*

**Post Communion Prayer** *Book of Common Prayer p. 339*  
*Please stand or kneel as you prefer.*

### **Blessing**

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

*Please stand.*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sign, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hill and plains, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**Dismissal**

*Book of Common Prayer p. 339*

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Instrumental*

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*Thank you to the Reverend Anthony Guillén, celebrant.*

**Acknowledgements and Copyright Information**

<sup>1</sup> *A Prayer for Tolerance* Rabbi Naomi Levy, adapted by Barbara Bennett and David Catron  
Psalm: *The Saint Helena Breviary*, Church Publishing, 2006

**Today at St. Paul's, Ventura**

You are invited to join us for coffee and refreshments in Kahler Hall following the service

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Check out next Sunday's readings at [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)

**12/31 – Serving This Week**

**8:00am**

**Acolytes**

**Chalice**

**Psalm**

**Lay Readers**

**Prayers of the People**

**Ushers**

**Vestry Greeter**

**Hospitality**

**Altar Guild**

**Flower Guild**

Lori Burke

Lori Burke

Judy & Tom Drew

Lori Burke

tbd

Greg Jackson

Lou Matthews (Dela Parker)

Josephine Barnaby, Dela Parker, Rose Hayden-Smith

Rev. Susan & Teddy Bek, Renee Bower, Gabe Lamola

## ***Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 31, 2017***

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury  
Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop  
John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan  
Diane Bruce, Bishop Suffragan

President Donald Trump, Congress, Federal Courts  
Governor Jerry Brown, Legislature, State Courts  
Our clergy: Susan Bek, Ed Steever, Doug Edwards,  
Dick Swanson

### ***HEALING IN BODY, MIND & SPIRIT:***

Lillian, Wayne, Marilyn, Adele, Babs, James, Jacob, Scott, Jim, Carolyn, Stephanie, Tom, Maggie, Duncan, Shelia, Frank, Julie, Helen, Kevin, Doug, Carol, Marguerite, Kathy

### ***THOSE ENDURING A LONG TERM ILLNESS:***

Virginia, Gigi, Margery, Sheila, Carrie, Linda, Judy, Michelle, Lucille, Rachel, Kathy

*Parish prayers for healing are listed for one calendar month. Contact the office with your request which may be added at any time. If you prefer your prayers to remain confidential, the Daughters of the King will add them to their daily prayer list for one month. They may be requested and/or renewed by using the prayer cards in the pews.*

### ***FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:***

- + The Board of Supervisors of Ventura County; the city councils of the communities in which we live; public safety and emergency personnel in Ventura County.
- + Our local public and private hospitals, and the health care professionals who serve us.
- + U.S. Armed Forces personnel serving around the world and wounded warriors cared for in medical centers and those returned home.

### ***GIVE THANKS FOR:***

- + Our partners in the Diocese of Los Angeles, Deanery One in Ventura County: *St. Columba's*, Camarillo; *Trinity*, Fillmore; *St. Andrew's*, Ojai; *All Saints'*, Oxnard; *St. Paul's/Emmanuel*, Santa Paula; *St. Francis'*, Simi Valley; *St. Patrick's*, Thousand Oaks.
- + Our World Mission Companions in the Diocese of Wiawso: The Cathedral Church of the Ascension; the Diocese of Jerusalem and Diocese of El Salvador
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Project Understanding and FOOD Share Ventura County*.

***IN MEMORIAM:*** David Baarstad, Virginia Brandon, Frank Millard, Richard Kay Smith



### **St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff**

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector; The Rev. Ed Steever, Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting

Felix Eisenhauer, Music Minister; Tara Eisenhauer, Assistant Music Minister

Sara Edwards, Organist-Music Director

Paula Robertson, Parish Administrator

Hannah Alday, Director of Evangelism & Communication

Jim Kneeland, Sexton

Heidi Trevisan, Sunday School Director; Wendy Olivier, Nursery Caregiver

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Website: [www.saintpaulsventura.org](http://www.saintpaulsventura.org) Twitter: @stpaulsventura Facebook: St. Paul's Ventura

*The Church Office and Food Pantry will be closed December 25-January 3.  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!*

**Highlights of This Week at St. Paul's**

|                               |                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Today</b><br><b>12/31</b>  | 8:00 am<br>9:30 am<br>10:30 am<br>11:30 am<br>8:00 pm | <b>Office Closed New Year's Eve</b><br>Rite I Sunday Service<br>Choir Rehearsal<br>Rite II Service<br>Fellowship and Family<br>AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)          |
| <b>Monday</b><br><b>01/01</b> | 8:00 pm                                               | <b>Office Closed New Year's Day</b><br>AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)                                                                                                  |
| <b>Tues.</b><br><b>01/02.</b> | 6:30 pm                                               | <b>Office Closed</b><br>Boy Scout Troop (Youth Room)                                                                                                             |
| <b>Wed.</b><br><b>01/03</b>   | 11:30 pm<br>1:00 pm<br>8:00 pm                        | NO Healing Service (St. Paul's Chapel)<br>No Bible Study<br>Tai Chi - Beginning (Kahler Hall)<br>Tai Chi – Intermediate (Kahler Hall)<br>AA Meeting (Youth Room) |
| <b>Thurs.</b><br><b>01/04</b> | 7:00 pm                                               | Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Fri.</b><br><b>01/05</b>   | 6:30 am<br>9:15 am                                    | Men's Bible Study (Main Street Steakhouse Restaurant)<br>Women's Bible Study (Library)                                                                           |
| <b>Sat</b><br><b>01/06</b>    | 6:45 pm                                               | AA Meeting (Youth Room)                                                                                                                                          |

**St. Paul's GO**

This Sunday's Worship Bulletin with Announcements is now available online.

**Here's How:**



1. Login into our wi-fi network: user name is St. Paul's Guest  
password is 8056435033
2. Download a QR Code Reader app: Google Play [Android] App Store [iPhone]
3. Open the app and scan the QR Code.

**Digital Disciples are in The House!**

If you see someone typing on their phone or iPad, know that they are serving as E-vangelists, spreading the Good News far and wide through social media. You too can be a Digital Disciple -

Follow & Post to Twitter: @stpaulsventura

Like & Post on Facebook Group Page: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Ventura, California

Like & Share Facebook Page: St. Paul's Ventura

## Announcements



Please help us thank the following people for our refreshments this morning.

8:00 Lou Matthews, Dela Parker

10:15 Armstrong, Hill

Today's Vestry Greeter is Greg Jackson.

Please come say hello.

***Please join us again next Sunday!***

### **MUSIC at ST. PAUL'S**



**THIS SUNDAY:** Thank you to today's musician Nick Akdag, bassoon.

**NEXT SUNDAY:** Come and enjoy Charlie Lill on trombone.

### **Save the Date: Sunday, January 7 – EPIPHANY SKITURGY**

#### **THE CHRISTMAS STORY ACCORDING TO THE FOUR EVANGELISTS**

This skit will make the Christmas story come alive again, but with a twist—each evangelist (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) tells his version of the story, adding his unique “take” on events to the mix. Through their joint efforts (and sometimes humorous disagreements), the evangelists address the big questions of the season in a light-hearted way that gives the viewers a crash course in Biblical literacy.

There are roles for the littlest toddlers all the way to the oldest teens or adults. The 5 speaking roles are played by the teens or adults. Call Heidi Trevisan, Sunday School Director for details. (805) 901-0455



### **LAUNDRY LOVE – SPECIAL DATES ADDED FOR THOMAS FIRE SUPPORT**

Volunteers are needed to serve the guests. Just bring your welcoming, sympathetic ear and assist in handling the money and supplies. Pick up a flyer in the narthex (lobby) or in Kahler Hall with dates and times. This is a simple ministry that has a big impact on those in need and those who minister. Check it out!

Greening of the Church



**THANK YOU** to all who participated in the **GREENING OF THE CHURCH**. There were at least 40 volunteers that transformed the church into the beautiful evergreen sanctuary of Christmas. A special shout out to Louise Bretz, Josephine Barnaby and Jim Kneeland.

## Opportunities



**YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!** Your generous donations help us in so many ways, and we are very grateful.

- Donations for Christmas Flowers & Music Christmas Offerings
- End of the Year Gifts

Donate via our website [www.saintpaulsventura.org](http://www.saintpaulsventura.org) or by check. Your gifts and those before you continue to keep our mission and ministry thriving for over 128 years. **Thank you so much!**



**DIOCESAN FIRE RELIEF FUND:** Under the direction of Bishop Diocesan John H. Taylor, the Diocese of Los Angeles has started a relief fund that will assist people --particularly the poor and homeless--in the diocese affected by the recent fires. Donations may be made online at [www.EDLAFireHelp.org](http://www.EDLAFireHelp.org); or by checks made payable to the Diocese of Los Angeles ("Fire Relief Fund" in the memo line) and sent to the Cathedral Center of St. Paul, 840 Echo Park Avenue, Los Angeles 90026.



Episcopal  
Relief & Development  
Healing a hurting world

**EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT (ERD)** is also receiving donations for relief work in the fire area. Make contributions online at: [www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org) or mail checks to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.



**ST. PAUL'S RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNT:** We continue to receive donations to help those less fortunate in our community. Note "Fire Relief" in the memo line of your check or Paypal transaction to St. Paul's and it will be used specifically for those impacted.



**COATS FOR ALL** We are collecting new or gently used coats and jackets of all sizes **now through the end of the year!** Four Seasons Cleaners of Ventura donates the cleaning of all coats and jackets before they are distributed to people in need through local charities and churches.

**PROJECT**  
Understanding



**CANNED FOOD DRIVE:** St. Paul's is collecting non-perishable food for Project Understanding's food pantry. Especially needed are protein items: peanut butter, canned tuna and canned chicken, etc. Monetary donations are very welcome as well. Checks should be made payable to St. Paul's and note Project Understanding Food Pantry. **This project will run until the end of this year!** Contact RoseAnn Hill with any questions at 805-798-1460.

### SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, **January 7** Feast of the Epiphany – The Christmas Story According to the Four Evangelists  
Sunday, **January 28** Annual Meeting @ 11:30 Kahler Hall  
Wednesday, **February 14** Ash Wednesday  
Sunday, **March 25** Palm Sunday  
Sunday, **April 1** Easter Sunday