



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

First Sunday of Advent

Year C

December 2, 2018 8 a.m.

Today's flowers are given in loving memory of John McClain by his family.

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.

Holy Eucharist *Liturgy of the Word*

Prelude

*Benedictus Qui Venit
Trio on Helmsley
Awaiting*

*Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Allen James
Karl Osterland
Felix Eisenhauer*

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Processional Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel (v. 1-2)

arr. Felix Eisenhauer

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 323

*Celebrant
People*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
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.

Celebrant Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
People **Have mercy upon us.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and 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

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Psalms 25:1-9

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; *
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; *
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

8 He guides the humble in doing right *
and teaches his way to the lowly.

9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

A Reading from the first Letter to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 21:25-36

Please stand as you are able and face the Gospel.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. "Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

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

Sermon

The Reverend Susan Bek

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed

BCP p. 326

All stand and together say

Prayers of the People

BCP p. 328

Please stand or kneel as is your custom.

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.¹

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers *especially our bishops John, Diane, and Samuel; 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, Adele, Babs, Brenda, Grace, James, Jacob, Carolyn, Barbara, Jan, Priscilla, Duncan, Frank, Julie, Liz, Bruce, Charly, Paul, Carol, Stacy, Mary, Kathie, and Tom.** *And those enduring a long term illness especially Virginia, Margery, Sheila, Carrie, Linda, Judy, Michelle, Kevin, Mary, Kathy, Doug, Rob, Rachel, Kim and those others on our hearts* and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those affected by recent violence or recovering from fires and floods.

(See page 8 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 Paul Beason 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

BCP p. 330

Peace

All stand as they are able.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

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

The Conversation of Prayer

Roxanna Paufnik

Presentation Hymn

Lo! He comes, with clouds descending

Hymnal 57

Please stand.

Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer I)

BCP p. 333

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 336

Breaking of the Bread

BCP p. 337

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP p. 337

Invitation

This is the Banquet of the Lord. 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 Lord'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 or sulfite-free juice. 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

Gute Nacht
Devotion on St. Thomas

Franz Schubert arr. Theobald Böhm
arr. Dennis Janzer

Post Communion Prayer

BCP p. 339

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent receive unending life. **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.**

Recessional Hymn

Please stand.

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

Hymnal 59

Announcements

Please be seated.

Dismissal

BCP p. 339

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

Postlude

Wachet Auf

arr. Thomas Chesterton

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

¹ *A Prayer for Tolerance* Rabbi Naomi Levy, adapted by Barbara Bennett and David Catron.

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)*



### 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.

***Serving This Week 12/2***  
***8:00am***

|                              |                                             |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>Acolytes</b>              | Jo Ellen Heil                               |
| <b>Chalice</b>               | Jo Ellen Heil, Lori Burke                   |
| <b>Psalm</b>                 | Lori Burke                                  |
| <b>Lay Readers</b>           | Pauli Powers                                |
| <b>Prayers of the People</b> | Jo Ellen Heil                               |
| <b>Ushers</b>                | Peter & Sharon Bowers                       |
| <b>Hospitality Sponsors</b>  | Eunice Koch                                 |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>           | Louise Bretz, Roger Crow, Vicki Paul        |
| <b>Flower Guild</b>          | Yvonne Loest, Virginia Gallegos, Roger Crow |
| <b>Counters</b>              | Louise Bretz                                |
| <b>Facility Lock Up</b>      | Greg McCombs                                |

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

|                              |                          |                                                         |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Today</b><br><b>12/2</b>  | 8:00 am                  | Rite I Sunday Service                                   |
|                              | 9:30 am                  | Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)                            |
|                              | 10:30 am                 | Rite II Sunday Service                                  |
|                              | 11:30 am                 | Fellowship & Formation (Kahler Hall)                    |
|                              | 4:30 pm                  | Abundant Table Farm Church (Chapel, Kahler Hall)        |
|                              | 8:00 pm                  | AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)                                |
| <b>Monday</b><br><b>12/3</b> | 11:30 am                 | Tai Chi – Beginning (Kahler Hall)                       |
|                              | 1:00 pm                  | Tai Chi – Intermediate (Kahler Hall)                    |
|                              | 5:30 pm                  | First Monday Book Club (Panera Bread)                   |
|                              | 6:30 pm                  | Exploring Our Faith (Room 13)                           |
|                              | 8:00 pm                  | AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)                                |
| <b>Tues.</b><br><b>12/4</b>  | 6:30 pm                  | Boy Scout Troop #179 (Community Room, Kahler Hall)      |
| <b>Wed.</b><br><b>12/5</b>   | 9:00 am                  | Healing Service (Chapel)                                |
|                              | 10:30 am                 | Bible Study (Library)                                   |
|                              | 11:30 am                 | Tai Chi – Beginning (Kahler Hall)                       |
|                              | 1:00 pm                  | Tai Chi – Intermediate (Kahler Hall)                    |
|                              | 6:30 pm                  | AA Meeting (Community Room)                             |
|                              | 8:00 pm                  | AA Meeting (Community Room)                             |
| <b>Thurs.</b><br><b>12/6</b> | 9:30 am                  | Retired Clergy Lunch (Kahler Hall)                      |
|                              | 5:30 pm                  | Meditation Workshop (Library)                           |
|                              | 7:00pm                   | Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)                            |
| <b>Fri.</b><br><b>12/7</b>   | 6:30 am                  | Men's Bible Study (Main Street Steakhouse Restaurant)   |
|                              | 9:15 am                  | Women's Bible Study (Library)                           |
|                              | 8:00 pm                  | Gold Coast Concert Chorus Concert (Sanctuary)           |
| <b>Sat</b><br><b>12/8</b>    | 2:00 pm                  | Gold Coast Concert Chorus Concert (Sanctuary)           |
|                              | 6:45 pm                  | AA Meeting (Community Room)                             |
| <b>Sun.</b><br><b>12/9</b>   | 8:00 am                  | Rite I Sunday Service                                   |
|                              | 9:30 am                  | Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)                            |
|                              | 10:30 am                 | Rite II Sunday Service, Bishop's visit and Confirmation |
|                              | 11:30 am                 | Fellowship & Formation (Kahler Hall)                    |
|                              | 4:30 pm                  | Abundant Table Farm Church (Chapel, Kahler Hall)        |
| 8:00 pm                      | AA Meeting (Kahler Hall) |                                                         |

## ***Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 2, 2018***

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

President Donald Trump, Congress, Federal Courts  
Governor Jerry Brown, Legislature, State Courts  
Our clergy: Susan Bek, Ed Steever, Dick Swanson  
Samuel Azariah, Assisting Bishop

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

Lillian, Wayne, Adele, Babs, Brenda, Grace, James, Jacob, Carolyn, Barbara, Jan, Priscilla, Duncan, Frank, Julie, Liz, Bruce, Charly, Paul, Carol, Stacy, Mary, Kathie, Tom

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

Virginia, Margery, Sheila, Carrie, Linda, Judy, Michelle, Kevin, Mary, Kathy, Doug, Rob, Rachel, Kim

*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:***

- + Twelve step programs of recovery and healing; especially Alcoholics Anonymous meetings at St. Paul's.
- + 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: 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: *Ankwanda Village in the Diocese of Cape Coast, and the Dioceses of Sunyani & Wiawso, Ghana.*
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Temple Beth Torah, the Islamic Center of Oxnard, Ventura Seventh Day Adventist Church*

### ***IN MEMORIAM:***

- + Paul Beason



### **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  
Paula Robertson, Parish Administrator  
Kathleen Jensen, Assistant Administrator  
Lisa Devine, Minister for Family Faith Formation

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

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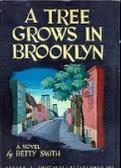
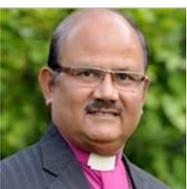
## Announcements

*Thank you for joining us today!  
As Ventura works to recover and find the way forward after fire and flood,  
St. Paul's is here to help.  
We're praying for you every day.  
Please let us know what else you need. God bless you!*



Please help us thank the following people  
for our refreshments this morning:  
8:00 am **Eunice Koch**  
10:15 am **Javier & Valerie Ortiz, Norm & Pam Owens, Renee Bower**  
*(Next week for hospitality: 8am – Carl Helms  
10:15 am – David & RoseAnn Hill, Ralph & Kay Armstrong, Janalee Young)*  
*If you would like to serve on our hospitality team, please let us know.*

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MUSIC at<br/>ST. PAUL'S</b></p>  | <p><b>TODAY:</b> Many thanks to guest musician, Caitlin Boruch on flute. Enjoy the arrangement of <i>O come, O come, Emmanuel</i> by Felix Eisenhauer</p> <p><b>NEXT SUNDAY:</b> Nick Akdag, bassoon, will play at both services. Celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent with the choir's presentation of <i>Carol of The Advent</i> by Philip Diettrich.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                     | <p><b>FIRST MONDAY BOOK CLUB – DECEMBER 3</b><br/>The November selection is <i>A Tree Grows in Brooklyn</i> by Betty Smith. This classic focuses on an impoverished but aspirational adolescent girl and her family living in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, New York City, during the first two decades of the 20th century. Meet at Panera Bread on Telephone Rd at 5pm for food and 5:30pm for discussion. All women are welcome! <i>Sponsored by Daughters of the King.</i></p>                                                                                                                    |
|                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>UNITED THANK OFFERING – INGATHERING TODAY!</b><br/>Don't leave those boxes at home! Bring them in or put a check in a UTO envelope (made out to St. Paul's with UTO noted on the memo line) so they will unite with others' prayers and thankful quarters, dimes and dollars from across The Episcopal Church to support God's mission around the world.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>DIOCESE FIRE AND MUDSLIDE RELIEF FUND</b> – Donations may be made online at <a href="http://www.edlagives.org">www.edlagives.org</a> to provide aid to the region's low-income and otherwise most vulnerable who might not otherwise receive relief amid the disaster of the recent fires.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>ANNUAL BISHOP'S VISIT – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9</b><br/>The Right Rev. Samuel Azariah will be with us for the 10:15am service on Sunday, December 9. Please join us to welcome the confirmands and then stay after the service for Fellowship &amp; Formation to meet the Bishop.</p> <p><b>EXPLORING OUR FAITH – LAST SESSION, MONDAY, DECEMBER 3</b><br/>For those who seek to be Confirmed or Received into the Episcopal Church, newcomers who are curious and anyone who wants to join us in exploring our faith. Meet for the last session in the series at 6:30-8pm in the Library.</p> |
|                                                                                                                                                    | <p><b>FAIR TRADE STOCKING STUFFERS – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9</b><br/>After Sunday services buy a taste of fine chocolates, tea, coffee and baskets that are from businesses committed to providing fair wages and good employment opportunities to economically disadvantaged artisans and farmers. For more information speak with Joanne at <a href="mailto:joannewakelee@yahoo.com">joannewakelee@yahoo.com</a><br/><b>Thank you for helping abolish the scourge of modern-day slavery!</b></p>                                                                                                   |



**YOUR DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

**Your generous donations help in so many ways and we are very grateful.**

**Please consider making a monetary gift for 2018.**

Sunday Plate Offering – Keep the lights on and provide for other essential operations.

Christmas Flowers & Music – Bring beauty to your sanctuary both in sight and in sound.

Christmas Offerings & End of Year Gifts – Further the mission and ministry of your church home.

Food Pantry – Support your Sack Lunch Program that provides 2 sandwiches, canned goods, granola bars, fresh bananas, hard boiled eggs, socks, toiletries and more every week.

Family to Family – Feed our hungry neighbors and serve 240+ lunch plates once a month.

Sunday School & Youth Group – Provide an engaging Christian education to our children and teens.

St. Paul's Abolitionist Committee – Help educate others and abolish the scourge of modern day slavery.

**\*New\* Text StPaulsVentura to 73256 to give.** (Standard text message rates do apply.) Or... Donate through our website [www.saintpaulsventura.org](http://www.saintpaulsventura.org) , provide a check, place cash in the Offering Plate.

**Your gifts and those received before you continue to keep our mission and ministry thriving for over 129 years. Thank you so much!**

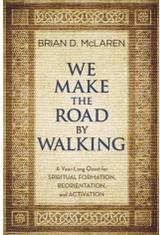


# Advent Season

## Events

|                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                | <p><b>PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 16</b> Bring your friends and neighbors and join us on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in Kahler Hall for a Christmas Carol Sing-along &amp; Cookie Decorating Party. All are welcome!</p>                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                | <p><b>4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT SERVICE: December 23, One Service Only at 9am</b><br/>Join us in the church this morning before the great celebration begins.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <p>Greening of the Church</p>  | <p><b>GREENING OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: December 23</b> Help us transform the church in preparation for Christmas. The Greening takes place Sunday after the 9am service from <b>10:30am – 1:30pm</b>. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and in Kahler Hall. <b>We need your help!</b></p>                                                                                                |
|                                | <p><b>THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE: December 23</b> Come and enjoy the peace and beauty of the church on the night before Christmas Eve. We will gather <b>at 7 pm</b> for quiet music, bedtime stories and prayers. Children are invited to come in their jammies and bring pillows and blankets. Come get centered and connect with the spirit of Christmas before the festivities begin.</p> |

## Opportunities

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p><b>ADVENT REFLECTION AND GROUP STUDY: Wednesday Mornings 10:30am Library</b><br/>The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will be meeting weekly using the book <u>We Make the Road by Walking</u> by Brian McLaren. This book offers everything you need to explore what a difference an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today. All are welcome to join us. Those who are interested are also invited to join us for the Healing Service offered at 9am on Wednesday mornings. Together or separately, these are wonderful spiritual practices, and we would love to have you join us as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.</p> |
|  | <p><b>CHRISTMAS FLOWERS &amp; MUSIC:</b> If you would like to contribute to the flowers and music for our Christmas Eve services, please place your donation in the offering plate with 'Flowers &amp; Music' noted in the memo line of your check or offering envelope. You may also send it to the office or donate via the website/PayPal/Text <b>no later than December 17</b>. Be sure to note whether the donation is in memory or honor of a loved one and whether you would like it included in the service bulletins.</p>                                                                                                                            |
|  | <p><b>LAST CALL - COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SHOPPE by Action:</b> We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for the shoppe. The toys will be picked up <b>December 5</b>. There are many volunteers needed to serve before and during the shoppe on <b>December 15</b> from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. Sign up at: <a href="http://actionvc.org/community-christmas-shoppe/">http://actionvc.org/community-christmas-shoppe/</a> or call (805) 647-3757. The event will be held at Orchard Community Church 8180 Telephone Rd., Ventura.</p>                                                                                                                                    |
|  | <p><b>COATS FOR ALL</b> We are collecting new or gently used coats and jackets of all sizes <b>now through the end of the year!</b> The drive is sponsored by the Downtown Chapter of the Rotary Club. The donation box is located in the church lobby. <b>SOCK DRIVE</b> Socks are in high demand at this time of year for the men and women served by the Sack Lunch Program and Family to Family ministries. Drop of your sock donations any time before the 17th to distribute to Family to Family and throughout the winter season for our Sack Lunch recipients. (Please no dress socks or children's sizes.)</p>                                       |

# *Christmas Services*



## **Christmas Eve at St. Paul's**

### **4:00 p.m. Family Service**

This is a friendly service that is especially appropriate for families and children of all ages.

### **10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service**

Carols begin at 10 p.m., the service begins at 10:30 p.m. This service includes: traditional Christmas lessons, candlelight, choir and Eucharist.

## **Christmas Day**

### **9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**

Join us for a beautiful service on this holy day.

## **Your Advent & Christmas Calendar**

### **December**

|                        |                     |                                                                                                           |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>  | Sunday, Advent 1    |                                                                                                           |
| <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>  | Wednesday           | Advent Study Begins-10:30am Library<br>Deadline to donate new toys to Community Christmas Shoppe          |
| <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>  | Sunday, Advent 2    | Bishop Azariah visit. Confirmations (10:15am)<br>Fair Trade Chocolate Stocking Stuffers Sale- Kahler Hall |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup></b> | Saturday            | Community Christmas Shoppe by Action-8:30am<br>Community Orchard Church                                   |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup></b> | Sunday, Advent 3    | Parish Christmas Party-11:45am Kahler Hall                                                                |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup></b> | Monday              | Family to Family-9:30am, 303 N. Ventura Ave.<br>Deadline for Music & Flower Donations                     |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup></b> | Sunday, Advent 4    | Service with Eucharist-9am<br>Greening of the Church, 10:30am<br>The Night Before Christmas Eve, 7pm      |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup></b> | Christmas Eve       | Family Service-4pm<br>Candlelight Service-10pm Carols & Music, 10:30pm Service with Eucharist             |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup></b> | Christmas Day       | Service with Eucharist-9am Sanctuary                                                                      |
| <b>30<sup>th</sup></b> | Sunday, Christmas 1 | Services-8am, 10:15am                                                                                     |