



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent

Year C

December 9, 2018 8 a.m.

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

*Make Straight the Crooked Places
Veni Emmanuel*

*Colin Curtis
Calvin Hampton*

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Processional Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel (v. 3-4)

Hymnal 56

**O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height,
in ancient times didst give the law, in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny;
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

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.

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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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

Baruch 5:1-9

A Reading from the Book of Baruch.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16 The Song of Zechariah

- 1 Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.
- 2 He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.
- 3 Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

- 4 He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.
- 5 This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
- 6 Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.
- 7 You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
- 8 To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
- 9 In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
- 10 To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
- 11 Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

A Reading from the letter to the Philippians.

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

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.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

The Reverend Ed Steever

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed

BCP p. 326

All stand and together say.

Prayers of the People

Please stand or kneel as is your custom.

BCP 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.¹

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, 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 those 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

Come Thou, Long Expected Jesus

Edward Broughton

Presentation Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymnal 65

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.

Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

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

Watchman Tell Us of the Night

James Mansfield

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.**

Closing Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's Cry

Hymnal 76

Please stand.

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

O Word, That Goest Forth on High

Robert J. Powell

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.

Serving This Week 12/9/18
8:00am

Acolytes	Jo Ellen Heil
Chalice	Peter Bowers, Jo Ellen Heil
Psalm	Jo Ellen Heil
Lay Readers	Tom Drew, Judy Drew
Prayers of the People	Peter Bowers
Ushers	Jay and Patti Widdows
Hospitality Sponsors	Carl Helms
Altar Guild	Dela Parker, Carole Nelson, Susan Talmadge
Flower Guild	Grace & Rosie Dunlevy, Anna & Pippa Darby, Laura Andrews
Counters	Marilyn Angelo, Susan Talmadge
Facility Lock Up	Larry Myers

Highlights of This Week at St. Paul's

Today 12/9	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)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
Mon. 12/10	11:30 am	Tai Chi – Beginning (Kahler Hall)
	1:00 pm	Tai Chi – Intermediate (Kahler Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
Tues. 12/11	10:00 am	Pastoral Care Team (Library)
	6:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #179 (Community Room, Kahler Hall)
Wed. 12/12	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)
Thurs. 12/13	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Community Room)
	5:30 pm	Meditation Workshop (Library)
	6:00 pm	Kindermusik Recital (Kahler Hall)
Fri. 12/14	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study (Main Street Steakhouse Restaurant)
	9:15 am	Women's Bible Study (Library)
Sat. 12/15	6:45 pm	AA Meeting (Community Room)
Sun. 12/16	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 Confirmations
	11:45 am	Parish Sing-Along Christmas Party 11:45 (Kahler Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)

Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 9, 2018

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

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

FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:

- + The ministry of prayer, study and service of St. Paul's Men's Group, the Daughters of the King, Bible & study groups
- + 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 Santa Barbara County: *St. Mary's, Lompoc; St. Mark's, Los Olivos; All Saints; Christ the King, Trinity, Santa Barbara; St. Peter's, Santa Maria; St. Michael's Mission & campus ministry at UCSB in Isla Vista, Mount Calvary Monastery & Retreat House, Santa Barbara*
- + World Mission Companions: *Ankwanda Village in the Diocese of Cape Coast, and the Dioceses of Sunyani & Wiawso, Ghana*
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Church of the Foothills, First Christian Church, Church of Christ*

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.

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 **Carl Helms**
10:15 am **David & RoseAnn Hill, Ralph & Kay Armstrong,
Janalee Young**
*(Next week for hospitality: 8am – Peter & Sharon Bowers
10:15 am – Ruth McCool, Rob & Susan Talmadge, Bert & Ernie
Fickerson)*
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;">MUSIC at ST. PAUL'S</p>	<p>TODAY: In addition to all our inspiring Advent music, today's anthem at 10:15 will be the beautiful <i>Carol of Advent!</i></p> <p>NEXT SUNDAY: Local musician and St. Paul's favorite Nick Akdag will join us on bassoon! He will be playing at both services.</p>
	<p>FAIR TRADE STOCKING STUFFERS – TODAY! 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 joannewakelee@yahoo.com</p> <p>Thank you for helping abolish the scourge of modern-day slavery!</p>
	<p>ANNUAL BISHOP'S VISIT AND CONFIRMATION SERVICE – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16 The Right Rev. Samuel Azariah will be with us for the 10:15am service next Sunday, December 16. Please join us to welcome confirmands Duffy Anderson, Amanda Avila, Sharon Bowers, Daniel Campbell, Tara Eisenhauer, and Joseph Wareham. Plan to stay after the service to meet the Bishop at our annual Parish Christmas Party!</p>
	<p>DIOCESE FIRE AND MUDSLIDE RELIEF FUND – Donations may be made online at www.edlagives.org 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>FIRST MONDAY BOOK CLUB – January 7, 2019 The December selection is <u>French Exit</u> by Patrick deWitt. In this comedy, Frances, “a moneyed, striking woman of 65 years” flees Manhattan for Paris after using up all of her cash. 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>



ST. PAUL'S
VENTURA, CA
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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 , 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



PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY: December 16 Bring your friends and neighbors and join us on Sunday at 11:30 a.m. in Kahler Hall for a Christmas Carol Sing-along & Cookie Decorating Party. All are welcome!



**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT SERVICE:
December 23, One Service Only at 9am**

Join us in the church this morning before the great celebration begins.

Greening of the Church

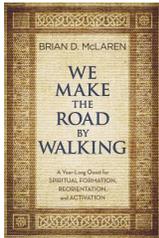


GREENING OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: December 23 Help us transform the church in preparation for Christmas. The Greening takes place Sunday after the 9am service from **10:30am – 1:30pm**. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and in Kahler Hall. **We need your help!**



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE: December 23 Come and enjoy the peace and beauty of the church on the night before Christmas Eve. We will gather **at 7 pm** 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.

Opportunities



ADVENT REFLECTION AND GROUP STUDY:

Wednesday Mornings 10:30am Library

The Wednesday Morning Bible Study will be meeting weekly using the book We Make the Road by Walking 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.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC: 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 & 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 **no later than December 17**. 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.



COATS FOR ALL We are collecting new or gently used coats and jackets of all sizes **now through the end of the year!** The drive is sponsored by the Downtown Chapter of the Rotary Club. The donation box is located in the church lobby. **SOCK DRIVE** 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 off 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.)

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

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