



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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



Online Bulletin

## Third Sunday of Advent

Year B

December 17, 2017 10:15 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.*

*Our youngest guests are welcome to attend services or may join Miss Wendy in the nursery (room 2) where we have toys, Bible Stories, music and art projects available.*

*Our Sunday school program (K-grade 5) begins at 10am on the Labyrinth. After joining the procession in the church, our program continues in room 7 where they participate in Children's Chapel, hear a Bible story, and enjoy fun and engaging activities related to that story. Children return to the church to join their families for Eucharist.*

*Youth Group (grades 6-12) meets in the Youth Center at 10am for the opportunity to explore the bible, build their faith and discuss important questions. They join us for Eucharist.*

*Again, welcome and 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**

*Niboe from 6 Metamorphoses after Ovid*

*Benjamin Britten*

### **The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

*Please remain seated.*

*Wer hat from Vier Wiegenlieder fur Tonstäbe*

*Felix Eisenhauer*

*Celebrant* Our King and Savior now draws near:  
*People* **Come let us adore him.**

**Lord, grant us your light, that being rid of the darkness of our hearts, we may come to the true light which is Christ.**

*Please stand at the sound of the bell*

**Entrance Hymn**

**O Come, O Come Emmanuel**

arr. Felix Eisenhauer

**O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heavenly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy driving high; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**Opening Salutation**

*Book of Common Prayer p. 355*

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

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

**Hymn of Praise**

**Blest be the King v.1**

**Hymnal 74**

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, 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 61:1-4, 8-11

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

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.

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

## Psalm 126

1 When God restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"God has done great things for them."

4 God has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O God, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

## Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A Reading from the First Letter to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

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

**Gradual Hymn***All stand to sing.***Herald, sound the note of judgment****Hymnal 70****Holy Gospel***Remain standing and face the Gospel.*

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Reverend Anthony Guillén

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.***Nicene Creed***All stand and together say**Book of Common Prayer p. 358*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

*Please stand or kneel as is your custom.*

*Deacon*

Almighty and everlasting God, You are strength to those who suffer and comfort to those who grieve. Let the prayers of your children who are in trouble rise to you, asking: Hear our prayer.

*Leader*

We claim your promises of wholeness as we pray for those who are ill or are suffering loss and long for your healing touch. **Hear our prayer.**

Make the weak strong, the sick healthy, the broken whole, and confirm those who serve them as agents of your love. **Hear our prayer.**

To everyone in distress, grant mercy, grant relief, grant refreshment. **Hear our prayer.**

As we begin to rebuild, we commend our neighborhoods to your care. Give us strength of purpose and concern for others, that we may create a community where your will may be done. **Hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, you watch our ways, and weave out of terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace. **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died especially *David Baarstad, Virginia Brandon, Frank Millard, (the people may add their petitions either silently or aloud).* **Hear our prayer.**

*Deacon*

Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief, may they find you and be comforted; through Jesus Christ who was dead, but lives and rules this world with you. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor

*A period of silence is observed.*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*All stand as they are able.*

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

## Announcements

### Prayers for birthdays and anniversaries.

*For other prayer requests, trained lay prayer ministers will be available in the chapel or beside the vigil candle rack during Eucharist to pray with you. Briefly state the particular concern, burden, thanksgiving, or transition you bring for yourself or someone else. Confidentiality is observed.*

## *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** 1<sup>st</sup> movement from Oboe Sonata in C *T.G. Albinoni*

**Presentation Hymn** **Tell out, my soul** **Hymnal 437**  
*Please stand.*

**The Great Thanksgiving** Eucharistic Prayer A  
*The people remain standing.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Sanctus** *Sanctus from St. Paul's Mass* *Felix Eisenhauer*  
*(see next page)*

### Sanctus from St. Paul's Mass

Sanc - tus, sanc - tus, sanc - tus,  
(Holy, holy, holy.)

Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Be - ne - dic - tus qui ve - nit, in the name of the  
(Blessed are those who come)

Lord. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Ho - sa - na in the high - est.

*Please stand or kneel as is your custom.*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

**Fraction Anthem**

*Agnus Dei* from St. Paul's Mass

*Felix Eisenhauer*



Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec-ca - ta mun - di, mi-se-re - re no - bis.  
 (O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.)



Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec-ca - ta mun - di, mi-se-re - re no - bis.  
 (O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.)



Ag - nus De - i, qui tol - lis pec-ca - ta mun - di, do-na no-bis pa - cem.  
 (O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.)

**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.

*All are invited to come forward to receive the bread and wine made holy. The table we set is the Lord's. 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.*

*Trained lay prayer ministers are stationed in the chapel or beside the vigil candle rack to pray with you. Briefly state the particular concern, burden, thanksgiving, or transition you bring for yourself or someone else. Confidentiality is observed. Rejoin the other worshipers for the post communion prayer.*

**Communion Music**

*I Wanna Be Ready*  
*Instrumental*

*Trad. Spiritual, arr. Rosephanye Powell*

**Prepare the Way of the Lord**

**Worship & Rejoice 174**

I  
Pre - pare the way of the Lord.      II  
Pre - pare the way of the Lord,

III  
and all peo-ple will see the sal - va - tion of our God.      IV  
Pre -

**Post Communion Prayer:**

*Please stand or kneel as you prefer.*

Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*When the Eucharist is being taken out to those who are sick or shut-in, we will pray together.*

**In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

**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**

**Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding**

**Hymnal 59**

*Please stand.*

## Dismissal

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

## Postlude *Instrumental*

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*Thank you to the Reverend Anthony Guillén, celebrant and guest musician, Allison McKay, oboe.*

## Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

Psalms: *The Saint Helena Breviary*, Church Publishing, 2006

Prayers of the People: *Presbyterian Church USA*

Blessings: *The Book of Occasional Services: 2003*, Church Pension Fund 2004

## ***Welcome! We're so glad you're here.***

- Our ushers welcome your inquiries. They can provide assisted listening devices, information about our ministries, as well as directions to the restrooms, nursery, and classrooms.
- Please take the brochure from the pew and learn more about St. Paul's and our traditional worship, dynamic preaching and a call to serve.
- You are invited to join us for coffee and refreshments following the service and we hope you will stay for Fellowship & Formation from 11:30-noon. For information on today's topic, please see the announcements below.
- Infants and children are welcome here. Children under five years old may receive care in the nursery (room 2) from 10-noon. Parents are also welcome to keep their children with them and may have access to the nursery for their convenience. The service can be heard from the narthex (lobby) and activity bags for children can be found there.

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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:**

Download a QR Code Reader app: Google Play [Android] App Store [iPhone]

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

## **12/17 –Serving This Week**

<b>10:15 am</b>	
<b>Acolytes</b>	India Howeth, Henry Rose
<b>Chalice</b>	John Borneman, RoseAnn Hill
<b>Psalm</b>	John Borneman
<b>Lay Readers</b>	Ernie Fickerson, Joseph Wareham
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	David Whaley
<b>Ushers</b>	Tamara Nerdrum, Elizabeth Rose
<b>Eucharistic Prayer Ministry</b>	Joanne Wakelee, Kathleen Crookston
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Kathleen Crookston, Pam Owens
<b>Welcome Ministry</b>	Ernie Fickerson, Barbara Ferguson
<b>Vestry Greeter</b>	Bob Gold
<b>Hospitality</b>	Wakelee, Bowers, Wareham
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Dela Parker, Carole Nelson, Kathy Loest, Susan Talmadge
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Josephine Barnaby, Anna Darby, Grace Dunlevy
<b>Cantor</b>	Nicole Benson
<b>Counters</b>	Louise Bretz, Susan Talmadge
<b>Facility Lock Up</b>	Nate Alday

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

<b>Today</b>	<b>12/17</b>	9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
		11:30 am	<b>Parish Christmas Party</b> (Kahler Hall)
		8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Youth Room)
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<b>Monday</b>	<b>12/18</b>	9:30 am	Family to Family (303 Ventura Ave.)
		8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
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<b>Tues.</b>	<b>12/19</b>	6:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop (Kahler Hall, Youth Room)
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<b>Wed.</b>	<b>12/20</b>	9:00 am	Healing Service (Chapel)
		10:30 am	Bible Study (Library)
		6:00 pm	Kindermusik Holiday Pageant (Kahler Hall)
		8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Youth Room)
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<b>Thurs.</b>	<b>12/21</b>	7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
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<b>Fri.</b>	<b>12/22</b>	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study (Main Street Steakhouse Restaurant)
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<b>Sat</b>	<b>12/23</b>	9:00 am	<b>Greening of the Church</b> (Sanctuary)
		6:45 pm	AA Meeting (Youth Room)
		7:00 pm	<b>The Night Before Christmas Eve</b> (Sanctuary)

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

## ***Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 17, 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 ministry of Family to Family; all who volunteer and/or give financially to feed Ventura's hungry.
- + The firefighters and all service personnel who are involved in protecting the lives and property of those threatened by the fires.
- + The volunteers and businesses who provide for those in need.
- + 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 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.
- + 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.: *First United Methodist*, *Trinity Lutheran*, *Our Lady of the Assumption churches and the Salvation Army*

***IN MEMORIAM:*** David Baarstad, Virginia Brandon, Frank Millard



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

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector; The Rev. Ed Steever, Deacon  
The Rev. Canon Doug Edwards, Assisting; The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting  
Felix Eisenhower, Music Minister; Tara Eisenhower, Assistant Music Minister  
Sara Edwards, Organist-Music Director  
Paula Robertson, Parish Administrator  
Hannah Alday, Director of Evangelism & Communication  
Cathy Smith, Administrative Assistant 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



To all impacted by the Thomas fire, know you are loved and held up in prayer by your St. Paul's family. Come, stay and spend some time in Kahler Hall after today's services. Share your stories. Learn of area resources. Sing some favorite Christmas songs and decorate a cookie or two!

*Thank you to Carmen who arrived last week with 4 large boxes of water bottles collected by employees at her workplace in Orange County. Juice boxes and dog & cat treats were included as well. It was enough to provide a drink station on the sidewalk for 5 days.*

*Thank you to all who have offered shelter and are volunteering in the community. Thank you for the prayers and continued support as we all find our way through the long process of recovering.*



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

8:00 Wes Cullins

10:15 Wakelee, Bowers, Wareham

Today's Vestry Greeter is Bob Gold.

*Please come say hello.*

**MUSIC at  
ST. PAUL'S**



**THIS SUNDAY:** Thank you to today's musicians, Nicole Benson, cantor, and Allison McKay, oboe.

Join us after the 10:15 service for Fellowship & Formation and the annual Parish Christmas Party Sing along!



**TODAY! - PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

Bring your friends and neighbors and join us today at 11:30 a.m. in Kahler Hall for a Christmas Carol Sing-Along & Cookie Decorating Party. All are welcome!



**MONDAY, December 18 – Family to Family**

Come serve hungry neighbors tomorrow! Show up at 9:30am to help prepare for our guests. Servers are needed from 11:30-12:30. We serve about 250 plates. Wear your Santa hats and help hand out the wrapped toiletries. Don't miss out on this rewarding ministry. Meet at 303 N. Ventura. Contact Paula Robertson with questions.



### **TUESDAY, December 19 – Laundry Love**

You are invited to meet at **3:00** at Thompson Square Laundromat, 2611 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura. The hours have been extended from 5:30pm – 8pm to 3pm-8pm to serve the increase in need from the Thomas Fire. Volunteers are needed to serve the guests. The effort will be led by Paula Robertson. Quarters, laundry soap, dryer sheets will be provided. You need to bring your welcoming, sympathetic ear and assist in handling the money and supplies. *Contact Paula to sign-up as soon as possible. 643-5033*

Greening of the Church



### **SATURDAY - ALL HANDS ON DECK TO DECK THE HALLS:**

**GREENING OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS EVE: December 23** Join us for a continental breakfast and then help us to transform the church in preparation for Christmas. The Greening takes place Saturday from **9-noon**. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and in Kahler Hall. **Sign up today!** See Louis Bretz or Paula Robertson with questions.



### **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.

### **The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve this Year Sunday, December 24**

#### **One Service Only at 9am In the Youth Room in Kahler Hall**



Just as Mary and Joseph were traveling, out of place, as they made their way to Bethlehem, we will be out of place for this simple yet beautiful service of 4<sup>th</sup> Advent. Join us in the Youth Room in Kahler Hall for a simple spoken Eucharist. We will get back to basics and praise God in humble sacrifices this morning before the great celebration begins.



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

Join us for our Epiphany Skiturg presented by our Sunday School and Friends. *THE CHRISTMAS STORY ACCORDING TO THE FOUR EVANGELISTS* is a skit written by Kristin Agudelo designed to bring the Christmas story alive, but with a twist. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell their version of the story, adding their unique take on events. Through their joint efforts and humorous disagreements, the evangelists will address the big questions of the season in a light-hearted way. We need four teenagers or adults to play Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and they will have one rehearsal together. We will have children participate as costumed shepherds, angels, or animals with no speaking lines. See Heidi Trevisan for details.

## Opportunities



**ADVENT & 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 no later than **Monday, December 18**. 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.



**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 (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.

SEND THIS  
LIFE-CHANGING  
GIFT PACKAGE



**GIFTS FOR LIFE:** Please help us support Episcopal Relief & Development by making a donation through our team's fundraising page for Alternative Gift Market. Even a small donation will help us achieve our goal of providing 3 goats, a flock of chickens and 2 pigs to families in need this Christmas! The process is fast, easy, and secure. Check out <https://my.episcopalrelief.org/team/97106>



**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.



**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.

# *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>	Saturday	Wrap 'n Chat-10am Youth Room (behind Kahler Hall)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Sunday, Advent 1	Simple Stone Advent Calendar Workshop-11:30am Kahler Hall
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	Wednesday	Advent Study Begins-10:30am Library Deadline to donate new toys to Community Christmas Shoppe
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday, Advent 2	Fair Trade Chocolate Stocking Stuffers Sale-11:30am Kahler Hall
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b>	Saturday	Community Christmas Shoppe by Action-8:30am Community Orchard Church
<b>17<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday, Advent 3	Parish Christmas Party-11:30am Kahler Hall
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b>	Monday	Family to Family-9:30am, 303 N. Ventura Ave. Deadline for Music & Flower Donations
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Saturday	Greening of the Church 9am Sanctuary The Night Before Christmas Eve, 7pm
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	Sunday, Advent 4	Service with Eucharist-9am Youth Room in Kahler Hall
<b>24<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas Eve	Family Service-4pm Candlelight Service-10pm Carols & Music, 10:30pm Service with Eucharist
<b>25<sup>th</sup></b>	Christmas Day	Service with Eucharist-9am Sanctuary
<b>31<sup>st</sup></b>	Sunday, Christmas 1	Services-8am, 10:15am

**Ongoing Outreach Projects:** Gifts for Life (ERD), Coats for All (Rotary), Canned Food Drive (Project Understanding)