



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Third Sunday of Advent

Year C

December 16, 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

Savior of the Nations, Come

Edward Broughton

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Processional Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (v. 5-6) *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 Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
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 (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.

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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A Reading from the Book of Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9 The First Song of Isaiah

- 1 Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
- 2 For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
- 3 Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
- 4 And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;

- 5 Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.
- 6 Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.
- 7 Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.
- 8 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 4:4-7

A Reading from the letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

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.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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 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

Bassoon Solo

Presentation Hymn

Rejoice! Rejoice believers

Hymnal 68

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

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

Praise Him, All Ye That in His House Attend

G.F. Händel

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

Please stand.

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Hymnal 67

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

Freu dich Sehr

Gerald Near

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 12/16/18

Acolytes	Jo Ellen Heil
Chalice	Peter Bowers, Jo Ellen Heil
Psalm	Peter Bowers
Lay Readers	Judy Drew, Tom Drew
Prayers of the People	Jo Ellen Heil
Ushers	Lori Burke, Ian McEwan
Hospitality Sponsors	Peter & Sharon Bowers
Altar Guild	Pauli Powers, Ruth McCool, Rose Hayden Smith, Rob Butler
Flower Guild	Carole Nelson, Rev. Susan & Teddy Bek, Sarah & Gabe Lamola, Renee Bower
Counters	Pam Owens
Facility Lock Up	Miles Sexton

Highlights of This Week at St. Paul's

Today 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 & Confirmations
	11:45 am	Parish Sing-Along Christmas Party (Kahler Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
Mon. 12/17	9:30 am	Family to Family (303 N. Ventura Ave.)
	11:30 am	Tai Chi – Beginning (Kahler Hall)
	1:00 pm	Tai Chi – Intermediate (Kahler Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
Tues. 12/18	6:30 pm	Boy Scout Troop #179 (Community Room, Kahler Hall)
Wed. 12/19	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)
Thurs. 12/20	5:30 pm	Meditation Workshop (Library)
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Fri. 12/21	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study (Main Street Steakhouse Restaurant)
Sat. 12/22	10:00	Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
	6:45 pm	AA Meeting (Community Room)
Sun. 12/23	9:00 am	Rite II Sunday Service
	10:30 am	Greening of the Church
	4:30pm	Abundant Table Farm Church (Chapel, Kahler Hall)
	7:00 pm	Night Before Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)

Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 16, 2018

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

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

FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:

- + The ministry of Family to Family; all who volunteer and/or give financially to feed Ventura's hungry
- + U.S. Armed services 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: *Hillsides-the Episcopal Home for Children, Pasadena; Neighborhood Youth Association, West LA.; Holy Family Services, Ventura County*
- + Our World Mission Companions: *Ankwanda Village in the Diocese of Cape Coast, and the Dioceses of Sunyani & Wiawso, Ghana*
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *First United Methodist, Trinity Lutheran, Our Lady of the Assumption churches and the Salvation Army*

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

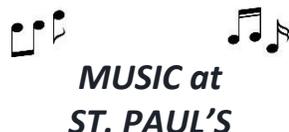
*Thank you for joining us today!
As Ventura works to recover and find the way forward after fire and flood,
St. Paul's is here to help.
We're praying for you every day.
Please let us know what else you need. God bless you!*



Please help us thank the following people
for our refreshments this morning:
8:00 am **Peter & Sharon Bowers**
10:15 am **Ruth McCool, Rob & Susan Talmadge,
Bert & Ernie Fickerson**
*(Next week for hospitality: 8am – Peter & Sharon Bowers
10:15 am – Miles & Cathy Sexton, Larry & Shirley Myers,
Laura & Teddy Andrews)*
If you would like to serve on our hospitality team, please let us know.



PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY TODAY!
Join us at 11:30 in Kahler Hall for a
Christmas Carol Sing-Along & Cookie Decorating Party.
All are welcome!



TODAY: Many thanks to guest musician, Nick Akdag on bassoon!

NEXT SUNDAY: Allison McKay will join us on oboe for both services. Felix and Tara join together for a beautiful tribute to Mary.



WELCOME THE NEWLY CONFIRMED

Congratulations to Duffy Anderson, Amanda Avila, Sharon Bowers, Daniel Campbell, Tara Eisenhauer, and Joseph Wareham. Plan to stay after the service to greet them and meet the Bishop at our annual Parish Christmas Party! The plate offering today will be given to the Bishop's discretionary fund.



MONDAY DECEMBER 17—FAMILY TO FAMILY

Come serve lunch tomorrow at 303 N. Ventura Avenue. Elena is our volunteer coordinator. Preparation and set up begin at 9:30 am; servers are needed between 11:30 and 12:30 pm. Clean up 12:30-1pm.



PLEDGE ENVELOPES AVAILABLE

Pick up your 2019 weekly or monthly pledge envelopes in the narthex. If you can't find them, please contact the office.



FIRST MONDAY BOOK CLUB – January 7, 2019

The December selection is French Exit 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 5 pm for food and 5:30 pm for discussion. All women are welcome! *Sponsored by Daughters of the King.*

St. Paul's is learning Sign Language.

Why? Because all are welcome here!



This sign means,

"I love you."

We are committed to welcoming all, even if that means that we need to change and adapt in order to become more accessible.

A portion of each of our services is presented in ASL (American Sign Language). As we learn more, more signing will be included.

Classes in ASL are offered at St. Paul's. Please contact us for upcoming opportunities. Past classes have included: Introduction to ASL (fingerspelling, vocabulary and deaf culture), Song Signing for Children, Song Signing Christmas Hymns, and Signing the Lord's Prayer.

A current feature of our weekly announcements includes the "ASL Minute" – an opportunity to learn a few signs. Please let us know if there are specific signs you'd like to learn.

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!



Please Join Us Next Week:



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



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 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.)



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.



We invite you to bring your family, friends and neighbors and join us this Christmas for inspiring worship, beautiful music, friendly fellowship, and the opportunity to be filled with the true message of Christmas.

Night Before Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 23

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Come enjoy the peace of the beautifully decorated church before the celebration. We'll light candles, lift prayers, sing carols and tell the Christmas story.

This is a wonderful event for people of all ages.

Children are invited to come in their jammies and bring blankets.



4th Sunday of Advent – December 23rd



ONE service ONLY



Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24

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 at 10 p.m., service begins at 10:30 p.m.

Service includes: lessons, candlelight, choir and Eucharist.

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

A beautiful service with Eucharist and music.

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