



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Second Sunday of Advent
Year C
December 5, 2021 10:15 a.m.
Service offered both in-person and online

Welcome! Thank you for your patience and faithfulness as we continue to work our way through this global pandemic. All are welcome to join us either in-person or online at 10:15am on Sunday mornings. If you have difficulty accessing our online services, and would like assistance, please let us know. There are a variety of ways we can help. Our service airs beginning with the Preludes at 10:05am on: www.StPaulsVentura.org, [www.YouTube.com /StPaulsVentura](http://www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura), and www.Facebook.com/StPaulsVentura.

There are two seating options at in-person Sunday services: 1) Open seating is available without a reservation. 2) A limited number of socially distanced seats are available each week by reservation only. If you need assistance with the reservation process, please contact the church office. Everyone on campus is required to wear a mask at this time.

Check our Email Newsletter each week to keep up with the latest events, announcements, and protocols. If you don't receive our newsletter, please contact us at office@saintpaulsventura.org. Again, welcome! We're glad that you're worshipping with us. If there's anything we can do to help, please let us know. Also contact us if you have any questions, prayer requests or need the services of a priest. We are always glad to hear from you. Meanwhile, know that you are in our prayers. We wish you all a very safe and blessed week.

Today's flowers were given through the generosity of your pledge.
If you'd like to arrange for flowers given in memory or thanksgiving, please contact the church office. Thank you!

Holy Eucharist
Liturgy of the Word

Prelude *A Morning with the Hymnal 1982*

Lighting of the Advent Wreath
Please remain seated.

Awaiting

Felix Eisenhauer
Oboe – Allison McKay

Celebrant Today we light the first and second candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. This first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE

The candles are lit.

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

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 as you are able at the sound of the bell.

Processional

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. 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

Kyrie eleison

Hymnal S86*

*Hymns numbers that begin with "S" are designated as Service Music
and found at the beginning of the Hymnal*

**Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Christe eleison. Chrite eleison. Christe eleison.
Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

(Translation: Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.)

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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 for the reading of scripture.

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.

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

Canticle 16 The Song of Zechariah

Reader Today we will read Canticle 16. We will read it verse by verse. I will read the odd verses, the congregation will read the even verses. We'll end by reading the Gloria Patri together.

- 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.

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.

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 catholic¹ and apostolic² 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.

Server

My brothers and sisters, may God strengthen your hearts in holiness. Trusting in God, let us pray,
O come, o come, Emmanuel; be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness. May all the world know your peace and safety.

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, you place signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars. Give us the eyes to see, the wisdom to prepare, and the faith to trust in you.

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity restored: bring the people of the world together in a spirit of love and respect and bless us all in this time of global pandemic. O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, remember your compassion and love. Heal and restore the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving, especially... *(The congregation is invited to add their petitions silently or aloud.)*

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

God our hope, keep us blameless before you, that we may meet the coming of our Lord, Jesus with joy. May we and all who have died, rise to life immortal with all your saints.

O come, o come, Emmanuel;

Be our hope and our salvation.

Celebrant

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP p. 360

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.

¹ universal; all embracing ² relating to the Apostles; following their teachings

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

New Member Blessing

Please be seated. New Members of the church are called forward for a blessing.

Celebrant We ask your prayers as we welcome these persons who are joining with us as members of St. Paul's Ventura.

People **Loving God, by whose inspiration this congregation was established over 130 years ago; Bless these new members. Send your Holy Spirit to be among us, knitting us together as one body dedicated to worshiping, loving and serving you. Help us to grow in love and faith. Stir us to serve and support one another and equip us for our many ministries as we work together to serve as the Light of Christ in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Peace

All are invited to stand as they are able.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements

Please be seated.

Prayers for birthdays and anniversaries.

Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Sentence

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



*Thank you for your donation, and for your pledge.
Your generosity is appreciated!
We look forward to doing great things in the name of Christ
with whatever you are able to give.*

Offertory Anthem

In Silence we Wait

*Words by John Parker
Music by Lloyd Larson*

Presentation Hymn

Please stand as you are able.

Prepare the way, O Zion

Hymnal 65

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able.

Rite I, Eucharistic Prayer I

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People **It is meet and right so to do.**

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only 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 with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and singing,

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S124

The service music can be found in the front of the hymnal.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Please stand, sit or kneel as you prefer.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for all, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son

Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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.

Let us pray together

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Spiritual Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot all be together in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

The 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.

For in-person worshippers: 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. Cross your arms over your chest as a sign you wish a blessing.

Suggestion: Before or after Communion, see the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pp. 833-834. You'll find some wonderful prayers there. It can be found online at www.bcponline.org

Communion Music

Benedictus

by Alec Rowley

An Advent Round of Anticipation

Felix Eisenhauer

Meditatively

The image shows three staves of musical notation, labeled I, II, and III. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is written in a simple, meditative style with quarter and eighth notes. Each staff has a repeat sign at the beginning and end. The lyrics are written below the notes.

I
O come, ye, come. O

II
The Prince of Peace, The

III
A Mi - ra - cle! A

Post Communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. 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

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Hymnal 75

Please stand as you are able and face the cross.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Prepare the Royal Highway

setting by Robert Hobby

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

Prayers of the People from Intercessions for Year C by GERALYN WOLF, Church Publishing

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Please join us in thanking those serving this week:

Server:	Roger Crow	Lector:	Judy Gold
Seating Coordinator:	Barb Gear	Ushers:	Dan Wakelee & Sally Weimer
Altar Guild:	Dela Parker & Carole Nelson	Flower Guild:	Roger Crow
Cantor:	Reid Edwards	Welcome Greeter:	
Video Production:	Patrick Van Horn	Lock-up Team:	Greg Jackson

St. Paul's Choir: Taylor Bernstein, Annelise Ebell, Rose Hayden-Smith, Amy Schaffer, Laura Andrews, Jordan Daniels, Sophia Cotsis, Kara Johnson-Craven, Allison McKay, Bridget Wareham, Robert Kubilos, Diego Magaña, Alexis Renteria, Daniel Smithson, Robert Brown, Christopher Craven, Reid Edwards



Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 5, 2021

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury	Our Clergy: Susan Bek, Liz Williams, Dick Swanson
Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop	President Joseph Biden, Congress, Federal Courts
John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan	Governor Gavin Newsom, Legislature, State Courts

HEALING IN BODY, MIND & SPIRIT:

Mary, J, N, Devyn, Marilyn, Joan, Lisa, Connie, Rebecca, Ann and all first responders, those on the frontlines of the pandemic, and everyone affected by COVID-19.

THOSE ENDURING A LONG-TERM ILLNESS:

Kay, Brian, Mary, Dave, Penny, Virginia, Susan, Michelle, Jeanice, Sheila, Carol, Rachel, Kim, Amelia, and Liz.

IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:

Drew and Anna Darby, and their family.

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 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, Deanery One in Ventura County: *St. Columba's*, Camarillo; *Trinity*, Fillmore; *St. Andrew's*, Ojai; *All Saints'*, Oxnard; *St. Paul's/ Emmanuel*, Santa Paula; *St. Francis'*, Simi Valley; *St. Patrick's*, Thousand Oaks
- + Our World Mission Companions: *the Cathedral Church of the Ascension, in the Diocese of Wiawso*, Ghana
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Temple Beth Torah, the Islamic Center of Oxnard, Ventura Seventh Day Adventist Church*

IN MEMORIAM

For Bryan Beilby, Kathy Stone and all those we love and see no longer.

Parish prayers for healing are listed for one calendar month but can be renewed if needed. Please contact the church office to add or extend a prayer request and to let us know how things are going.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector
The Rev. Liz Williams, Associate Rector
The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting
Kimberly Lindgren, Parish Administrator
Dr. Felix Eisenhauer, Music Minister
Tara Eisenhauer, Assistant Music Minister
Sara Edwards, Organist
Nadia Becker, ASL Interpreter
Torey Rubrecht, Sexton

3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 643-5033 e-mail: office@saintpaulsventura.org
Website: www.saintpaulsventura.org Twitter: @stpaulsventura Facebook: St. Paul's Ventura

St. Paul's Announcements December 5, 2021

Thank you for joining us today! We'll continue to hold you in our prayers.

Please contact the church office for more information. God bless you!

We invite you to join us again next Sunday!



Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

Whether you're new, visiting or have been a member for years, we're so glad you joined us today. **A warm welcome to you!**

We currently offer Sunday services online, and in person.

Please let us know if we can do anything to support you on your spiritual journey this week.

We're always happy to hear from you!

We invite you to come back soon.



This is a brief overview of our weekly announcements. To learn about everything going on at St. Paul's and to receive weekly encouragement and ways to build up spiritual strength, please see our E-newsletter. If you don't receive it, please let us know. We'd be happy to add you to the list! office@saintpaulsventura.org



Today is the first Sunday of the month, so it's Bring-a-Friend Sunday.

Help us Give a Warm Welcome to all the Visitors

A warm welcome to everyone who's new or visiting with us today. We're so glad you've joined us. If you're attending online, please click the link in the description and fill in a newcomer card or simply send us an email to introduce yourself. If you're attending in person, please be sure to stop by and introduce yourself. We look forward to meeting you and having the chance to thank you for joining us today.



Prepare the Way of the Lord...

Join us Next Week for the Third Sunday of Advent – 12/12 at 10:15am

Be with us online or in-person as we light the first, second, and third candles on our Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY. Let's come together as we worship and wait, holding on to the hope that Christ has instilled in us, enjoying the peace that is beyond understanding and delighting in the joy that comes as we lift our thanks and praise. Join us as we prepare the way of the Lord, lift our prayers and receive communion. Come get inspired! Invite a friend and join us. We look forward to seeing you there!



You are invited...

Retirement Party for Rev. Liz - Sunday, 12/12 at 11:30am on the Patio

Please join us as we celebrate the ministry of our wonderful Associate Rector and thank her for her years of service here at St. Paul's and in the wider church. Join us for food, music, and the chance to send her off with lots of love as she and her family embark on their next great adventure. All are welcome!



LAST CALL – Toys will be picked up this week. Thank you!

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SHOPPE TOY COLLECTION

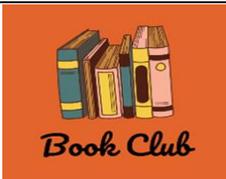
Today is the final day of our toy drive for the Community Christmas Shoppe. Thank you for your new, unwrapped toys! You've made the holidays brighter for some families who are struggling right now. Thanks for helping us share the love of Christ this season!



Want to help our warm the hearts and bodies of our neighbors in need?

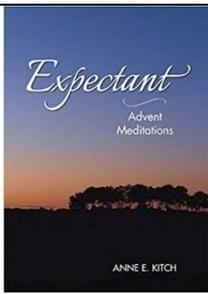
COATS FOR ALL and REACH for Socks - We are collecting new or gently used coats and jackets of all sizes **now through the end of the year!** The drive is sponsored by the Downtown Chapter of the Rotary Club. The donation box is located in the church lobby.

SOCK DRIVE Socks are also 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 in the basket on the REACH table. We'll distribute them throughout the winter season. (Please no dress socks or children's sizes.)



First Monday Book Club – December 6th at 5:30 pm on Zoom

Our next book is *The Third Mrs. Galway* by Deirdre Sinnott. Antislavery agitation is rocking Utica in 1835 when a young bride discovers an enslaved family hiding in her shed. Sinnott has created a beautiful, timely, and uplifting book with unforgettable characters. Enjoy and see you in our virtual living room on December 6th at 5:30. Same link as before. Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 7Tt0EF



Looking for a wonderful Advent Study?

Advent Study Suggestions for the Whole Parish – Way of Love and Daily Meditations

Each bulletin includes Advent Resources following the Way of Love. We will also be following the book, *Expectant: Advent Meditations* by Anne Kitch. Everyone is invited to follow along with the brief meditations for each day in Advent. If you'd like to talk about it, you can join us on **Wednesday mornings at 10:30am on Zoom, post a comment on our Facebook page, or send us an email.** We'll start with the First Sunday of Advent and read through Christmas Day. In the spirit of expectancy, each meditation focuses on seeking and seeing God in the everyday of our ordinary lives.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84520059536>



GIFT WRAPPING PARTY

Friday, December 17th at 6:30pm in Kahler Hall

Come join others in fellowship while we get our Christmas wrapping done away from any prying eyes! Bring a hot beverage to enjoy and gift wrap supplies (feel free to bring extra to share if you have too much stored in the garage!) If you have any questions, please contact Grace through the church office.

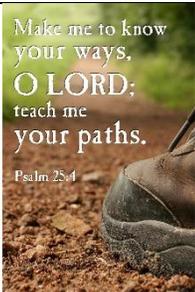


Memorial Services

A service celebrating the life of Jean Jenkins will be held at St. Paul's on Saturday, December 11 at 11am.

A service celebrating the life of Kathy Stone will be held on Saturday, December 11 at 2pm.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. And may God bless those who mourn with a sense of peace and delight at the wonderful memories they have to treasure. Amen.



Monthly Hike – Sat. 12/11 at 9am Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwinwa

Join us in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to hike and enjoy God's creation together (no Eucharist this month). A short walk from the parking area is the Satwiwa Native American Cultural Center, multiple trails lead from the cultural center into the surrounding Santa Monica Mountains. To get to there take Lewis Road (in Camarillo) south turn right on Potrero Road, continue about five miles (Potrero will turn into Lynn Road). Rancho Sierra Vista will be on the right, follow the entrance road to the parking area. More information about Rancho Sierra Vista is available at <https://www.nps.gov/samo/playyourvisit/rvsatwiwa.htm>. Please contact Dan Wakelee or the church office if you have any questions.



We're so excited to be able to offer baptisms again!

UPCOMING BAPTISM OPPORTUNITY

1/9/22 The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord

We become members of the body of Christ through the sacrament of baptism. If you have not been baptized, and would like to be, please speak with Rev. Susan to make arrangements. *About Baptism: Holy Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body, the Church. The bond which God establishes in Baptism is indissoluble. Through Baptism and the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven of our sins and raised to the new life of grace. We are also formally initiated into the fellowship of Christian community.* This is a very important and moving occasion. The prayers and presence of the community are requested.

"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

Thank you for your generosity!

Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or Text StPaulsVentura to 73256. You can also arrange online payments, click the "Give" button at www.saintpaulsventura.org or use this QR code. Members give of their time through many ministries and share their talents through lots of volunteer opportunities. Please contact our clergy if you'd like to get involved in something new. Generosity involves the giving of time, talent and treasure. Thank you for all the ways you give of yourself! We look forward to doing great things with whatever you are able to share.



This QR Code takes you straight to our Giving Page

Please consider the church if you're interested in making an end-of-year donation. We appreciate your support!

Thank you so much! It is great to be with you on this journey of faith.



Donations for
Christmas
Music
& Flowers

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS & MUSIC

We'd love to have especially beautiful flowers and music this Christmas.

If you'd like to contribute, please mark your donation "Flowers & Music" and place in offering plate, send it in, or donate via the website, PayPal, or Text. Be sure to note whether the donation is in memory or honor of a loved one and whether you would like it listed in the Christmas bulletins.

Donations accepted any time.

Deadline to be recognized in the bulletin is 12/15.

Thank You!



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.,

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



EPIPHANY PAGEANT

Sunday, Jan. 9 at 10:15am

All are welcome! Want to be in the pageant or help us get ready? Contact the church office. Rehearsal will be Sat. 1/8 10am - noon.



GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Thurs., Dec. 23 at 9am

Help us transform the church in preparation for Christmas. Bring your friends and join us. Many hands make light work.

We appreciate your help!



THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE

December 23 at 7pm

Come and enjoy the peace and beauty of the church on the night before Christmas Eve. Quiet music, bedtime stories and prayers.

This event is great for all ages. Children are invited to come in their jammies.

Come get centered and connect with the spirit of Christmas before the festivities begin.



St Paul's, Ventura

Your Church Home for the Holidays

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.

3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura

office@saintpaulsventura.org

(805) 643-5033

www.saintpaulsventura.org

Sunday Services

online and in-person at 10:15am

Wednesday Healing Service at 9am on Zoom



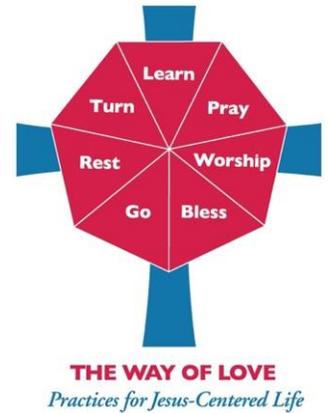
BULLETIN INSERTS

December 5, 2021 – Advent 2 (C)

Second Week of Advent: Journeying with Family and Friends

As we continue our Advent walk, we invite you to see the Way of Love as a journey that can expand to include family and friends. Mary said “yes” to the call to birth Jesus, God’s Word, into the world and immediately went in haste to share her good news with her cousin, Elizabeth—a four-day journey into the Judean hills. Isn’t that what happens when we hear good news? We are driven to go and tell others. The Way of Love is good news that demands to be shared.

For more Advent resources related to the Way of Love, visit episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. There, you’ll find links to the full Advent curriculum *Journeying the Way of Love*, as well as *Living the Way of Love in Community*, a nine-session curriculum for use anytime.



Sunday, December 5

WORSHIP

Read Luke 3:1-6. How does the story of John the Baptist fill your heart with hope?

Monday, December 6

GO

Read or watch your local news. Ask God to open your heart and eyes to ways you can promote reconciliation and healing in your community.

Tuesday, December 7

LEARN

Read Luke 1:45. Share your faith story with one new person this week. It can be someone you have known for a while who has not heard the faith part of your story.

Wednesday, December 8

PRAY

Pray along with the Collect for Advent 2, found on page 211 of The Book of Common Prayer. As you are out and about for the rest of this week, notice the people you pass. Ask God to bless them in their lives and work. See how this changes the way you go about your week.

Thursday, December 9

BLESS

Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.

Friday, December 10

TURN

Where did you struggle this week? Do you have amends or apologies or adjustments you need to make? Ask God to open your heart and mind to those opportunities for reconciliation and growth. Thank God for the gifts of mercy and love, and the courage to make the changes necessary. And then do your best, with God’s help, to make those changes.

Saturday, December 11

REST

Set aside 30 minutes to spend in silence with your best friend today. Sure, it may feel a little weird to be silent on the phone or while sitting next to each other on the couch or across the table. Just give it a try. Make sure to set aside time after your silence to pray for each other and to say thanks for the time of rest

