



Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of 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**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

## **Psalm 147:13-21**

Today we will be reading a portion of Psalm 147. We will read it verse by verse. I will read the odd verses, the congregation will read the even verses.

13 Jerusalem will worship you, O God; \*  
and Zion will praise your name.

14 For you have strengthened the bars of our gates; \*  
and have blest our children within us.

15 You have established peace on our borders; \*  
and satisfied us with the finest wheat.

16 You send out your command to the earth, \*  
and your word runs very swiftly.

17 You give snow like wool; \*  
and scatter hoarfrost like ashes.

18 You scatter your hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against your cold?

19 You send forth your word and melt them; \*  
you blow with your wind and the waters flow.

20 You declare your word to Jacob, \*  
your statutes and your judgments to Israel.

21 You have not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them you have not revealed your judgments.  
Alleluia!

## Second Reading

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

## Gradual Hymn

**How bright appears the morning star (v. 1)**

**Hymnal 497**

*Please stand as you are able and face the Gospel.*

## Holy Gospel

**John 1:1-18**

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

**Nicene Creed**

*Book of Common Prayer p. 358*

*All stand as able and together say*

**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<sup>1</sup> and apostolic<sup>2</sup> 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, sit or kneel as is your custom.*

*Server*

God has clothed all things with mercy and prepared the earth as for a wedding by taking on our flesh in Christ. Trusting in that mercy, let our prayers join the festival, saying: O God, mighty God, merciful God, hear our prayer.

*Leader*

For the churches, that this assembly and all assemblies may be cradles for the word of Christ, filled with harmony and witnessing with thanksgiving, O God, mighty God, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the bishops and all the leaders of the church, that in word and deed they may show forth the love and compassion with which you clothe creation and all its peoples, O God, mighty God, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

For the earth which you honored in the incarnation of your Son, and for us creatures, that a spirit of joy in its goodness and care for its future may be poured out upon us all, O God, mighty God, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are in need, remembering all who are sick, the elderly, those who are alone, and all who minister to them, especially *(the people may add their petitions either silently or aloud)*, that we all may be strengthened by the presence of Christ as the sign of God's love. O God, mighty God, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

---

<sup>1</sup> Universal; all embracing

<sup>2</sup> Relating to the Apostles; following their teachings

Let us pray for those who have died especially...*(the people may add their petitions either silently or aloud)*, that they may rest in peace. May we wait in hope for the promise of resurrection with them. O God, mighty God, merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant*

Rejoicing with all the saints, with Mary and Joseph and all the Holy Innocents, we commend these prayers and all our life to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.

*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

*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

He is Born, the Divine Christ Child

*18th C French carol,  
arr. Franklin Ashdown*

### Presentation Hymn

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Good Christian friends, rejoice**

**Hymnal 107**

# Great Thanksgiving

*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.**

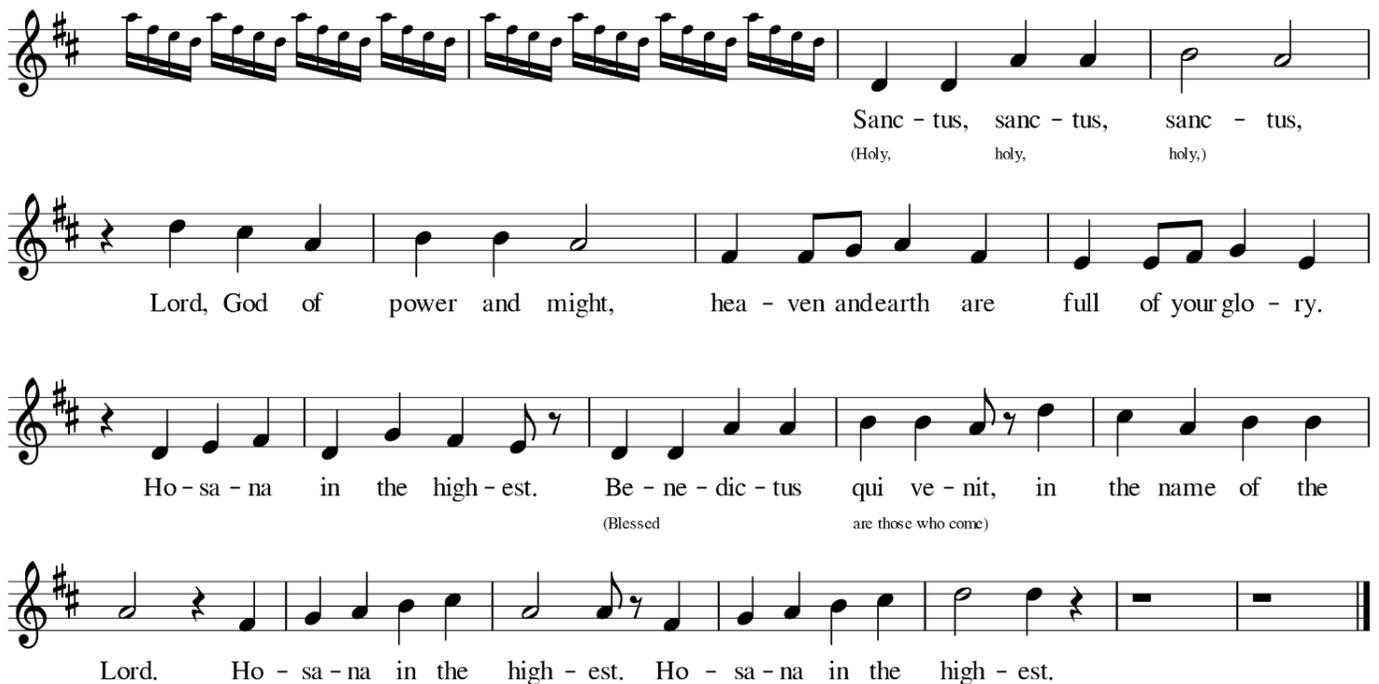
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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*



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.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Joseph, Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

### **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.**

### **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

This is the Banquet of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who fear you have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him in this holy way.

*For in-person worshipers: 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. Online worshipers can find it at [www.bcponline.org](http://www.bcponline.org)*

## Communion Music

Pastorale from Christmas Concerto  
Pastorale from "Christmas Concerto", Concerto Grosso Op. 6, No. 8

*by Arcangelo Corelli*

## Postcommunion 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.**

## Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **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 Joy to the world! (v.1,2,4)**

**Hymnal 100**

*Please stand and face the cross as we process.*

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room, heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sign, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hill and plains, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,  
wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

**Dismissal**

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

**Postlude**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*14th C German folk melody  
arr. James Mansfield*

---

**Acknowledgements and Copyright Information**

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

Prayers of the People: *Intercessions for the Christian People*, Pueblo Publishing Company, 1988

Unless otherwise noted, permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-719533. All rights reserved.

---

***Please join us in thanking those serving this week:***

<b>Server:</b>	Roger Crow	<b>Lector:</b>	Bridget Wareham
<b>Seating Coordinator:</b>	Barb Gear	<b>Ushers:</b>	Steve Jones and Judy Gold
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Louise Bretz	<b>Flower Guild:</b>	Sarah Lamola
<b>Cantor:</b>	Daniel Smithson	<b>Welcome Greeter:</b>	Julie Braithwaite
<b>Video Production:</b>	Patrick Van Horn	<b>Lock-up Team:</b>	Miles Sexton



## ***Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 26, 2021***

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury	Our Clergy: Susan Bek, 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, Maria, Phil, Audrey, Judy, Bob, 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, Liz, Maria and Linda.

### ***IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:***

Drew and Anna Darby, and their family.

### ***FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:***

- + The spiritual, physical and moral development of our children and youth; the children, youth, and adult leaders of our Sunday School, Youth Group, Boy Scout Troop 179, Girl Scout Daisy Troop 65014, La Famiglia Preschool, and VCSAGE
- + The Vestry's leadership that our parish's mission may be accomplished. Our 2021 vestry members and officers are Rose Hayden-Smith (Senior Warden), Woody Bretz (Junior Warden), Peter Anderson (Treasurer), Kathy Loest (Clerk), Ted Andrews, Dan Campbell, Jordan Daniels, Grace Dunlevy, Steve Jones, Marcia Semple, Dan Wakelee, Bridget Wareham, and the Rev. Susan Bek (Rector).
- + 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: *the Cathedral Church of the Ascension, in the Diocese of Wiawso, Ghana*
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Unitarian/Universalist, Center for Spiritual Living, An Lac Mission (Buddhist), Mormon Church*

### ***IN MEMORIAM***

For Charlie Feyh 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. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting  
Kara Craven, Parish Administrator  
Dr. Felix Eisenhauer, Music Minister  
Tara Eisenhauer, Assistant Music Minister  
Sara Edwards, Organist  
Nadia Becker, ASL Interpreter  
Torey Rubrecht, Sexton  
Amy Schaffer, Director of Communications

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

# St. Paul's Announcements December 26, 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](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)



*The celebration continues throughout the Twelve Days of Christmas...*

**Join us Next Week for the Second Sunday after Christmas – 1/2 at 10:15am**

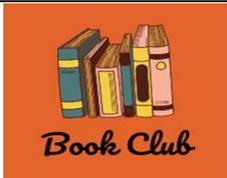
On the Second Sunday after Christmas, the celebration continues. We'll be up to the ninth day of Christmas with only three more to go. The Gospel story tells of the Magi, the Wise Men, who came looking for the child born king of the Jews. They brought interesting gifts and came to pay homage to the Christ-Child. Join us as we offer our prayers and sing joyful praises. Online, we offer Spiritual Communion. In-person, we offer Eucharist; the body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Come get inspired!



*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 of 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 – January 3rd at 5:30 pm on Zoom**

During the month of December we're reading the new book by Jane Goodall, *The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times*. Jane focuses on her "Four Reasons for Hope" with stories and thought-provoking dialogue. She details the forces that shaped her hopeful worldview, her thoughts on her past, and her revelations about her next great adventure. Enjoy and see you in our virtual living room on 1/3 at 5:30pm. Same link as before. Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 7Tt0EF



*Please join us in offering...*

## A GREAT BIG THANK YOU To Everyone Who Helped to Make Advent and Christmas so beautiful and inspiring!

*We are especially grateful for the work of the Altar Guild, the Flower Guild, the Men's Group, the Ushers, Seating Coordinators, and Welcome Committee as well as all the wonderful volunteers who pitched in and helped and everyone who donated funds to enhance our music and flowers. Thank you so much! We are most grateful.*



This QR Code takes you straight to our Giving Page

*"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](http://www.saintpaulsventura.org) or use this QR code. Please consider the church if you're interesting 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.**



We are grateful for the donations received for

# Flowers & Music

that make our Christmas Celebrations so beautiful.

---

The Wied and Schmitt Families gave in loving memory of Douglas and Christine Wied.

William Brewer gave in memory of Carol Brewer by her loving family.

Barbara Jakovich gave in honor of her parents, Irene and Frank Dirricq.

Miles & Cathy Sexton gave the Christmas Trees in loving memory of Aldo Fattarelli  
and Jim & Nile Sexton

Marilyn Beattie gave in memory of her husband, Louis A. Beattie,  
her son, Andy Beattie, and her grandson, Trevor Beattie.

Roger Gold gave in thanksgiving for family.

John and Virginia Dilworth gave in memory of Harry & Margery Dickinson.

Barbara Geair gave in memory of her mother, Helen.

Roger Myers gave in loving memory of his wife, Kathy Stone.

Patrick VanHorn gave in memory of Millie Timko and Kiel VanHorn.

Lisa Cross gave in gratitude for her many blessings.

The Rev. Susan and Jon Bek gave in thanksgiving for their grandchildren -  
Emmanuel, Nathaniel, Joy, Jeremiah, Christina, Christian and Daniel.