



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year A

December 18, 2022 10:15 a.m.

Service offered both in-person and online

Welcome! Sunday Services are offered each week at 10:15am. You have the option of attending in-person or online at: www.StPaulsVentura.org/live, www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura, www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura.

COVID-19 Safety Protocols – In keeping with CDC guidelines and county recommendations, masks are no longer required, but still strongly encouraged. Please carefully consider what is best for you and your family. During Sunday services we are indoors for longer than one hour with 70-100 people, and we sing together. Since singing can cause droplets to travel, we encourage mask wearing while singing. Also, because some among us are at higher risk and continue to need some additional distance, we've reserved the chapel side of the sanctuary for those with masks. Those not wearing masks are invited to sit on the Loma Vista side of the sanctuary. We hope this will make it possible for everyone find a place in the church where they can feel safe and comfortable. Thank you for your understanding. You are a shining example of what LOVE looks like.

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. We invite you to sing, pray and read along with us through the service. The words in bold are the ones we'll all say together.

Our Sunday School program (for children ages 2 years-grade 5) begins at 10am. Children are invited to join Miss Bailey and Miss Wendy to 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.

The best way to keep up with everything that's going on at St. Paul's is to subscribe to our Email Newsletter. If you don't receive it and would like to be added to the list, please come see us at the Welcome Table or contact the office.

Once again, welcome! We're glad that you're worshiping with us. Let us know 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

Creator of the Stars at Night

arr. Mahlon Balderston

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Please remain seated.

Awaiting

Felix Eisenhauer
Oboe – Allison McKay

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

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 as you are able at the sound of the bell.

Processional

People, look East

Hymnal 724

Cantor: Sophia Cotsis

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 forever. 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*

Service Music is found at the beginning of the Hymnal.

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

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; 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 7:10-16

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

The response for today is a portion of Psalm 80. We will read it responsively breaking at the asterisk.

- 1** Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2** In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3** Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4** O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5** You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6** You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7** Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16** Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17** And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18** Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, to all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

O come, O come, Emmanuel, v. 7-8

All are invited to stand as you are able and join in singing.

**O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the captive hearts of all mankind;
bid thou our sad divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Please remain standing and face the Gospel.

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Susan Bek

Please be seated.

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed

BCP 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 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.

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

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. *(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.

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.**

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

Ain'-a That Good News

Traditional Spiritual

Presentation Hymn

Soon and very soon

Andraé Crouch

Please stand as you are able.

- 1. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
- 2. No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
- 3. No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**
- 4. Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King;
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Please stand as you are able.

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:

**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 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 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.

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 it.

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 gluten-free.

Once you have the bread, you may choose any of the following options:

- 1. Return to your seat without receiving the wine.** *Be assured that this is a sufficient experience of communion.*
- 2. Sip the wine, from the common cup,** *guiding the chalice gently with your hand. (This meets the current safety standards set by the Diocese of Los Angeles and our bishop because the wine contains alcohol, the chalice is silver or similar metal, and the surface is wiped and turned between communicants.)*
- 3. Receive by intinction** (dipping) – *the Eucharistic Minister will dip your wafer into the wine for you. We must place it in your hand at this time and cannot place it in your mouth.*

***The Common Cup will be offered on the right side of the altar rail.
Intinction (dipping) will be offered on the left (Loma Vista) side.***

*If you'd like to come forward but would prefer not to receive,
please cross your arms over your chest and the priest will offer you 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

From Fragments: 7 Improvisation Sketches

Felix Eisenhauer

An Advent Round of Preparation
(see next page)

Felix Eisenhauer

I Pre - pare your - self the Lord will come Pre

II Pre - pare, pre - pare, pre - pare Pre

III To be a light, a - light

IV Pre-prepare

Post Communion Prayer

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. 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

Come, thou long expected Jesus

Hymnal 66

Please stand as you are able and face the cross.

Dismissal

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

People, Look East

Robert A. Hobby

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

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Please join us in thanking those serving this week:

Server:	Kara Craven	Lector:	Judy Gold & Judy Drew
Chalice:	Christopher Craven	Ushers:	Wendy VanHorn & Eric Craven
Altar Guild:	Grace Dunlevy & Anna Darby	Flower Guild:	Grace Dunlevy & Anna Darby
Cantor:	Sophia Cotsis	Welcome Greeter:	Marcia Semple
Video Production:	John Loest	Lock-up Team:	Rev. Susan



Monday, December 19

Feeding the Hungry at Family to Family

Friday, December 23

Greening of the Church – 9am in Sanctuary
Night Before Christmas Eve Service – 7pm in Sanctuary

Saturday, December 24, *Christmas Eve*

Family Service with Christmas Pageant - 4pm
Carols - 10pm
Candlelight Service - 10:30pm

Sunday, December 25

Christmas Day Service – 10:15am

Sunday, January 1st

New Year's Day and 10:15am Service

Sunday, January 8

Baptism of Our Lord
10:15am service with baptisms

Sunday, February 5

Annual Meeting of St. Paul's Parish

Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 18, 2022

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:

Leta, Christian, Christina, Nathan and his family, Bryant, Ed, Barb, Mary, Matthew, Thomas, Vivian, Bill, Susan, Jon, Jeff, Spencer and her family, Nadia, Tracy, Rebecca, Janet, Dulce, Victor, Patrick, Charlie, MaryAnne, Larry, Joanne, Barb, Samantha, Alan, all refugees and everyone affected by COVID-19, gun violence, natural disaster, poverty, and injustice.

THOSE ENDURING A LONG-TERM ILLNESS:

Penny, Phil, Lynn, Audrey, Dennis, Maria, Baby Z, Amelia, Rachel, Dave, Kim, Linda, Virginia, Michelle, Sheila, Jeanice, Kevin, Susan, Ed, Debbie, Carol and Ron.

IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:

Drew and Anna Darby, and their family.

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
- + All who work, educate others, and pray to abolish the scourge of present-day slavery.

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.: *First United Methodist, Trinity Lutheran, Our Lady of the Assumption churches and the Salvation Army*

IN MEMORIAM

Pat Minick, George 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 Eisenhower, Music Minister
Tara Eisenhower, Choir Director
Sara Edwards, Organist
Nadia Becker, ASL Interpreter
Amy Schaffer, Director of Communications
Joseph Wareham, Sexton

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St. Paul's Announcements December 18, 2022

Thank you for joining us today! 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!** Our Sunday services are available 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.



ST. PAUL'S Enews

announcements,
enrichment, encouragement

Because faith isn't just for Sundays!

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!
You can reach us by emailing office@saintpaulsventura.org



Today
at

ST. PAUL'S



FOURTH SUNDAY

OF
Advent

and after church today...



COFFEE HOUR

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 12/18 at 10:15am

Join us online or in-person as we light the first, second, third and fourth candles on our Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE. 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, delighting in the joy that comes as we lift our thanks and praise, and celebrating the incredible gift of love offered to us through Jesus. Join us as we prepare the way of the Lord, lift our prayers and receive communion.

You are Invited to Coffee Hour

We invite you to join us in Kahler Hall (just down the stairs) for a cup of coffee, tea, or water and the chance to sit and chat with one another. In the church, we call this fellowship. It's one of our favorite parts of being on this journey of faith together. So, when you're available, please plan to join us.



Are you new to St. Paul's or visiting us?

A warm welcome to you! We are so glad you joined us today. We are a friendly and welcoming congregation. Our ushers and greeters and production team will be happy to do anything they can to make your time with us more comfortable and meaningful. If you view the services online, please complete the newcomer card linked in the description. If you attend in-person, please introduce yourself to our clergy, they're looking forward to meeting you.
We invite you to come back soon.



Fair Trade Sales – TODAY. St. Paul's is an Abolitionist Congregation, committed to ending the scourge of modern-day slavery. We sell fair trade products through the Equal Exchange to support farm cooperatives around the world giving farmers a fair price and a better future. Locally our sales support ending human trafficking through the Abolitionist Committee. Please stop by our table outside near the fountain to check out delicious chocolate, coffee and tea! Cash and checks accepted. Please see Joanne Wakelee or contact the church office with questions.



Do you find God in nature?

Spirituality in Nature Group – Dec. 21 Evening Event

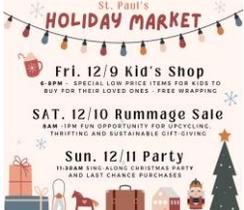
Join us on the St. Paul's labyrinth for a Winter Solstice time of contemplation and community. Wednesday Dec. 21 at 5pm. We plan to have telescopes out to do some stargazing and a small bonfire. We will be thinking about darkness and light as spiritual concepts. We also plan to have light snacks but feel free to bring food to share if you'd like. Our activities are appropriate for all ages and friends are always welcome. If you'd like to get involved in this new group, please let us know.

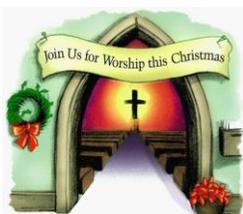


Family to Family

We're up Tomorrow - MONDAY, December 19th

Please pray for the wonderful volunteers who will serve lunch to our hungry neighbors tomorrow. We appreciate your support and look forward to the time when we can serve inside and recruit more volunteers again.

 <p>ST. PAUL'S HOLIDAY MARKET Fri. 12/9 Kid's Shop 6-8PM - SPECIAL LOW PRICE ITEMS FOR KIDS TO BUY FOR THEIR LOVED ONES - FREE WRAPPING SAT. 12/10 Rummage Sale 8AM-11AM FUN OPPORTUNITY FOR UPCYCLING, THRIFTING AND SUSTAINABLE GIFT-GIVING Sun. 12/11 Party 11:30AM-1:30PM CHRISTMAS PARTY AND LAST CHANCE PURCHASES</p>	<p><i>We are so grateful...</i> Thank You for Your Support Last Week at the Holiday Market Fundraiser Thank you to everyone who volunteered, all who brought donations for the Rummage Sale and Bake Sale, for everyone who attended, and for each person who helped spread the word or brought a friend. We really appreciate your support of this important fundraiser. A special thank you to Grace Dunlevy for coordinating the event and to Lisa Cross for coordinating the Bake Sale. We are so grateful! We raised more then \$2500! Thank you so much!</p>
 <p>Family Christmas Pageant</p>	<p><i>Calling all Families...</i> Family Christmas Pageant – at 4pm Christmas Eve Service We're so excited to invite you and your family to join in the fun! No rehearsals are required. Everyone is asked to arrive by 3pm on Christmas Eve for a brief rehearsal in the sanctuary and then we'll send you over for costuming, caroling and fun while we wait for the service to begin. All are welcome! We look forward to seeing you there!</p>
	<p><i>We're so excited to be able to offer baptisms again!</i> UPCOMING BAPTISM OPPORTUNITY – 1/8/23 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. This is a very important and moving occasion. The prayers and presence of the community are requested.</p>
 <p>IN Loving MEMORY</p>	<p>Memorial Service A service celebrating the life of Gonnie Stouthamer will be held at St. Paul's on Friday, December 30th at 11am. <i>May she 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.</i></p>
 <p>Book Club</p>	<p>Book Club – Next meeting is Monday, January 2, 2023! Our next selection is "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles. In 1922, Count Alexander Rostov is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal and he is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin. Brimming with humor, a glittering cast of characters, and one beautifully rendered scene after another, this novel takes us through some of the most tumultuous decades in Russian history. All are welcome! Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 1stmonday</p>
 <p>HOLIDAY CLOTHING DRIVE</p>	<p><i>Want to help our warm the hearts and bodies of our neighbors in need?</i> 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 Family to Family ministry. 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.)</p>
 <p>WISH LIST</p>	<p><i>Please consider the church this Christmas...</i> WISH LIST SUGGESTIONS for End-of-Year Donations Gifts and donations may be made at any time, for any purpose. In case you're interested in making an end-of year donation, the items currently on our wish list include: new flooring for the sanctuary, new chairs for Kahler Hall (a simple \$25 donation buys a chair), new counters are needed in Kahler Hall kitchen, new counters and sinks are needed in the sacristy (where the Altar Guild and Flower Guild do their work), and Kahler Hall needs exterior painting. If you are able to help make a wish come true, we appreciate your support! If you'd like more information, please contact Rev. Susan. Thank you!</p>
 <p>This QR Code takes you straight to Giving Page</p>	<p><i>"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7</i> 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. We look forward to doing great things with whatever you are able to give. Thank you so much!</p>



Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for Christmas. All are welcome here!



Christmas Eve at St. Paul's

4:00 p.m. Family Service

This is a beautiful service that is especially appropriate for families and children of all ages. All are welcome!

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

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Join us for a beautiful service on this holy day.



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!



GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Friday, 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, an uplifting message of hope and love, and the opportunity to be filled with the true Christmas spirit.

3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura
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Sunday Services

online and in-person at 10:15am
Wednesday Healing Service at 9am on Zoom



*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.*

Friday 12/23 Greening of the Church at 9am

You're invited to help us transform the church in preparation for
Christmas. It's great fun and many hands make light work.

Night Before Christmas Eve

In-Person Service - Friday, 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, 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.



Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Family Service

This is a beautiful 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

In-Person on Sunday, December 25

10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Join us for this beautiful service with Eucharist and music

View Online Services at:

[www.Facebook.com/saintpaulsventura](https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulsventura)

www.YouTube.com/stpaulsventura

www.saintpaulsventura.org/live

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