



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 23, Year A

October 15, 2023 at 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.

Safety Protocols –Because some among us are at higher risk and continue to want some additional distance, we've reserved the chapel side of the sanctuary for those with masks. Masks are optional on the Loma Vista side. 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. 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.

By tradition, The Episcopal Church offers Holy Communion to all baptized persons. If you are not baptized, but wish to receive, we invite you to participate fully in the opening part of the service, called the Ministry of the Word, hearing God's word and reflecting on your life, enabling you to come to the table for communion, if you so choose, with a heart prepared to receive. We hope that if you feel touched by the word and sacrament and wish to learn more about the life-giving power of the Spirit of the Risen Christ, you will contact the church office to inquire about participating in Holy Baptism.

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

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.



The angels are dancing again...

Listen carefully, you just might hear the angels dancing on the roof!

As things heat up, the beams in our beautiful church ceiling expand and creak. No worries! It's just part of this wonderful building's charm. For years, some of our members have said to each other, "Listen, the angels are dancing on the roof again!"

Today's flowers are 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!

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Dominus Regit Me/The King of Love My Shepherd is

*arr. Henry Kihlken
Tune by John B. Dykes*

Processional

Christ, whose glory fills the skies

Please stand as you are able at the sound of the bell.

Hymnal 7

Cantor: Reid Edwards

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 355

*Celebrant
People*

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

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

Now thank we all our God, v. 1

Hymnal 397

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

Isaiah 25:1-9

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

The response appointed for this morning is Psalm 23. We will read it verse by verse. I will read the odd-numbered verses. The congregation is invited to read the even-numbered verses.

1 The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**2 He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

3 He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**6 Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.**

Second Reading

Philippians 4:1-9

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

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

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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

Gradual Hymn

Day by day, dear Lord

Hymnal 654

All stand as able to sing.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:1-14

Remain standing and face the Gospel.

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

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Canon Greg Larkin

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.

Prayers of the People

Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.

Server

Gather us together, O God, that we might share the prayers, intentions, and thanksgivings of our community. We are generous with our gifts, because we are Rooted in Abundance.

I ask your prayers for the Church, for all who worship God this day. For our clergy, our diocesan leaders, and for our congregation. We pray especially for this season in which we celebrate our stories of leadership and our support for mission...

We are generous with our gifts of leadership,

Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Leader: I ask your prayers for our Nation and all nations; for refugees fleeing climate change and war; for conflicts of resources and land; for lawmakers, peacekeepers, and informed citizens. We pray for a distribution of wealth that helps the poor and the marginalized...

We are generous with our gifts of peace,

Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

¹ universal; all embracing

² Relating to the Apostles, following their teachings

Leader: I ask your prayers for the sick, the lonely, the lost, and those who grieve. We remember those on our parish prayer list, and those we name now in silence or aloud...
We are generous with our gifts of healing,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Leader: I ask your prayers for those who have died, those who are dying, and those who mourn. For those on our parish list, and for those we name now in silence or aloud...
We are generous with our gifts of support,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Leader: I ask for your remembrances of thanksgivings and blessings, for we are given time, talent, and treasure to share with the world...
We are generous with our gratitude,
Because we are Rooted in Abundance.

Celebrant

Hear the prayers of your people, Creator God. May we who are blessed by so much wealth and wisdom, share our works with a world in need. **Amen.**

The Confession

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 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.**

A Prayer for Peace

Healer of the Nations, from the noise of war and the drumbeat of vengeance, give us undiminished determination to wage peace. Out of brokenness, violence and destruction, let us plant seeds of hope. Out of chaos, confusion and hatred, build bridges of love. Out of distrust, disunity and distance, walk together in harmony. Heal our divisions and make us whole. **Amen.**

Bishop Deon K. Johnson

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.

Blessings for Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Special Occasions

Liturgy of the Table

Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

Hebrews 13:15,16



*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

Be Thou My Vision

*John Rutter
Words: Irish, c. 8th century*

Presentation Hymn

Please stand as you are able.

Songs of thankfulness and praise, v. 1-2

H135

Prayer as the Plates are Received

Celebrant All things come of thee, of Lord.
People And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S128

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 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, whether spiritually or actually, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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 are not all 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 stand or kneel at the altar rail to receive the Eucharist. If you are unable to come forward but would like to receive, please let an usher know and we will bring communion to you.

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.

Regardless of which side you are sitting on, when you come forward, please go to whichever side is offering the wine in the way you prefer to receive it.

Those receiving by intinction are asked to help themselves to a small paper cup.

Please tell the priest if you prefer a gluten-free wafer.

You may also choose to return to your seat without receiving the wine.

Be assured that it is a sufficient experience of communion.

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. Online worshipers can find it at www.bcponline.org

Communion Music

Improvisation on the Day's Hymns

Felix Eisenhauer

You hear the Lambs a-Cryin'

Traditional Spiritual
Harm. Verolga Nix

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and a key signature change to one sharp. The lyrics are: 'You hear the lambs a - cry - in', hear the lambs a - cry - in', hear the lambs a -'. The second staff has two endings: '1. cry - in' O Sher-herd, feed my sheep. You' and '2. feed my sheep. Fine'. The third staff has three verses: '1. My Sav - rio spoke these words so sweet, say-in', 2. O Lord, I love thee, thou dost know; O Shep-herd, feed my sheep, O, 3. O was - n't that an aw - ful same? He'. The fourth staff ends with 'D.S.' and the lyrics: '"Pe - ter, if you love me, feed my sheep." give me grace to love thee more. O Shep-herd, feed my sheep. You hung three hours in mor - tal pain.'

You hear the lambs a - cry - in', hear the lambs a - cry - in', hear the lambs a -
cry - in' O Sher-herd, feed my sheep. You feed my sheep.
1. My Sav - rio spoke these words so sweet, say-in'
2. O Lord, I love thee, thou dost know; O Shep-herd, feed my sheep, O
3. O was - n't that an aw - ful same? He
D.S.
"Pe - ter, if you love me, feed my sheep." give me grace to love thee more. O Shep-herd, feed my sheep. You
hung three hours in mor - tal pain.

Post Communion Prayer:

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Let us pray.

God of Abundance and Grace, by the provision of this feast, the Sacrament of our Savior, Jesus Christ, you have united us together in purpose and place. May we who have gathered and broken bread, now go out and share your living Word. Being rooted in Abundance, may we serve you with joy and steadfast faith, while bringing glory to your name and benefit to your people, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

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

Blessing

May the peace which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit rest upon you and remain with you this day and forever more. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

O for a thousand tongues to sing

Hymnal 493

Please stand as you are able and turn to face the cross as it passes by.

Dismissal

Celebrant
People

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

Postlude

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing!

Arr. Carl G. Gläser

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Check out next Sunday's readings at www.lectionarypage.net

Please join us in thanking those who served today, including:

Servers:	Drew Darby & Kara Craven	Lectors:	Judy Gold & Judy Drew
Chalice:	Christopher Craven	Ushers:	Wendy VanHorn & Eric Craven
Altar Guild:	Anna Darby & Grace Dunlevy	Flower Guild:	Grace Dunlevy & Anna Darby
Cantor:	Reid Edwards	Welcome Greeter:	Marcia Semple
Video Production:	Patrick VanHorn	Lock-up Team:	Kara Craven



Sun. 10/15 Family Picnic at Arroyo Verde Park

Sun. 10/29 Sunday School Halloween Party during Coffee Hour

Sun. 11/5 All Saints Sunday and Blessing of the Pledge Cards

Prayer Intentions for the Week of October 15, 2023

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:

Bert, Mary Morgan, Margaret, Carrie, Jan, Dave, Jay, Roger, Nan, Guy, Raj, Virginia, all refugees, first responders, and everyone affected by COVID-19, gun violence, natural disaster, poverty, and injustice.

THOSE ENDURING A LONG-TERM ILLNESS:

Phil, Lynn, Audrey, Dennis, Maria, Baby Z, Carol, Rachel, Dave, Linda, Virginia, Michelle, Sheila, Kevin, Susan, Debbie, Vivian, Ulrich, Christian, Kristi and Helen.

IN THE DISCERNMENT PROCESS FOR ORDAINED MINISTRY:

Drew Darby, his wife Anna, 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

Leta Croxen and all those we love but 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
Joseph Wareham, Sexton

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St. Paul's Announcements October 15, 2023

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



and after church today...

Please join us in welcoming our guest priest today, the Reverend Canon Greg Larkin.



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son." This week we hear the parable of the wedding banquet. We also hear Psalm 23 with its beautiful words about the love of God which follows us all the days of our lives. The Epistle is from Philippians. In it we find the encouragement to rejoice in the Lord always, "Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you." Come hear amazingly beautiful music, inspiring scripture, and an uplifting message of hope and love. Come to church and get inspired!



Join us for Coffee Hour and Much More Today!

In-person worshippers are invited to join us in Kahler Hall (just down the stairs) for a cup of coffee, or tea and some refreshments. This gives us 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.



Fair Trade Sales

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 enjoy experiencing God in nature?

Spirituality in Nature Group – TODAY, Sunday, October 15th

Do you find God in nature? The goals of the Spirituality in Nature Groups are to explore nature to better understand what it means to be stewards of God's creation, and to strengthen our connection with the amazing natural world around us. Join us for a family picnic after church at Arroyo Verde Park. We will meet at noon at the parking lot just beyond the play area near the back of the park. Plan to join us!

	<p>Week 5 - 10/15</p> <p>If you've already pledged, thank you! If you haven't, please fill in a pledge card. We appreciate it!</p> <p>We ask everyone for a pledge to support St. Paul's through the coming year. With your help we can keep the church going and growing.</p> <p>Thank you for your support!</p>
	<p>Because of your generosity... Ways your Pledge Makes a Difference - #5 Prayer & Pastoral Care</p> <p>Taking care of those in need is one of our most important callings. With your help, we can continue to support the sick or shut in and provide prayer and support to those who need it. Thank you!</p>
	<p>Do pledges alone bring in enough funds to meet our operating expenses?</p> <p>No. We also depend on funds brought in by leasing of portions of our property. We currently have four educational tenants (La Famiglia Preschool, VSAGE Charter School, Kindermusik, and Pulse Drumming). We also have two rental houses, one on San Pablo Street, the other on Dunning (the Gooden Center). Not only do these help to bring in a steady income for the church, they help to meet important needs in the community. The Gooden Center is licensed to a Women's Center which offers support for those who have recently committed to sobriety. For the past few years, St. Paul's has been running a deficit budget and using savings to make up the shortfall. The main reasons for this have been lack of lease income and the effect of the pandemic. Because of the Gooden Center rental, we are now in a much better position financially. Though we will likely still have some deficit next year, we look forward to operating on a balanced budget as soon as possible. We appreciate your help! Click HERE for more information.</p>
	<p><i>Join us in serving the world in the name of Christ. Your generosity is appreciated.</i></p> <p>REACH FOR PAWS! - FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER</p> <p>Let's Reach! for Paws and bless all of our animal friends! Fill a red REACH bag and return it to church or the office by the end of the month. The wish list is canned pet food, pet treats, blankets (no comforters, please), pill pockets, slip leads (a type of leash), laundry detergent, paper towels, trash bags, donations for vet bills (tax deductible), donations for any of these items (checks can be written out to St. Paul's with "homeless pets" in the memo field), a "fur"ever home!</p>
	<p>Family to Family on Monday, October 16th.</p> <p>The way that we provide our monthly meal will be changing in October and we need your help. During the past several years many churches, including St. Paul's, have distributed sack lunches instead of serving meals at the Family to Family kitchen. The city is pushing all groups to return to serving inside the dining room (which is what Family to Family's permit allows). To do this, we need people who can help serve on the third Monday of each month. If you are able to help for a few hours please contact Dan Wakelee at dan.wakelee@att.net or (805) 236-0254.</p>
	<p>DOK Gratitude Potluck 11/5 11:45</p> <p>To all Daughters of the King, you are invited to gather in the Community Room after church on Sunday, Nov. 5. Let's break bread together and share what drew us to join the chapter in the beginning. Bring some food or drink to share and invite a guest if you like. Please RSVP to Paula and let her know what you plan on bringing. It will be so wonderful to see each other in person after such a long time. Email probertsonpics@gmail.com or text 805-625-1468</p>

	<p>Book Club – Monday, November 6th at 5:30pm on Zoom</p> <p>The First Monday Book Club is open to all.</p> <p>Our next selection is <i>Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise</i> by Ruth Reichl. Ruth Reichl, world-renowned food critic and editor in chief of <i>Gourmet</i> magazine, realized when she took the food critic job at the <i>NY Times</i> she would need to go undercover to remain anonymous. She tells of her remarkable reflections on how one's outer appearance can influence one's inner character, expectations and appetites, not to mention the quality of service one receives. This memoir is filled with humor, thoughtful insights and recipes!</p> <p>Zoom Information – Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 1stmonday</p>
	<p><i>Preparing for All Saint's Day and All Soul's Day...</i></p> <p>Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed</p> <p>We will honor all those we love but see no longer at the All Saints' Day celebration on Sunday, November 6. Would you like to add a loved one to the list of those we will remember on All Saints' Day and All Souls Day? We are adding to last year's list and welcome your additions. Please submit your additions to the office no later than Wednesday, October 26.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memorial Service A service celebrating the life of Esther McClain will be held at St. Paul's on Saturday, October 28 at 3pm.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><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><i>A fun event for kids of all ages!</i></p> <p>HALLOWEEN PARTY - Sun, Oct. 29th at 11:45am</p> <p>Come join in the fun after church on the patio. We'll have candy, contests, games, treats, and lots of fun together. Bring or wear your best costume. (Please no weapons or super scary stuff. Remember we have little ones, too!)</p> <p><i>Want to join in the fun and support Youth & Children's Ministries?</i></p> <p>SIGN UP TO HOST A TABLE – Sun, October 29th at 11:45am</p> <p>We're throwing a Halloween Party for the Kids and want to invite you to join in the fun. Sign up to host a table. We'll provide the table, you bring the decorations, Halloween treats and any fun games or activities. (Nothing too scary, though. Remember we have little ones too.) Thanks for your support!</p>
	<p>2024 Choir Pilgrimage Tour</p> <p>St. Paul's Choir is embarking on an adventure, a life-changing journey and YOU are invited! Learn about the choir tour and pilgrimage to Italy in 2024, why we are doing this, and how to support us to make this dream a reality go to https://sites.google.com/view/choirtour/home</p> <p>HOW YOUR DONATION CAN HELP</p> <p>Your donations will support the 2024 Music Ministry Tour & Pilgrimage and help to cover the cost of fundraising, as well as tour and travel expenses. Any remaining funds will support the music ministry in endeavors that may incur expenses beyond what the Music Ministry's regular budget can support. Examples would be tours, pilgrimages, performance opportunities that may have a fee, or expenses involved with traveling to sing at other venues/churches. When donating through PayPal or with a check, be sure to add the memo – for Choir Pilgrimage Tour. Thank you!</p>
 <p>This QR Code takes you straight to our Giving Page</p>	<p><i>"God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7</i></p> <p>Thank you for your generosity!</p> <p>Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or Text StPaulsVentura to 73256. You can also arrange online payments, click the "Give" button at office 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. Thank you!</p>