



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 24, Year A

October 22, 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.

	<p><i>The angels are dancing again...</i></p> <p>Listen carefully, you just might hear the angels dancing on the roof!</p> <p>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!"</p>
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Today's flowers are given in celebration of Michael Cross' birthday by Lisa Cross.

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

Song of Peace

Margaret V. Sandresky

Processional

God of grace and God of glory

Hymnal 594

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

Cantor: Sophia Cotsis

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.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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 45:1-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him--and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96:1-13

The response appointed for this morning is a portion of Psalm 96. We will read it responsively, breaking at the asterisk.

1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *

sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

3 Declare his glory among the nations *

and his wonders among all peoples.

4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *

he is more to be feared than all gods.

- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A Reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

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

Gradual Hymn
All stand as able to sing.

Day by day, dear Lord

Hymnal 654

Holy Gospel
Remain standing and face the Gospel.

Matthew 22:15-22

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

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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.

Litany for the Holy Land

Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.

Server

God of Love, you created all people as one family and called us to live together in justice, harmony and peace. Surround us with your love as we pray for the Holy Land. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

¹ universal; all embracing

² Relating to the Apostles, following their teachings

God of Righteousness, who demands that our worldly governors take up their responsibility to protect those in their charge and uphold the dignity of all human beings, pour your wisdom into the leaders of this world [especially Benjamin Netanyahu, the leaders of Hamas, and Joe Biden]. For all who bear such responsibility, that they may put the good of the whole over their own greed for power, Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of Compassion, who even in the darkest times, shows us your path: we give you thanks for all those who in the face of crisis wrought by evil-doers, work to help the helpless, to hold out hope to the desolate, to speak for the voiceless and to bring understanding and knowledge to a world darkened by ignorance and hate. For our siblings who risk much to aid others, that their actions may be successful and their words may be heard, Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of Mercy, who binds up the wounds of those who suffer, bless the victims of the consequences of fear and hate in the last week and over the past 75 years of conflict in the Holy Land: those injured and traumatized, those bereaved and grieving, those held as captives and prisoners, those who face deprivation and desperation because of systems of violence and oppression, so that they may move forward in this life standing firm in your truth and avoiding the temptation of vengeance. For all whose lives are forever marked by suffering, that they may be blessed with the hope of your presence, Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of Life, whose faithfulness to us in never-ending, we remember before you those who have died by the violence that has become shockingly routine in your Holy Land; receive them into your heart where they may know the peace and joy of eternal life in you. For all who have died, that they may rest in that place where pain is no more, Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of Justice, who calls us to uphold the dignity of every human being, every child of this earth, beloved of you: empower your Church to help you heal this terrible cycle of violence and revenge; give us courage to rise above our fear that nothing can be done in the face of the conflict and chaos of our own creating; grant us the conviction to advocate for change and to work for the establishment of your peace, your shalom, your salaam, in this broken world. For your dream of justice and peace on earth, and for us, that we may take up your call to build it, Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant

All this we pray in the name of the One who offered his life so that we might live, Jesus the Christ. **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.**

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

Walking in the Spirit

Mark Hayes

Presentation Hymn

Songs of thankfulness and praise, v. 1-2

H135

Please stand as you are able.

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:

**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

Instrumental

This Little Light of Mine

*African-American Spiritual
Arr. Felix Eisenhauer*

The congregation is invited to join the choir in singing *This Little Light of Mine*. This arrangement starts in the imagination of a child singing about letting their light shine. Very quickly, temptation shows up, coaxing them to hide it under a bushel, to which righteousness vehemently exclaims NO! Then follow three groups of people sharing news of the scripture at the time each happened, sounding possibly gossipy, incredulous, or simply unsure of these wonderful things being proclaimed. The song finally returns to the child in the here-and-now, who has decided to let their light shine.

1. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...
2. Hide it under a bushel, no!, I'm gonna let it shine...
3. The poor and hungry need your help, I'm gonna let it shine...
4. Jesus Christ forgives us all, I'm gonna let it shine...
5. Let the whole world see your light, I'm gonna let it shine...
6. This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine...

Post Communion 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 the Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. 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

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun

Hymnal 544

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

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Jesus Shall Reign

setting by Robert Hobby

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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 & Roger Crow	Lectors:	Bridget Wareham & Ralph Armstrong
Chalice:	Kay Armstrong	Ushers:	Steve Jones & Tegan Jones
Altar Guild:	Louise Bretz & Pam Klebaum	Flower Guild:	Lisa Cross
Cantor:	Sophia Cotsis	Welcome Greeter:	Joanne Wakelee
Video Production:	Patrick VanHorn	Lock-up Team:	Greg Jackson

Prayer Intentions for the Week of October 22, 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, 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 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, La Famiglia Preschool, KinderMusik, Pulse Drumming and Ventura Charter School for Arts and Global Education
- + The Vestry's leadership that our parish's mission may be accomplished. Our 2023 vestry members and officers are Grace Dunlevy (Senior Warden), Jordan Daniels (Junior Warden), Peter Anderson (Treasurer), Lori Burke (Clerk), Kathleen Crookston, Lisa Cross, Tim Helms, Greg Jackson, Sarah Lamola, Kathy Loest, Daniel Smithson, Wendy VanHorn, 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

Esther McClain 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 Eisenhauer, Music Minister
Tara Eisenhauer, Choir Director
Sara Edwards, Organist
Joseph Wareham, Sexton

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St. Paul's Announcements October 22, 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.

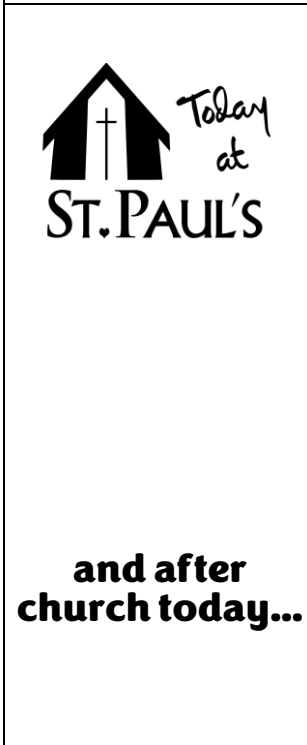


Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church!

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



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



Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

"Sing to the Lord a new song, sing to the Lord, all the whole earth." This week's scripture includes this beautifully uplifting message from Psalm 96. The gospel lesson is from Matthew. In it, the Pharisees are once again trying to entrap Jesus, but they are no match for him. They asked whether it is lawful to pay taxes to the emperor. Seeing their malice, Jesus asks for a coin, points to the face on it, and says, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's. Come to church and learn with us. We'll enjoy amazingly beautiful music, inspiring scripture, and an uplifting message of hope, love, and inclusion. All are welcome here! Online, we offer Spiritual Communion. In-person, we offer Eucharist, the bread and wine made holy. Come 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.



Memorial Service

A service celebrating the life of Esther McClain will be held at St. Paul's on Saturday, October 28 at 3pm.

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.



Week 6 - 10/22

If you've already pledged, thank you! If you haven't, please fill in a pledge card. We appreciate it! 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.

Please join us on Sunday, 11/5 when we'll bless the pledges together.

Thank you for your support!

	<p>Because of your generosity...</p> <p>Ways your Pledge Makes a Difference - #6 Fellowship & Formation</p> <p>All are invited to enjoy the fellowship and hospitality following Sunday services. We also offer many opportunities for life-long formation as we learn and grow in the knowledge and love of God. Thank you for making this possible!</p>
	<p>How are Legacy Gifts used?</p> <p>On occasion, we are blessed to receive gifts from parishioners who have remembered St. Paul's in their estate planning. These legacy gifts are used for special purposes and help us accomplish things that are only possible because of their generosity. . In the past year, generous gifts were made in honor of Adele Bowker, Carol Wright, Lucille Paine, Dorothy Rankin, and others. The family of Lillian Alfriend continues to donate to the Alfriend Memorial Fund to support Christian Education. During the pandemic, the bequest left by Judy MacGregor funded the purchase of cameras and production equipment making it possible for us to livestream services, and funds left by Katie and Rod Weldon made the renovation of the Gooden Center possible. If you would like assistance in arranging to bless St. Paul's with a legacy gift, we would be most grateful. Please contact the church office. Click HERE for more information.</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><i>Join us in serving the world in the name of Christ. Your generosity if 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><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 5th. 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 25th.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There will be a Special Service on Wednesday, Nov. 8th at 9 AM in the Sanctuary. All are welcome.</p>
	<p><i>Do you enjoy experiencing God in nature?</i></p> <p>Spirituality in Nature Group – Saturday, November 18th at 10 AM</p> <p>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. We will be meeting Saturday 11/18 from 10-12 at one of our local neighborhood public schools to help them maintain their native plant habitat and possibly harvest fruit from their orchard that is ready! Meet in the parking lot of Will Rogers School; Grace will be there to meet you and show you around. Plan to join us!</p>



DOK Gratitude Potluck 11/5 11:45

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 probersonpics@gmail.com or text 805-625-1468



Book Club – Monday, November 6th at 5:30pm on Zoom

The First Monday Book Club is open to all. Our next selection is *Garlic and Sapphires: The Secret Life of a Critic in Disguise* by Ruth Reichl. Ruth Reichl, world-renowned food critic and editor in chief of *Gourmet* magazine, realized when she took the food critic job at the *NY Times* 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! Zoom Information – Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 1stmonday



2024 Choir Pilgrimage Tour

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>
HOW YOUR DONATION CAN HELP
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!



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 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!