



# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.*



*Online Bulletin*

**November 12, 2023**

**10:15 a.m.**

**Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

*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](http://www.StPaulsVentura.org/live), [www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura](http://www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura), [www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura](http://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 in thanksgiving for St. Paul's  
by Greg and Nancy Larkin.***

*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**

God's Light Shineth Ever

*Rex Koury*

**Processional**

**Rejoice! rejoice, believers**

**Hymnal 68**

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

*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**

**Praise our great and gracious Lord**

**Hymnal 393**

### **Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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**

**Amos 5:18-24**

A reading from the Prophet Amos.

Thus says the Lord, the God of hosts, the Lord: Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 70**

The response appointed for this morning is Psalm 70. 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 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;  
O LORD, make haste to help me.

**2 Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed;  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back,  
because they are ashamed.

**4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the LORD!"**

5 But as for me, I am poor and needy;  
come to me speedily, O God.

**6 You are my helper and my deliverer;  
O LORD, do not tarry.**

## Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

## Gradual Hymn

*All stand as able to sing.*

**O day of peace that dimly shines**

**Hymnal 597**

## Holy Gospel

*Remain standing and face the Gospel.*

Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

*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 catholic<sup>1</sup> and apostolic<sup>2</sup> Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

*Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.*

*Server*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying: Lord, have mercy.

For our community, and for solace and security for all its people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this assembly, and for our growth in grace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, and for prisoners and refugees, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who suffer, for the sick and infirm especially (*the people may add their own petitions either silently or aloud*), let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all who have died, especially (*the people may add their own petitions either silently or aloud*), and for the promise of resurrection to be fulfilled, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

*Celebrant*

Into your mercy we commend ourselves, and for peace at the last we pray, that all your creation may give you praise and worship, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Confession

BCP p. 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

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

*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**

Keep Your Lamps!

*arr. André J. Thomas*

### **Presentation Hymn**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Holy God, we praise thy Name, v. 1-3**

**H366**

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

*The people remain standing.*

Eucharistic Prayer A

*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 S129**

*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 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.

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*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.*

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*Suggestion: Before or after Communion, see the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pp. 833-834. You'll find some wonderful prayers there. Online worshipers can find it at [www.bcponline.org](http://www.bcponline.org)*

## Communion Music

Intermezzo in B-flat minor, Op. 117, No. 2

Johannes Brahms

## We've Come This Far by Faith

*Words and Music by Albert A. Goodson  
Harm. Richard Smallwood*

*Refrain* We've come this far by faith,  
Leaning on the Lord;  
Trusting in His holy word,  
He's never failed me yet.  
O can't turn around.  
We've come this far by faith.

1 Don't be discouraged when trouble's in your life.  
He'll bear your burdens and move all misery and strife.  
That's why . . .  
*Refrain*

2 Just the other day I heard someone say  
He didn't believe in God's word;  
But I can truly say that God had made a way  
And He never failed me yet.  
That's why . . .  
*Refrain*

### 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.**

*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

### Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates

**Hymnal 436**

*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

Toccata

*Ben Logan*

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### Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

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Check out next Sunday's readings at [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)

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

<b>Servers:</b>	Drew Darby & Roger Crow	<b>Lectors:</b>	Janet Koehn & Ted Andrews
<b>Chalice:</b>	Virginia Hernandez	<b>Ushers:</b>	Susan & Rob Talmadge
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Roger Crow & Susan Talmadge	<b>Flower Guild:</b>	Roger Crow & Virginia Hernandez
<b>Cantor:</b>	Reid Edwards	<b>Welcome Greeter:</b>	Marcia Semple
<b>Video Production:</b>	Patrick VanHorn	<b>Lock-up Team:</b>	Woody Bretz



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\$51.00



Santa's Sleigh Bells Swag  
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Winter Woods Swag  
\$51.00

25¢ This pricing includes all costs including processing, packaging, FedEx delivery AND \$8.00 PROFIT FOR EACH ITEM PURCHASED

## Fall & Holiday Wreath Sale Fundraiser

**Orders Placed Online and  
Shipped Directly**  
Order by Dec. 7th. Thank you!

Our End-of-Year Fundraiser is a  
Wreath Sale. We've opted to keep  
things simple by doing this sale online.  
Anyone who is interested will be able to  
order the wreaths and greens of their  
choice delivered to their own home, or  
to the homes of family and friends.

To learn more about it, go to:  
[www.GiftItForward.com](http://www.GiftItForward.com)  
Use the Fundraising Code:  
StPaulCA003

Thank you!

## ***Prayer Intentions for the Week of November 12, 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, Virginia, Tegan, Eric, Charlotte, 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, Kevin, Susan, Debbie, Vivian, Ulrich, Christian, Kristi, Helen and Mary.

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

Drew Darby, his wife Anna, and their family.

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

- + The ministry of prayer, study and service of St. Paul's Men's Group, the Daughters of the King, Bible & study groups
- + 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 Santa Barbara County: *St. Mary's, Lompoc; St. Mark's, Los Olivos; All Saints', Christ the King, Trinity, Santa Barbara; St. Peter's, Santa Maria; St. Michael's Mission & Campus Ministry at UCSB in Isla Vista, Mount Calvary Monastery & Retreat House, Santa Barbara*
- + Our World Mission Companions: *the Cathedral Church of the Ascension, in the Diocese of Wiawso, Ghana*
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Church of the Foothills, First Christian Church, Church of Christ*

### ***IN MEMORIAM***

*James Hathaway, Sheila Fattarelli, Mercy Trinkkeller 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

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

# St. Paul's Announcements November 12, 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.



**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](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org)



Today  
at

**ST. PAUL'S**

*Please join us in welcoming our guest priest today, the Reverend Canon Greg Larson*



**November 12, 2023**

### Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

"Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her." In this week's scripture, we will hear from the Book of Wisdom and listen to the cry of our ancestors in the faith expressed through Psalm 70. We'll learn about the afterlife in the Epistle, and hear Jesus tell us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like in our continuing study of the Book of Matthew. 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!

**and after  
church today...**



### 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.



*Want to help needy families feel the love of Christ this Christmas?*

### COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SHOPPE TOY COLLECTION

We are collecting new, unwrapped toys to help make Christmas a little brighter for some families who are finding things challenging. We have a large collection box in the Narthex as well as a list of gift ideas; bring your donations and leave them in the box. Presents for teens are especially needed! You can make a difference! Thanks for helping us share the love of Christ this season. **Last day for giving: Thursday, Dec. 7th.**



### Children's Christmas Shoppe!

It's coming on December 15th and we are seeking donations of gently used trinkets/jewelry/décor, etc... for children to purchase and gift to their parents, grandparents and siblings. See Grace Dunlevy or contact the church office: (805) 643-5033 or [office@saintpaulsventura.org](mailto:office@saintpaulsventura.org). Thank you!

	<p>Our next opportunity to serve lunch at Family to Family is Monday November 20. We need additional people to help serve lunch. If you can assist please meet at the Family to Family kitchen (303 North Ventura Avenue) at 10:30 am. Please contact Dan Wakelee (<a href="mailto:dan.wakelee@att.net">dan.wakelee@att.net</a>) if you have questions or want more information.</p>
	<p><i>Do you enjoy experiencing God in nature?</i>  <b>Spirituality in Nature Group – Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM</b>      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>
	<p><i>You can make a difference! Every purchase matters...</i>  <b>Fair Trade Sales – Sunday, 11/19</b>      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 if you have questions.</p>
	<p><b>Book Club – Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm on Zoom</b>      The First Monday Book Club is open to all.      Our next selection is <i>A Land Twice Promised: An Israeli Woman's Quest for Peace</i> by Noa Baum. This is a deeply personal memoir of an Israeli storyteller who grew up in Jerusalem and formed an unlikely friendship in America with a Palestinian woman. Noa Baum writes with honesty, compassion, and humor, as she captures the drama of a nation at war and her discovery of humanity in the enemy.      Zoom Information – Meeting ID: 751 8208 5503 Passcode: 1<sup>st</sup>monday</p>
	<p><b>Giving Flowers in Memory or in Thanksgiving</b>      Donating the flowers for a Sunday service is a lovely way to remember a loved one or celebrate a special occasion. It’s quick and easy to arrange, and really helps the church too! Use an envelope from the pew rack in front of your seat or email us the information. Enclose a donation, (\$65-\$100 is suggested), or go to our website and click “Giving”. Be sure to mention that it’s a Flower Donation. We look forward to remembering or celebrating with you, and we appreciate your support!</p>
	<p><b>2024 Choir Pilgrimage Tour</b>      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 <a href="https://sites.google.com/view/choirtour/home">https://sites.google.com/view/choirtour/home</a></p>
	<p>A friend of Fr. Anthony, the Rev. John Watson and his family, have accepted a call to the US from the Diocese of Southwark in England. John will be serving 2 congregations in Los Angeles, but he and his family are settling in Ventura. They are now in Ventura and are seeking furniture to set up their household. If you have any furniture that you could provide it would be greatly appreciated. You may contact John directly at 805-799-6997. Thank you in advance.</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>  <b>Thank you for your generosity!</b>      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 <a href="http://www.saintpaulsventura.org">www.saintpaulsventura.org</a> 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>