



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year A

December 22, 2019 8 a.m.

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

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. Hymnals, Bibles and the Book of Common Prayer are in the pews and available for your use as well. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to make your time with us more enriching and enjoyable.

Holy Eucharist ***Liturgy of the Word***

Prelude

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

Lachenauer/Tessman

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

Processional Hymn

How bright appears the Morning Star

Hymnal 497

Opening Salutation

Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p. 323

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

***People* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name: through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

The Trisagion, "Holy God" may be said three times.

Celebrant Holy God,
Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,

***People* Have mercy upon us.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

***People* And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the reading of Scripture.

As Episcopalians, our custom is to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest Holy Scripture. You are invited to do so right here in your bulletin.

First Reading

Isaiah 7:10-16

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

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

Second Reading

Romans 1:1-7

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans.

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Please stand as you are able and face the Gospel.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon

The Reverend Liz Williams

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed

BCP p. 326

All stand as able and say together.

Prayers of the People

Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.

BCP p. 328

Celebrant

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Intercessor

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all people: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Teach us, O God, to treasure the differences that distinguish one person from another. Help us to overcome fear and hatred. Open our hearts to see thy radiance in every human soul. Give us the courage to combat prejudice and intolerance, and bless us with compassion, with kindness, and with peace.¹

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers *especially our presiding bishop, Michael; our bishops John and Diane; our clergy Susan, Liz, and Dick*, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land *especially Donald, our President; the congress and courts; Gavin, our Governor*, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor **Onofre, Christopher, Paulette, Adele, Babs, Brenda, James, Jacob, Carolyn, Teresa, Duncan, Steven, Frank, Julie, Bruce, Briana, Charly, Paul, Diane, Kathie, Tom, William, and those enduring a long term illness especially Virginia, Wayne, Margery, Sheila, Carrie, Brian, Linda, Judy, Liz, Michelle, Kevin, Mary, Kathy, Amelia, Doug, Carol, Stacie, Rachel, Mary, Kim and those others on our hearts** and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those affected by recent violence or recovering from fires and floods.

(See page 8 for other parish petitions and prayers of thanksgiving.)

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear *especially Doris Darby and those whose names we bring before God*, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of Paul and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

BCP p. 330

Peace

All stand as they are able.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And with thy spirit.

Announcements

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Special Occasions

Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Sentence

Thank you for your donation. Your generosity is appreciated. We look forward to doing great things in the name of Christ with whatever you are able to give.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

Offertory

The Rose of Sharon

Gilbert Martin

Presentation Hymn

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Hymnal 265

Please stand as you are able.

Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer I)

BCP p. 333

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 336

Breaking of the Bread

BCP p. 337

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Prayer of Humble Access

BCP p. 337

Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to come forward. The table we set is the Lord's. Our custom is to receive the bread in your open palm. Please tell the priest if you prefer a gluten-free wafer. Sip the wine, if you wish it, from the common cup, guiding the chalice gently with your hand or the Eucharistic Minister will dip the bread for you. Otherwise, cross your arms over your chest as a sign you wish to receive a blessing.

Suggestion for before or after Communion: Open your Book of Common Prayer (BCP) to pages 833-834. You'll find some wonderful prayers there.

Communion Music

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Manz, Rawsthorne, Bonington

Post Communion Prayer

BCP p. 339

Please stand or kneel as you prefer.

Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent receive unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Come, thou long-expected Jesus

Hymnal 66

Please stand as you are able and face the Cross.

Dismissal

BCP p. 339

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

Thanks be to God. Alleluia.

Postlude

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Mark Sedio

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

¹ *A Prayer for Tolerance* Rabbi Naomi Levy, adapted by Barbara Bennett and David Catron.

Serving This Week

Team 4 – 4th Sunday of the Month

Acolytes

Jo Ellen Heil

Chalice

Jo Ellen Heil, Lori Burke

Psalm

Jo Ellen Heil

Lay Readers

Pauli Powers, Liz McEwan

Prayers of the People

Lori Burke

Ushers

Dela & Jim Parker, Richard Goodman

Altar Guild

Rose Hayden-Smith, Anna Darby, Vicki Paul

Flower Guild

Heidi Trevisan, Valerie Ortiz

Facility Lock Up

Larry Myers

Cantor

Diego Magaña

Hospitality Sponsors

Peter & Sharon Bowers

Highlights of This Week at St. Paul's

Today 12/22	8:00 am	Rite I Sunday Service
	9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
	10:00 am	Advent Wreath Lighting (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	Rite II Sunday Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Formation (Kahler Hall)
	11:45 am	Newcomer Coffee with Our Clergy (Community Room)
Monday 12/23	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
	9:00 am	Greening of the Church (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	Night before Christmas Eve (Sanctuary)
Tues. 12/24	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
	4:00 pm	Family Service (Sanctuary)
	10:00 pm	Carols (Sanctuary)
Wed. 12/25	10:30 pm	Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
	9:00 am	Christmas Day Service (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	NO Bible Study (Library)
Thurs. 12/26	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Community Room)
	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Fri. 12/27	6:30 am	Men's Bible Study
	9:15 am	NO Women's Bible Study (Library)
Sat 12/28	6:45 pm	AA Meeting (Community Room)
Sun. 12/29		
	8:00 am	Rite I Sunday Service
	9:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
	10:00 am	Sunday School – Rehearsal for Epiphany Pageant
	10:15 am	Rite II Sunday Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship & Formation (Kahler Hall)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)



ST. PAUL'S VENTURA
ESTABLISHED 1889

Prayer Intentions for the Week of December 22, 2019

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
John Taylor, Bishop Diocesan
Diane Jardine Bruce, Bishop Suffragan

Our Clergy: Susan Bek, Liz Williams, Dick Swanson
President Donald Trump, Congress, Federal Courts
Governor Gavin Newsom, Legislature, State Courts

HEALING IN BODY, MIND & SPIRIT:

Onofre, Christopher, Paulette, Adele, Babs, Brenda, James, Jacob, Carolyn, Teresa, Duncan, Steven, Frank, Julie, Bruce, Briana, Charly, Paul, Diane, Kathie, Tom, William

THOSE ENDURING A LONG TERM ILLNESS:

Virginia, Wayne, Margery, Sheila, Carrie, Brian, Linda, Judy, Liz, Michelle, Kevin, Mary, Kathy, Amelia, Doug, Carol, Stacie, Rachel, Mary, Kim

FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON:

- + The spiritual, physical and moral development of our children and youth; the children, youth, and adult leaders of our Sunday School, Youth Group, Boy Scout Troop 179, Girl Scout Daisy Troop 65014, La Famiglia Preschool, and VCSAGE
- + The Vestry's leadership that our parish's mission may be accomplished. Our 2019 vestry members and officers are Ted Andrews, Kay Armstrong, Woody Bretz (Junior Warden), Kathleen Crookston, Drew Darby (Treasurer), Grace Dunlevy, Cheri Gonzales, Rose Hayden-Smith (Senior Warden), Sarah Lamola, Kathy Loest (Clerk), Ruth McCool, Ian McEwan, Dan Wakelee
- + 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 Wiaoso*, Ghana
- + The Ventura Interfaith Ministerial Assoc.: *Unitarian/Universalist, Center for Spiritual Living, An Lac Mission (Buddhist), Mormon Church*

IN MEMORIAM

Doris Darby

Parish prayers for healing are listed for one calendar month. Contact the office with your request which may be added at any time. They may be requested and/or renewed by using the prayer cards in the pews.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church Staff

The Rev. Susan Bek, Rector
The Rev. Liz Williams, Associate Rector
The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson, Assisting
Dr. Felix Eisenhauer, Music Minister
Tara Eisenhauer, Assistant Music Minister
Sara Edwards, Organist
Nadia Talley, ASL Interpreter
Bonnie Rubrecht, Parish Administrator
Kathleen Jensen, Administrative Assistant
Wendy Olivier, Nursery Caregiver

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Announcements December 22, 2019

Thank you for joining us today! We'll continue to hold you in our prayers.

Please contact the church office for more information. God bless you!

We invite you to join us again next Sunday



Please help us thank the following people for our refreshments this morning:

8:00 am- Peter & Sharon Bowers

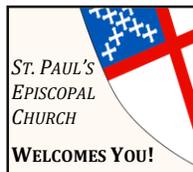
10:15 am- Bill & Kathleen Crookston, Woody & Louise Bretz, and Paul & Marilyn Angelo

(Next week for hospitality: 8:00- Carl Helms

10:15- Bill & Kathleen Crookston, Lori & John Redding, and Bridget Wareham

If you would like to serve on our hospitality team, please let us know.

The Vestry Greeter today is Ruth McCool - come by and say hello!



We are faithful people waiting for the coming of light, the coming of Christ...

PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD – Sunday, 12/22 Services at 8 & 10:15am

Be with us as we light the first, second, third and fourth candles on our Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE.

Grab a cup of coffee and come join us!

NEWCOMER COFFEE WITH OUR CLERGY – Sunday, 12/22 at 11:45am

Join us in the Community Room (the meeting room behind the kitchen in Kahler Hall). Our topic this month is: Getting to know each other and the Episcopal Church. Come meet people, ask questions and explore the faith.

All are welcome!

Monday, Dec. 23



GREENING OF THE CHURCH Monday, December 23 at 9am

Help us transform the church in preparation for Christmas. Bring your friends and join us. Many hands make light work. Childcare available.

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS EVE December 23 at 7pm

Come and enjoy the peace and beauty of the church on the night before Christmas Eve. Quiet music, bedtime stories and prayers. Children are invited to come in their jammies. Come connect with the spirit of Christmas before the festivities begin.



Tuesday, Dec. 24



Christmas Eve at St. Paul's

4:00 p.m. Family Service

This is a friendly service that is especially appropriate for families and children of all ages.

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Carols begin at 10 p.m.

Service begins at 10:30 p.m.

This service includes: traditional Christmas lessons,

Wednesday, Dec. 25



Christmas Day

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Join us for a beautiful service on this holy day.



	 <p>On the fifth day of Christmas... FIRST SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS – Sunday, 12/29 Once Christmas arrives, we begin the twelve days of Christmas, or Christmastide, which runs through January 5. During this season we recognize God with us; a God who knows and understands our fears and sends forth angels who proclaim, “Fear not!” Join us as we celebrate! REHEARSALS FOR THE EPIPHANY PAGEANT – Sun. 12/29 & Sun. 1/5</p>
	<p>Are you new to St. Paul’s or visiting us? A warm welcome to you! We are so glad you came. We are a friendly and welcoming congregation. Our ushers and greeters will be happy to do anything they can to make your time with us more comfortable and meaningful. Please introduce yourself to our clergy, they’re looking forward to meeting you. We invite you to come back soon.</p>
	<p><i>Thank you for helping feed the hungry!</i> LAST MONDAY, December 16 - Because of the generosity of this congregation, and the willing hands of all our volunteers, we were able to serve about 250 lunches. Thank you so much!</p>
	<p><i>Join in the fun, perform in our Epiphany Pageant. Who knows, you could be the STAR!</i> REHEARSALS FOR THE EPIPHANY PAGEANT – Sun. 12/29 & Sun. 1/5 The Epiphany pageant is an annual favorite for our Sunday School children, and they could use your help. We need a team of adults and teens to come act, sing, help with costumes, cue lines, help with staging, and be sure the camel gets his cue. Please let us know if you can help. Thanks!</p>
	<p>BAPTISM OPPORTUNITY – January 19 The next baptism opportunity will be on the Sunday we remember the Baptism of our Lord. <i>We become members of the body of Christ through the sacrament of baptism. If you have not been baptized, and would like to be, or would like to arrange baptism for a child, please speak with Rev. Susan or Rev. Liz to make arrangements. We look forward to it!</i></p>
	<p><i>Want to help our warm the hearts and bodies of our neighbors in need?</i> COATS FOR ALL - We are collecting new or gently used coats and jackets of all sizes now through the end of the year! The drive is sponsored by the Downtown Chapter of the Rotary Club. The donation box is located in the church lobby. SOCK DRIVE - Socks are also in high demand at this time of year for the men and women served by the Sack Lunch Program and Family to Family ministries. Drop of your sock donations in the basket on the REACH table. (Please no dress socks or children’s sizes.)</p>
	<p><i>The Daughters of the King invite you to join us...</i> FIRST MONDAY BOOK CLUB – Monday, January 6, 5:30-7pm at Panera All are welcome! This month's selection is Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA by Amaryllis Fox. We’d love to see you there!</p>
	<p><i>Once a year we gather to do the business of the church. Please mark your calendar and join us.</i> ST. PAUL’S ANNUAL MEETING – January 26 at 11:30am All members of the church are encouraged to attend. We need enough members in attendance so that we will have a quorum. At this important meeting we will elect new Vestry members and Diocesan Convention. We receive reports from the groups and committees of the church and review our finances and the budget for the coming year. Please mark it on your calendar. Thanks!</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> Thank you for your generosity! Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or Text StPaulsVentura to 73256. You can also arrange online payments, click the “Give” button at www.saintpaulsventura.org or use this QR code. Members give of their time and share their talents through lots of volunteer opportunities and ministries. Please contact our clergy if you’d like to get involved in something new. 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 so much! It is great to have you with us on this faith journey.</p>



*We invite you to bring your family, friends and neighbors
and join us this Christmas for inspiring worship, beautiful music, friendly fellowship,
and the opportunity to be filled with the true message of Christmas.*

Mon. 12/23 Greening of the Church at 9am
You're invited to help us transform the church in preparation for
Christmas. It's great fun and many hands make light work.

Night Before Christmas Eve

Monday, December 23

7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Come enjoy the peace of the beautifully decorated church before the celebration.
We'll light candles, lift prayers, sing carols and tell the Christmas story.

This is a wonderful event for people of all ages.

Children are invited to come in their jammies and bring blankets.



Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Family Service

This is a friendly service that is especially appropriate
for families and children of all ages.

10:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

Carols at 10 p.m., service begins at 10:30 p.m.
Service includes: lessons, candlelight, choir and Eucharist.

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Join us for this beautiful service with Eucharist and music