



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Year A

December 22, 2019 10:15 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.

Our Sunday School program for children and youth will begin at 10:00am in the Sanctuary with a short sermon on the gospel for the day and a preview of the activity. Children move to their classrooms at 10:10 for creative programming and activities including circle time, prayer and storytelling. Ages 2-3 will be in the Nursery. Pre-K, K, and 1st grade will be in Room 7. Grades 2-5 will also be in Room 7. Youth will be in Room 8. All children and youth will return to the sanctuary at the peace to join their families for Eucharist.

Again, welcome and please let us know if there's anything we can do to make your time with us more enriching and enjoyable. We're glad you're here.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

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

The candles are lit.

Child *John 13:34 – Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end. Amen.**

Holy Eucharist

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Christ, Be Our Light v.1-4

Bernadette Farrell



1. Long-ing for light, we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
2. Long-ing for peace, our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
3. Long-ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long-ing for
4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man - y are home-less. Long-ing for



1. truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
2. hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
3. wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
4. warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,



1. your ho - ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
3. bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
4. shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

Please be seated.

Celebrant Join me in sending the children to Sunday School.

People Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Children Thanks be to God.

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 p. 355

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

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

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

Hymn of Praise

Kyrie from St. Paul's Mass

Felix Eisenhauer

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son

Chri - ste e - le - i - son

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.

Translation: Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord Have mercy.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who live 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.



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.

Gradual Hymn

Hymnal 56

Please stand as you are able and face the Gospel.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel v. 7-8

arr. Felix Eisenhauer

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

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

Holy Gospel

Matthew 1:18-25

Please 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.

Credo from St. Paul's Mass
All stand as able and together sing.

Felix Eisenhauer

Celebrant

Our service continues with the Nicene Creed. Please stand and join us in singing.



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 and apostolic 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.



A - men.

Prayers of the People

Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.

Server

Mary, the mother of Christ, is a sign to the church of faithful obedience to the will of God. As we come to commemoration of the birth of Christ, let us pray that we, like Mary, hear God's word and respond in obedient faith to the coming of Christ, saying: O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor

Let us pray for the church, that every one of us may manifest Christ in the world. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the leaders of government in every nation, that they may have wisdom to choose what serves the common good. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are in need, remembering all who are sick, the elderly, those who are alone, and all who minister to them, especially *(the people may add their petitions silently or aloud)*, that we may all be strengthened by the presence of Christ as the sign of God's love. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those with whom we share our lives, our families, friends and neighbors, and those with whom we work and play, that we may all be strengthened and sustained by God's presence with us. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have died, especially, *(the people may add their petitions either silently or aloud)*, that they may rest in peace. May we wait in hope for the promise of resurrection with them. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant

Hasten, O God, the coming of your dominion. Come to us in Christ, that we who live by faith in this world may see our faith confirmed in the world to come, through our risen Christ. **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

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.

Prayers for Birthdays, Anniversaries and Other Special Occasions

For other prayer requests, trained lay prayer ministers will be available in the chapel or during Eucharist to pray with you. Briefly state the particular concern, burden, thanksgiving, or transition you bring for yourself or someone else. Confidentiality is observed.

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

People, Look East

Music arranged by David Cherwien

Presentation Hymn

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Hymnal 265

Please stand as you are able.

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.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Hymnal S128

The service music can be found in the front of the hymnal.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, 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.

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.

Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome at communion. Our custom is to receive the bread in your open palm. Please tell the priest if you prefer a gluten-free wafer or sulfite-free juice. 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 a blessing.

Trained lay prayer ministers are stationed in the chapel to pray with you. Briefly state the particular concern, burden, thanksgiving, or transition you bring for yourself or someone else. Confidentiality is observed. Rejoin the other worshipers for the post communion prayer.

Suggestion: 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*

An Advent Round of Anticipation

Felix Eisenhauer

I
O come, ye, come. O

II
The Prince of Peace, The

III
A Mi - ra - cle! A

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 our 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 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.

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Mark Sedio

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

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Prayers of the People: *Intercessions for the Christian People*, Pueblo Publishing Company, 1988

Blessings: *The Book of Occasional Services: 2003*, Church Pension Fund 2004

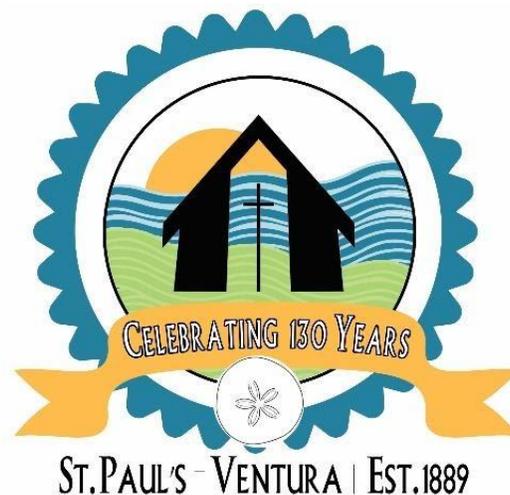
Female Composers Initiative

St. Paul's Music Ministry is addressing continuing gender inequality by featuring female composers as part of its regular repertoire. This week, our initiative includes *Christ Be Our Light* by Bernadette Farrell

Thank you to our guest musician, Allison McKay, on Oboe.

Welcome! We're so glad you're here.

- Our ushers welcome your inquiries. They can provide assisted listening devices, information about our ministries, as well as directions to the restrooms, nursery, and classrooms.
- Please take the brochure from the pew and learn more about St. Paul's and our traditional worship, dynamic preaching and a call to serve.
- You are invited to join us for coffee and refreshments following the service and we hope you will stay for Fellowship and Formation from 11:30-noon.
- Infants and children are welcome here. Children under five years old may receive care in the nursery (room 2) from 10-noon. Parents are also welcome to bring their children to worship with them, and may have access to the nursery for their convenience. The service can be heard from the narthex (lobby) and activity bags for children can be found there. Our side chapel can be used as a quiet play space during services. You will find lots of stuffed animals and books there.



Serving This Week

Team Four – 4th Sunday of the Month

Acolytes	Roger Crow, Duffy Anderson
Chalice	Roger Crow – Server, Larry Myers
Psalm	Larry Myers
Lay Readers	Roger Crow, Woody Bretz
Prayers of the People	Maggie Kennedy
Ushers	Dean Nahabedian, Woody Bretz, Dan Wakelee
Eucharistic Prayer Ministry	Joanne Wakelee
Altar Guild	Rose Hayden-Smith, Anna Darby, Vicki Paul
Flower Guild	Heidi Trevisan, Valerie Ortiz
Welcome Ministry	Joanne Wakelee
Vestry Greeter	Ruth McCool
Facility Lock Up	Larry Myers
Cantor	Diego Magaña
Hospitality	Bill & Kathleen Crookston, Woody & Louise Bretz, Paul & Marilyn Angelo

Highlights of This Week at St. Paul's
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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)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
Monday 12/23	9:00 am	Greening of the Church (Sanctuary)
	7:00 pm	Night before Christmas Eve (Sanctuary)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Kahler Hall)
Tues. 12/24	4:00 pm	Family Service (Sanctuary)
	10:00 pm	Carols (Sanctuary)
	10:30 pm	Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
Wed. 12/25	9:00 am	Christmas Day Service (Sanctuary)
	10:30 am	NO Bible Study (Library)
	8:00 pm	AA Meeting (Community Room)
Thurs. 12/26	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal (Music Room)
Fri. 12/27	6:30 am	NO 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)

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 Wiauso*, 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. Please 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 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, candlelight, choir and Eucharist.

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...</p> <p>FIRST SUNDAY IN THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS – Sun., 12/29</p> <p>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!</p> <p>EPIPHANY PAGEANT REHEARSALS– Sun. 12/29 & Sun. 1/5</p>
	<p><i>Are you new to St. Paul’s or visiting us?</i></p> <p>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></p> <p>LAST MONDAY, December 16 - Because of the generosity of this congregation, and the willing hands of all our volunteers, we were able to serve ~250 lunches. Thank you!</p>
	<p><i>Join in the fun, perform in our Epiphany Pageant. Who knows, you could be the STAR!</i></p> <p>REHEARSALS FOR THE EPIPHANY PAGEANT – Sun. 12/29 & Sun. 1/5</p> <p>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></p> <p>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.</p> <p>SOCK DRIVE - Socks are 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></p> <p>FIRST MONDAY BOOK CLUB – Monday, January 6, 5:30-7pm at Panera</p> <p>All are welcome! This month's selection is Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA by Amaryllis Fox.</p>
	<p><i>Once a year we gather to do the business of the church. Please mark your calendar and join us.</i></p> <p>ST. PAUL’S ANNUAL MEETING – January 26 at 11:30am</p> <p>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></p> <p>Thank you for your generosity!</p> <p>Donations may be made by cash, check, PayPal, or Text <i>StPaulsVentura</i> 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

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