



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
We follow Jesus, nurture ministries and welcome all.



Online Bulletin

Christmas Day
December 25, 2021 at 9am
An In-Person Service



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

3290 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, California 93003
office@saintpaulsventura.org 805 643-5033

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Holy Eucharist – 10:15am

Attend in-person or online at:

www.SaintPaulsVentura.org/live www.Facebook.com/SaintPaulsVentura www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura

Sunday School at 10am

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

Healing Service at 9am on Zoom

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Whether you are joining us online or in-person, we're glad you're here!

Online services may be viewed at: www.StPaulsVentura.org, www.YouTube.com/StPaulsVentura, and www.Facebook.com/StPaulsVentura.

Important Safety Protocols for In-Person Worshipers

- We take safety very seriously and ask you to help keep yourself and your neighbors healthy.
- Masks are required on campus at this time, even outside
- Some of our worshippers are seated in a section for social distancing because they prefer some extra space. Please respect their wishes. We are all doing the best we can to make good decisions in this challenging time.
- Open seating is for those who are fully vaccinated, healthy, and have not had any recent exposure. We do not check vaccination records but ask you to please follow these guidelines and decide for yourself whether you should attend services in-person. Those who meet these requirements are invited to sing along through their masks during the hymns.
- All are invited to participate in the service. The words in bold are the ones we'll all say together.
- Everyone is invited to come forward for Eucharist, Due to COVID restrictions, we are offer the bread only. We assure you that this is a full experience of communion and ask your patience – we don't know when we'll be able to offer wine again. Gluten-free wafers are available. When the priest comes to give you communion, please let the know if you prefer gluten-free.
- A full list of protocols is available at the sign-in table and in the narthex (lobby).

Check our Email Newsletter each week to keep up with the latest events, announcements, and protocols. If you don't receive our newsletter, please contact us at office@saintpaulsventura.org. Again, welcome! We're glad that you're worshiping with us! If there's anything we can do to help make your time with us more meaningful, please let us know. Also contact us if you have any questions, prayer requests or need the services of a priest. We are always glad to hear from you.



Holy Eucharist

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

From Heaven High I Come to You:
Chorale Prelude on Vom Himmel hoch

Johann Pachelbel

Celebrant Alleluia! Unto us a child is born.
People **O come, let us adore him. Alleluia!**

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

Entrance Hymn

O come, all ye faithful (vs.1-3)

Hymnal 83

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

Hark! the herald angels sing (v. 1)

Hymnal 87

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

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 62:6-12

A Reading from the book of Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

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

Psalm 97

- 1 You reign, O God; let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about you, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne.
- 3 A fire goes before you *
and burns up your enemies on every side.
- 4 Your lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at your presence O God, *
at your presence, O God of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare your righteousness, *
and all the peoples see your glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Let all gods bow down before you.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O God.
- 9 For you are God,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 You love those who hate evil;
you preserve the lives of his saints
and deliver them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in God, you righteous, *
and give thanks to God's holy Name.

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn Angels we have heard on high

Please stand as you are able and face the Gospel.

**Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.**

Refrain:

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

**See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.**

Refrain:

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo,
Gloria, in excelsis Deo.**

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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

Sermon

Drew Darby

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Nicene Creed

Book of Common Prayer p. 358

All stand as able and together say

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic¹ and apostolic² Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Please stand, sit or kneel as is your custom.

Server

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Sisters and brothers, confident in the word made flesh and dwelling among us, let us bring to our loving God the petitions in our hearts this Christmas Day, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

For the community of believers throughout the world, especially those in positions of leadership and authority, that they might direct us toward the service of God's glory and the spread of God's light to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

¹ Universal; all embracing

² Relating to the Apostles; following their teachings

For the church gathered here this Christmas Day, that our worship of the word made flesh might take on flesh in our living the gospel message, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
For all refugees, and for the victims of war, violence, and injustice, that they might know the power of the newborn Savior, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For all who dwell in the darkness of ignorance and disease, of poverty and homelessness, of division and hate, for the sick, and for who overcome with suffering in body and spirit, *(The people may add their petitions either silently or aloud.)*, that the light of Christ might work its wonders this day and this season, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

For the sick and the dying among us, especially *(The people may add their petitions either silently or aloud.)*, and others on our hearts, for all God's own who are suffering, and for those who care for them, that each might behold the salvation of our God and be blessed by the Prince of Peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant

All loving and gracious God, we thank you for taking flesh among us in the Lord Jesus Christ. Trusting in a power beyond ourselves, trusting in your enduring love, we have offered our petitions. May you hear and answer them in that same Love, who is Jesus, your Son and our Lord, this Christmas Day and forever. **Amen.**

Confession

Let us confess our sins to God.
A period of silence is observed.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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

Liturgy of the Table

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*



*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

Break Forth O Beauteous Heavenly Light Tune: Ermuntre dich by Johann Schop (1641)
arr. Robert Thygeron

Presentation Hymn

Good Christian friends, rejoice

Hymnal 107

Please stand as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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 or kneel as is your custom.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, Joseph, Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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

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 here.

For in-person worshipers: 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. Cross your arms over your chest as a sign you wish a blessing.

Suggestion: Before or after Communion, see the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) pp. 833-834. You'll find some wonderful prayers there.

Communion Anthem

The Rocking Carol

Traditional Czech carol; arr. Matha Sobaje

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.

Blessing

Post Communion Prayer

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **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

Joy to the world! (v. 1,2,4)

Hymnal 100

Please stand as you are able.

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

Dismissal

*Celebrant
People*

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

Postlude

Joy to the World!

*Tune: Antioch by G.F. Händel
arr. Alfred Fedak*

Acknowledgements and Copyright Information

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Serving at 9am Christmas Day Service

Server:	Drew Darby	Lector:	Judy Gold
Celebrating:	The Rev. Dr. Richard Swanson	Usher:	Roger Myers
Cantor:	Reid Edwards	Organist	Sara Edwards



January 9, 2022

Baptism of our Lord

An Epiphany Pageant will be presented at the 10:15 service.

January 30, 2022

Annual Meeting following the 10:15 service.

March 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday

April 10, 2022

Palm Sunday

April 17, 2022

Easter Sunday

And while you have your calendar open,
please consider adding Sunday mornings at 10:15am.
We'd love to have you join us as we worship and praise the Lord.



This bulletin contains 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! office@saintpaulsventura.org

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, Assistant Music Minister
Sara Edwards, Organist
Nadia Becker, ASL Interpreter
Torey Rubrecht, Sexton
Amy Schaffer, Director of Communications

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Christmas Bulletin Announcements

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

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!**

We currently offer Sunday services online, and in person.

Please let us know if we can do anything to support you on your spiritual journey this week.

We're always happy to hear from you!

We invite you to come back soon.

Sunday Services are available

Online and In-Person at 10:15am.

Come get Inspired! Every Sunday from St. Paul's you can enjoy wonderful music, meaningful worship, and hear an uplifting message about hope and the importance of serving the world in the name of Christ.

We look forward to welcoming you back.



On the 2nd day of Christmas...

FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS – Sunday, 12/26

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!



Are you new to St. Paul's or visiting us?

A warm welcome to you! We are so glad you joined us. We are a friendly and welcoming congregation. Our ushers and greeters and production team will be happy to do anything they can to make your time with us more comfortable and meaningful. If you view the services online, please complete the newcomer card linked in the description. If you attend in-person, please introduce yourself to our clergy, they're looking forward to meeting you. We invite you to come back soon.



BAPTISM OPPORTUNITY – January 9 The next baptism opportunity will be on the Sunday we remember the Baptism of our Lord. *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.*



Want to help our warm the hearts and bodies of our neighbors in need?

COATS FOR ALL and REACH for Socks - 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. We'll distribute them throughout the winter season. (Please no dress socks or children's sizes.)



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 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.



We are grateful for the donations received for

Flowers & Music

that make our Christmas Celebrations so beautiful.

The Wied and Schmitt Families gave in loving memory of Douglas and Christine Wied.

William Brewer gave in memory of Carol Brewer by her loving family.

Barbara Jakovich gave in honor of her parents, Irene and Frank Dirricq.

Miles & Cathy Sexton gave the Christmas Trees in loving memory of Aldo Fattarelli
and Jim & Nile Sexton

Marilyn Beattie gave in memory of her husband, Louis A. Beattie,
her son, Andy Beattie, and her grandson, Trevor Beattie.

Roger Gold gave in thanksgiving for family.

John and Virginia Dilworth gave in memory of Harry & Margery Dickinson.

Barbara Gear gave in memory of her mother, Helen.

Roger Myers gave in loving memory of his wife, Kathy Stone.

Patrick VanHorn gave in memory of Millie Timko and Kiel VanHorn.

Lisa Cross gave in gratitude for her many blessings.

The Rev. Susan and Jon Bek gave in thanksgiving for their grandchildren -
Emmanuel, Nathaniel, Joy, Jeremiah, Christina, Christian and Daniel.