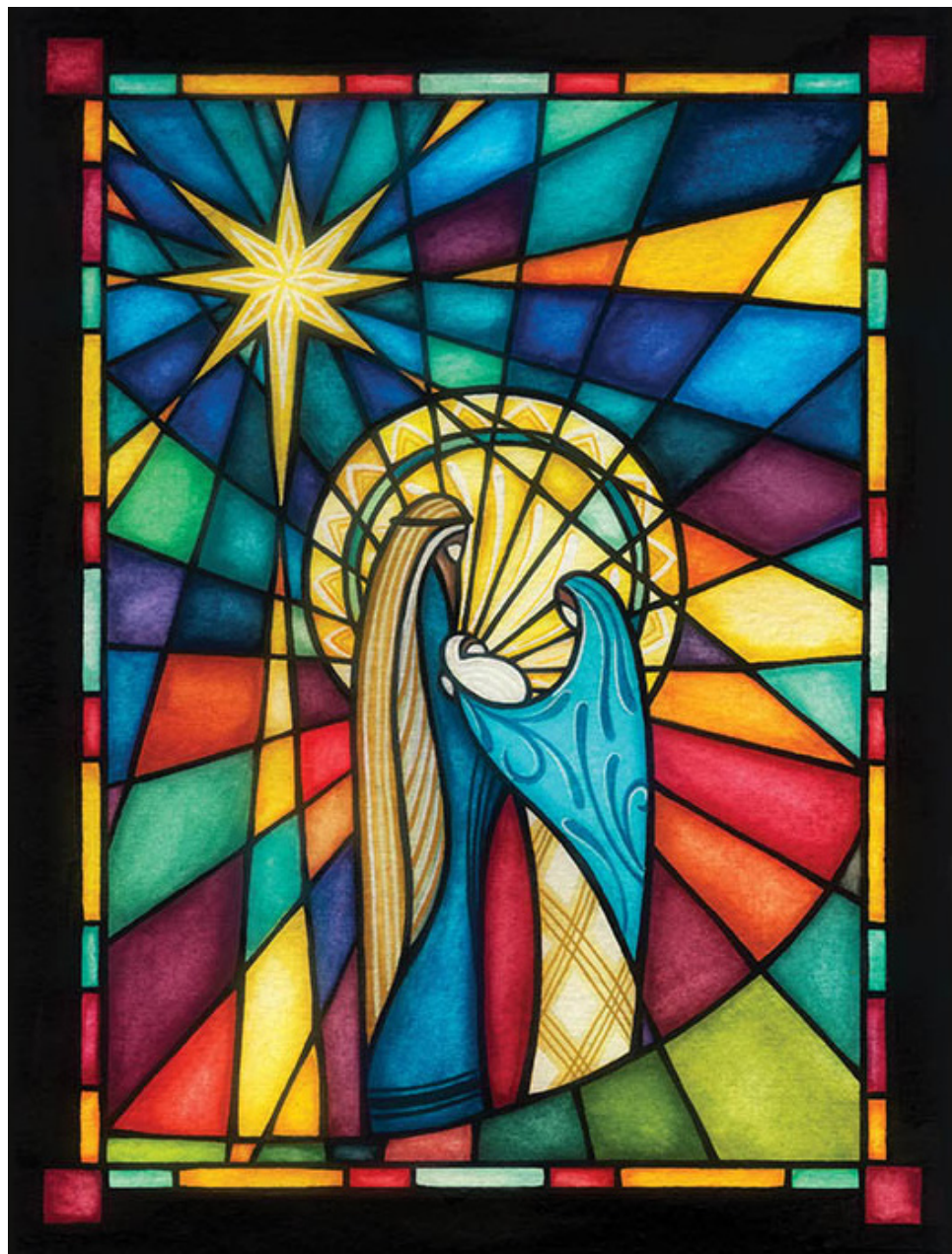


SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023
SEVEN & TEN O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

Whatever brings you here, and whoever you are,
we are glad you are here.

FIRST TIME WORSHIPPING AT ST. PAUL'S?

Are you new to St. Paul's or the surrounding area? Let us know by filling out a Welcome Card located in the pew rack, and we will connect with you. We also have a Welcome Table you can visit following the service in the Gathering Space of the Parish House.

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located in the Parish House.

COVID SAFETY

St. Paul's is committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for everyone who enters our building and grounds. You can read more about our safety protocol, including for children and our response if there is a COVID exposure at St. Paul's, on our website at www.stpaulsrva.org/covidsafety.

CONTACT THE CLERGY

The St. Paul's clergy are eager to hear from you if you have questions, concerns, or a pastoral emergency. Contact can be made by phoning the church at 804.643.3589. The church office hours are Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

FAMILY SPACE IN THE SANCTUARY

Young ones need to be able to see and experience worship. Our ushers will be happy to direct you to our Family Space at the front of the church where you will find picture books, paper and crayons, and small hand-held toys. We also have Worship Bags as you enter the church that contain Children's Bulletins, paper and crayons.

THE PRELUDE

HYMN

The people remain seated for the hymns during the prelude. The choir sings stanzas 1 and 2, the people join in singing on stanza 3.

1. Once in ro - yal Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
 2. He came down to earth from hea - ven who is God and Lord of all,
 3. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by day like us he grew,
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love,
 5. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

1. where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
 2. and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
 3. he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew:
 4. for that child so dear so gen - tle is our Lord in hea - ven a - bove;
 5. we shall see him; but in hea - ven, set at God's right hand on high;

1. Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 2. with the poor and mean and low - ly lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3. and he feel - eth for our sad - ness, and he shar - eth in our glad - ness.
 4. and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 5. when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

Text: Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895)

Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929);
 desc. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

ANTHEM

A child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia.
A child in born in Bethlehem, Alleluia.
And joy is in Jerusalem, Alleluia.
And joy is in Jerusalem, Alleluia.

To thee O Lord be glory paid, Alleluia.
Thou Son of Mary, Mother maid, Alleluia.
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Rejoice, rejoice, sing high, sing low, Alleluia.
Rejoice, rejoice, sing high, sing low, Alleluia.
Benedicamus Domino, Alleluia.
Benedicamus Domino, Alleluia.

To Holy Trinity give praise, Alleluia.
To Holy Trinity give praise, Alleluia.
With Deo gracias always, Alleluia.
With Deo gracias always, Alleluia.

Text: 14th Cent. Latin Hymn
Music: Philip WJ Stopford (b. 1977)

HYMN

1. God rest you mer-ry, gen-tle-men, let no-thing you dis-may,
2. From God our heav'-nly Fa-ther a bless-ed an-gel came,
3. The shep-herds at those ti-dings re-joic-ed much in mind,
4. But when to Beth-le-hem they came, where-at this in-fant lay,
5. Now to the Lord sing prais-es, all you with-in this place,

1. for Je-sus Christ our Sa-vior was born up-on this day,
2. and un-to cer-tain shep-herds brought ti-dings of the same,
3. and left their flocks a-feed-ing, in tem-pest, storm, and wind,
4. they found him in a man-ger, where ox-en feed on hay;
5. and with true love and char-i-ty each ot-ther now em-brace;

1. to save us all from Sa-tan's power when we were gone a-stray:
2. how that in Beth-le-hem was born the Son of God by name:
3. and went to Beth-le-hem strait-way this bless-ed babe to find:
4. his mo-ther Ma-ry kneel-ing, un-to the Lord did pray:
5. this ho-ly tide of Christ-mas doth bring re-deem-ing grace:

Refrain
O ti-dings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and
joy, O ti-dings of com-fort and joy.

Text: London carol, 18th cent.
Music: *God Rest You Merry*, melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850;
harm. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

ANTHEM

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan.
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow.
In the bleak midwinter long ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain
Heav'n and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place suffic'd
the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, who cherubim, worship night and day.
A breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.
Enough for Him, whom angels, fall down before.
The ox and ass and camel, which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
if I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)

HYMN

All 1. The first No - well the an - gel did say
High Voices 2. They look - ed up and saw a star
Low Voices 3. And by the light of that same star
High Voices 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west,
Low Voices 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three
All 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord

1. was to cer - tain poor shep-herds in fields as they lay;
 2. shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3. three wise men came from coun - try far,
 4. o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5. full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,
 6. sing prais - es to our heav - 'nly Lord;

1. in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2. and to the earth it gave great light,
 3. to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4. and there it did both stop and stay
 5. and off - fered there in his pres - ence
 6. and hath made heaven and earth of nought,

1. on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2. and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3. and to fol - low the star where - ev - er it went.
 4. right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5. their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.
 6. and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain
 No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,
 born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English Carol, 18th cent.

Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901);
 desc. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

ANTHEM

Masters in this hall, hear ye news today
Brought from over sea, and ever I you pray:

<i>Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!</i>	<i>Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!</i>
<i>Nowell, sing we clear!</i>	<i>Nowell, sing we loud!</i>
<i>Holpen are all folk on earth,</i>	<i>God today hath poor folk raised</i>
<i>Born is God's son so dear.</i>	<i>and cast adown the proud.</i>

Going o'er the hills, through the milkwhite snow,
Heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow:

Shepherds, many an one sat among the sheep,
No man spake more word than they had been asleep;

Quoth, I, 'Fellows mine, why this guise sit ye?
Making but dull cheer, Shepherds though ye be?'

'Shepherds should of right leap and dance and sing,
Thus to see ye sit is a right strange thing:'

Quoth these fellows thing, 'to Bethlem town we go,
to see a mighty lord lie in manger low:'

'How name ye this lord, Shepherds?' then said I,
'Very God,' they said, 'Come from heaven high.'

This is Christ the Lord, masters be ye glad!
Christmas is come in and no folk should be sad:

Text: William Morris (1834-1896)

Music: Melody by Marin Marais (1656-1728); arr. Jerrick Cavagnaro (b. 1996)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

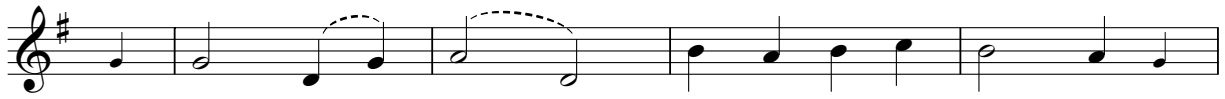
Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

HYMN

The people stand and sing.



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
5. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born that hap - py morn - ing;



1. come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2. lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3. sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4. leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5. we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
6. Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry given;



1. come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2. on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3. glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est.
4. we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5. who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
6. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others

Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786);

harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906; desc. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

Presider The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us;

People **And we beheld God's glory.**

HYMN

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a
 in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -
 - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.

Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

O GOD, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

THE PEOPLE who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Silence is kept.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

Introduction



1 On this day earth shall ring
2 His the doom, ours the mirth;
3 God's bright star, o'er his head,
4 On this day an - gels sing;



with the song child - ren sing to the Lord, Christ our King,
when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem saw his birth;
Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed,
with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ, hea - ven's King,



born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us.
ox and ass be - side him from the cold would hide him.
lay their gifts be - fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

Refrain



Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,



Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Text: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929)

Music: *Personent hodie*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582;
harm. Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)


FOR THE GRACE of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Silence is kept.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN



1. Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Right-eous - ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!"
 late in time be - hold him come off - spring of a vir - gin's womb:
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings;

Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise, join the tri - umph of the skies,
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - ma - nu - el.
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us se - cond birth.

Refrain
 Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King."

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), George Whitefield (1714-1770), Martin Madan (1727-1790), and others

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915);
 desc. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Gospeler 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 God 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.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev'd Charles Dupree, D.Min., *Rector*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people stand.

Presider As we join the whole creation and celebrate with joy the Word made flesh,
 let us offer prayers to God who dwells among us to the end of time.

Intercessor With all our heart and all our mind, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Make us instruments of your peace.**

Intercessor For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance
 may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Where there is hatred, let us sow love.**

Intercessor For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom
 we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Where there is injury, let us sow pardon.**

Intercessor For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease
 and all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord;

People **Where there is discord, let us sow union.**

Intercessor For those who do not yet believe, for those who have lost their faith, and those in despair and darkness that they may receive the light of faith, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Where there is doubt, let us sow faith.**

Intercessor We pray for the poor, the persecuted, the sick, especially those who have asked for our prayers. *(During the silence, add your petitions).* We pray for all who suffer and those in danger. *(During the silence, add your petitions).* We pray for those who are far away from family and friends. *(During the silence, add your petitions).* We pray for comfort and protection, O Lord:

People **Where there is despair, let us sow hope.**

Intercessor For the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church; for Michael our Presiding Bishop; for Mark, our Bishop; and for this parish family, that in faithful witness we may spread God's love near and far, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Where there is darkness, let us sow light.**

Intercessor For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially those we name now. *(During the silence, add your petitions).* We also remember those who have died as a result of addiction, disease, conflict, or any manifestation of violence and hatred. For all the departed and those who are grieving, may they find comfort and be at peace, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Where there is sadness, let us sow joy.**

Intercessor Your own intercessions and thanksgivings are now invited silently or aloud.

During the silence, add your petitions and thanksgivings.

People **Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

Presider Living God, source of grace and truth, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we come to see the true light who shines throughout the world and may we be the light that reveals truth and love to all of your people. This we ask in the name of the one who sleeps helplessly in the manger, Child of God.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The People stand.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping,
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music: Traditional English Carol; arr. Paul Halley (b. 1952)

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people stand.

The Presider continues

The musical notation is arranged in four staves, alternating between the Presider and the People. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are represented by black dots on the staff lines, with stems and beams indicating the rhythm. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Presider The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, 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 perfectly human 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 to the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Text: Mass Ordinary, Fifth century

Music: from *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

The people stand or kneel as the Presider continues.

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O God,

The people say with the Presider.

**We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;**

The Presider continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 Paul, Mary, and all your saints, we may

enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

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.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amén.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the bread followed by silence. Then Antiphon is first sung by the choir, then by all; the verses are sung by the choir.

Antiphon

Who - ev - er eats this bread will live for ev - er.

Choir

1. This is the true bread which comes down from hea - ven

Choir

and gives life to the world. [Ant.] 2. Who - ev - er

believes in me shall not hun - ger or thirst, for the bread

which I give for the life of the world is my flesh. [Ant.]

Text: drawn from John 6:51b, 33, 35, 51c

Music: Mode 1 melody, adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991)

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE AND HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome at God's table. An usher will signal when you may go forward. If you are unable to come forward, but desire Communion, please notify an usher and Communion will be brought to you in your pew. If, for whatever reason, you do not wish to receive, you are invited to come forward for a blessing; please indicate your desire for this by crossing your arms across your chest. If you would like prayers for healing for yourself and/or others, please come to the station to the left of the pulpit where clergy will be offering prayers.

ANTHEM AT COMMUNION

Sleeps Judea fair, bides the Christ Child there:
Shepherds, haste ye! flocks forsaking,
Swift your way to Him be taking,
Babe of Israel's prayer.

Lowly bend the knee, Thou from sin set free:
Let the Christ Child, meekly smiling,
Infant-wise, all woe beguiling,
Grant His grace to thee!

Christ from God is come, choosing earthly home:
Royal pomp and splendor never, but with love
which naught can sever, He will heal the dumb;
Christ from God is come.

Text & Music: Hugh A. MacKinnon (1891-1981)

HYMN

Once everyone has received communion, the acolytes will process down the aisles to light the tapers. The people on the ends of the aisle then pass the light from one another, tilting the unlit candle. The hymn is sung kneeling.

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

sleep in hea - ven - ly peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! Christ, the Sa - vior is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863);
harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Presider May we, who have been touched by the Word made flesh,
be his body for the world.

People **Amen.**

Presider May we, who have been touched by the Word made flesh,
be his hands to bring blessing to the world.

People **Amen.**

Presider May we, who have been touched by the Word made flesh,
keep alive the hope of a restored creation.

People **Amen.**

Presider And the blessing of God Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,
be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People **Amen.**

HYMN



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

Text: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759);
 adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872); desc. Crystal J. Jonkman (b. 1961)

THE DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth in the light of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata on *Antioch*

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

PARTICIPANTS

Clergy

The Rev'd Charles Dupree, D.Min., *Rector*
The Rev'd Rainey G. Dankel, *Associate Rector for Parish Life*
The Rev'd Gwynn Crichton, *Associate Rector for Pastoral Care*
The Rev'd Keli Shipley Cooper, *Associate for Formation*

Musicians

Christopher Reynolds, D.M.A., *Director of Music & Organist*
Crystal Jonkman, *Music Associate*
The Saint Paul's Choir

Lectors (7:00 p.m.)

Jonathan Wight
David Hoover

Lectors (10:00 p.m.)

Doug Callaway
Art Kellermann

Intercessor (7:00 p.m.)

Suzanne Spooner-Munch

Intercessor (10:00 p.m.)

Leila Taaffe

Acolytes (7:00 p.m.)

Sally Ray Griffith
Stephen Peple
Sue Wilson

Acolytes (10:00 p.m.)

Douglas Callaway
Sally Ray Griffith
Stephen Peple

Eucharistic Ministers (7:00 p.m.)

Suzanne Spooner-Munch
Sue Wilson

Eucharistic Ministers (10:00 p.m.)

Cynthia Ellis
Christopher West

2023 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

- ✠ Given by Sally Ray Griffith in loving memory of Clinton W. Griffith, Lolly Hetherington, Phill Huss, Lee Rice, May Dickson, and Quincy Umphlette
- ✠ Given by Bettina Nelson in loving memory of William H. Mann
- ✠ Given by Marti and Kia by in loving memory of Peggy & Lee Truman and Bill & Zilpha Bentley
- ✠ Given by Jane Baird Hyde in loving memory of Dr. Charles Lewis Baird, Jr.
- ✠ Given by Jane Baird Hyde in loving memory of Olin Volney Hyde
- ✠ Given by John Taylor in loving memory of Ruth Campbell Taylor
- ✠ Given by Rainey Dankel in loving memory of Thad Dankel, Frank Raysor, and Rachel Smylie
- ✠ Given by Rainey Dankel in honor of St Paul's Organists and Choirs
- ✠ Given by Lew and Barbara Holley in thanksgiving for our St. Paul's family
- ✠ Given by Tyler Callum in loving memory of Richard and Erika Callum
- ✠ Given by Tyler Callum in loving memory of Jack and Mabel Callahan
- ✠ Given by Bryn and Paul Davis in memory of Phil Huss
- ✠ Given by Bryn and Paul Davis in honor of the Huss and Davis families
- ✠ Given by Jennine and Scott Sherrill in loving memory of Gene Moritz and Corinne Richardson
- ✠ Given by Carter and Bob Johann in memory and honor of all the wonderful St. Paul's volunteers
- ✠ Given by Leila Taaffe and Art Kellermann in honor of the clergy
- ✠ The window and door wreaths are given in loving memory of Sidney Buford Scott by his family

EXPANSIVE LANGUAGE AND CREATIVITY

A Few Notes about Worship at St. Paul's

St. Paul's seeks to be a welcoming, open, and inclusive community that values creativity, beauty, and mystery. We try to reflect this mission in our worship so that those from various backgrounds and perspectives will feel at home. We also hope that our worship reflects both a respect and honoring of the traditions of the Anglican church, while also seeking to give voice to how God is speaking in our current contexts. We know that the words we say in worship have a profound effect on our imagination and our experiences of God. Here's a bit of background.

Expansive Language: The Episcopal Church has developed many liturgies that use inclusive and expansive language. Expansive language is a way of incorporating multiple ways of imagining and speaking about God. It refers to the expanded use of metaphorical language for God and humans in new or unexpected and fresh ways. While we continue to value the beauty of our traditions and the importance of language, we recognize that all human language is limited. Expansive language seeks to incorporate as much of the diversity of language as possible to include all persons in the liturgical expressions.

Our Music: Every effort is made at St. Paul's to include music that speaks to the relevance and diversity of the world today. We draw from a variety of resources that include hymns ranging from the traditional, to spirituals, to those written specifically by female composers and poets. In choosing our music, we try to create a balance of music from our sacred traditions with music that reflects the diversity of the church today. In addition to Bach and Howells, we also intentionally seek out music that centers on composers who are writing music today, particularly composers of color and female artists.

A place for prayer, candle-lighting, and contemplation, St. Paul's is a holy space in which we encounter God's presence in many ways.

Our bulletin and recycling: Since we pull from as many as twenty-five sources, as well as write our own liturgical pieces (prayers, choral works, hymns, etc.), the bulletin serves as a way of capturing those elements and putting them into one place: your hands. Without a bulletin that is printed each week, we would not be able to be as creative. Plus, it would be confusing to those who are new to St. Paul's. This bulletin is an instrument of hospitality that allows us, Sunday by Sunday, to welcome and embrace all who are searching for a church home and an authentic encounter with our awakened and active Lord. In an effort to conserve paper usage, we try to print only enough bulletins as are needed for each individual service. If you'd like to help us be good stewards, you can choose to share a bulletin or download a PDF. Each week, our bulletins are responsibly recycled.

Candle-lighting: Lighting candles is an ancient practice of the church. The flame has always been considered a sign of God's presence. On the lectern side of the altar rail is a place set aside for you to light candles. Perhaps you'll light a candle in memory of a loved one, or for a particular thanksgiving or hardship in your own life. Your prayers combine with the prayers of the community as we put our trust and hope in God.

Being in the presence of Jesus: On the pulpit side of the altar rail is a small chapel set aside for quiet contemplation and prayer. An item called a "Tabernacle" is present. It reminds us of the portable tent in which the Hebrews worshiped during their time in the wilderness. This small, wooden cabinet contains the consecrated bread from holy communion, a sign of Christ's presence in our midst. A candle is lit whenever the bread is in place. Even when the church is dark, the light remains, reminding us of the church's role to be a light in the midst of darkness. Here, in Christ's presence, you may spend time in stillness and quiet prayer. On most Sundays during communion, a priest is present to offer prayers for healing for yourself or for someone else.

If you have questions about our worship experience, or to find out how you can be involved in worship, please consult our Ministry Directory or reach out to one of the clergy. To learn more about the guiding beliefs of the Episcopal Church, visit <https://www.episcopalchurch.org/what-we-believe/>

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ST. PAUL'S
CELEBRATING *175* YEARS