

SAINTE PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
2020

WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S!

Typically, we'd be making our way to 815 East Grace Street. We'd be ready to see our wonderful children's pageant and sing festive songs together. We'd pray, exchange hugs and handshakes of God's peace, and receive communion. This year is different. Since gathering for in-person worship is not safe during this time of pandemic, we come together in different ways.

If you are new to St. Paul's, we're so glad that you've joined in watching this service that celebrates the love and the mystery of the God who wants to be near. We hope that you'll continue to join us for online events and services, and God willing, check us out when we are able to regather in person. St. Paul's is a beautiful community that is engaged in important conversations about who we are as church in the 21st century. We are committed to being living reflections of the compassion, love, and justice of Jesus of Nazareth. We welcome all.

If you are returning to St. Paul's or regularly worship with us, thank you. Thank you for your faithfulness during this season. Your clergy and staff have had to be creative during this time and you have stayed the course as we bumbled our way through the online religious terrain that is a part of our landscape. Thank you for your love of St. Paul's and for all of the ways that you offer your gifts. They, and you, are important.

We hope that this service will bring us together. Together, we come to the manger, we offer our gifts, and we join hearts and voices as we sing the angel's song . . . Joy to the world, the Lord has come.

May 2021, through the mercies of God, bring health, healing, and wholeness to us all.

If you want to know more about St. Paul's, or if you're interested in reaching out to the clergy or staff, please go to our website at stpaulsrva.org or visit us on social media [@stpaulsrva](https://www.instagram.com/stpaulsrva).

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

INTRODUCTION

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol

arr. Gerald Near (b. 1942)

HYMN

O come, all ye faithful

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

*music: Adeste fideles, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786);
harm. The English Hymnal, 1906
text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
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OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Officiant begins

BELOVED IN CHRIST, IN THIS CHRISTMASTIDE, let it be our care and delight to hear the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture and in song the tale of the loving purposes of God and the redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

As a right beginning to this Christmas celebration, let us join with choirs of angels and with those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh.

We offer these prayers and praises in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

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 Officiant continues

THE ALMIGHTY GOD bless us with his grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life;
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

GAUDETE! *Christus est natus;
ex Maria Virgine. Gaudete!*

(Rejoice! Christ is born
of the Virgin Mary. Rejoice!)

Unto us a babe is born
lowly in a manger;
Now into a world forlorn,
God no more a stranger.

In the fields near Beth'lem town,
angel choirs were singing;
Shepherds heard the glorious sound:
all the hills were ringing.

Following the heav'nly star,
wise men sought to find Him;
As thy journeyed from afar,
gifts they offered to Him;

Love came down in humble birth,
peace has touched creation;
Light has come to all the earth
blessing ev'ry nation.

music: Piae Cantiones, arr. Richard Lakey (1947-2020)

text: Piae Cantiones, 1582

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CHILDREN'S STORY

Listen to the Silent Night

author: Dandi Daley Mackall

illustrations: Steve Johnson & Lou Fancher

ANTHEM

Away in a manger

AWAY IN A MANGER, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

music: Cradle Song, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921);

harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

text: Traditional carol

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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!”

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Charles T. Dupree

ANTHEM

I wonder as I wander

IWONDER AS I WANDER OUT under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die,
For poor ornery people like you and like I:
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow stall:
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall:
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heaven for to sing:
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

music: Appalachian Carol, arr. Richard Shepherd (b. 1949)

text: Appalachian Carol

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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor On this holy night, let us heed the message of the angels and go with the shepherds to see the miracle of God-with-us, saying, Holy Child, hear our prayer.

In the beauty of angelic song and starry night,
may we discover anew the mystery of God's love for us. Holy Child,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As we travel with the shepherds who have received good news,
let us remember all in the grip of poverty and all who do humble work
to support our common life. Holy Child,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Pregnant Mary finds shelter with animals in a stable;
open our hearts to all those who have no home this night. Holy Child,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor In the tender scene of Mary and Joseph with their newborn baby,
we pray for all parents and others who nurture and care for children. Holy Child,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As we exchange gifts and celebrate with family and friends, we pray for the lonely,
the bereaved, the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Holy Child,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor In this time of new life, we remember those whom we love but see no longer,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh and who now live in God's eternal light. Holy Child,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor I now invite you to bring before the infant Jesus the prayers of your hearts and your lives.

Officiant Gracious God, your Spirit dispels the darkness around us, and your love infuses us with light.
May our adoration of the Christ Child renew our joy in the good news of your love for all people,
and may it rekindle our hope in the promise of justice and peace. We offer our prayer in the name
of your precious Son Jesus, who comes to live among us.

People **Amen.**

BRING A TORCH, JEANETTE, ISABELLA,
 Bring a torch and quickly run.
 Christ is born, good folk of the village,
 Christ is born and Mary's calling;
 Ah, ah, beautiful is the mother,
 Ah, ah, beautiful is the son.

Quiet all, nor waken Jesus,
 Quiet all and whisper low.
 Silence all and gather around him,
 Talk and noise might waken Jesus;
 Hush, Hush, quietly now he slumbers,
 Hush, hush, quietly now he sleeps.

Come and look within the stable,
 Come and see the holy one.
 Come and see the lovely Jesus,
 White his brow, his cheeks are rosy;
 Hush, Hush, quietly now he slumbers,
 Hush, hush, quietly now he sleeps.

music: French Folk Song, arr. Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

text: French Carol

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CLOSING PRAYERS

Officiant Beloved, we are called to love those in need:
People **Let us love in truth and action.**

Officiant Beloved, we are called to be people of peace:
People **Let us love one another.**

Officiant Beloved, we are called to be people of healing:
People **Let us love not only God, but our siblings, sisters, and brothers, also.**

Officiant May we abide in God's love.
People **May God's love abide in us.**

Officiant Savior, Redeemer, Beloved of God: Clothe us in your love, strengthen us to live gently on this earth, give us humility to see all we encounter as precious to you, and teach us to walk with kindness and patience this night, this hour, and always.

People **Amen.**

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT,
 Sall is calm, all is bright
 round yon virgin mother and child.
 Holy infant, so tender and mild,
 sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
 shepherds quake at the sight,
 glories stream from heaven afar,
 heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
 Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
 Son of God, love's pure light
 radiant beams from thy holy face,
 with the dawn of redeeming grace,
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863);
 harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)
 text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
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THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

The Officiant says

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 is the Word made flesh joined heaven to
 earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

AND MAY THE BLESSING OF GOD ALMIGHTY, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 rest upon you, may it fill your hearts and your homes this night and always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

Officiant Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God!**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata on "In dulci jubilo"

Kevin Hildebrand (b. 1973)

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PARTICIPANTS

Clergy

The Reverend Dr. Charles T. Dupree, *Rector*
The Reverend Rainey G. Dankel, *Associate Rector for Parish Life*
The Reverend Gwynn Crichton, *Associate Rector for Pastoral Care*

Musicians

Dr. Christopher Reynolds, *Director of Music and Organist*
Karen Harris, *Assistant Director of Music*
Stephanie Hill Blackwood, Alana Marsh, Lynn Kotrady, Robin Harris,
Joel Coreas, Mike Kotrady, Will Conn, James McClure, *Choir*
Anthony Smith, *Flute*
Bryan Harris, Gene Harris, Lynn Kotrady, *Percussion*
The Saint Paul's Children's Choir

Children's Story

Linda Willis

Lector

Dr. Joseph James

Intercessor

Ellen Spong

Vergers

Stephen Peple

Acolytes

Peter Huff, Phoebe Huff, Alijah Jackson

Altar and Flower Guild

Christine Baum, Melissa Callaway, Sallie Nolte,
Iralin Peple, Stephen Peple, Suzanne Spooner-Munch

The Christmas wreaths are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sidney Buford Scott and Linda Pitts.

*The Christmas flowers are offered to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the ministries
of the St. Paul's Altar and Flower Guilds.*



ST. PAUL'S
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS