

SAINTE PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



LITURGY OF THE LONGEST NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2021
SIX 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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Eucharist with Pageant - 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist - 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Eucharist - 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day Eucharist - 10:00 a.m.

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 Memorial Garden.

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.

HOLY EUCHARIST

PIANO VOLUNTARY

In the bleak midwinter

arr. Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

WELCOME

AN ADVENT LITANY OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT

from The Wideness of God's Mercy: Litanies to Enlarge Our Prayers (*Church Publishing*)

Voice 1 We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully.

Voice 2 The darkness is our friend. In the darkness of the womb, we have all been nurtured and protected. In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into light.

People **You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.**

Voice 1 It is only in the darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe—blankets of stars, the solitary glowings of distant planets.

Voice 2 It was the darkness that allowed the magi to find the star that guided them to where the Christchild lay.

People **You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.**

Voice 1 In the darkness of the night, desert people find relief from the cruel relentless heat of the sun.

Voice 2 In the blessed darkness, Mary and Joseph were able to flee with the infant Jesus to safety in Egypt.

People **You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.**

Voice 1 In the darkness of sleep, we are soothed and restored, healed and renewed.

Voice 2 In the darkness of sleep, dreams rise up. God spoke to Jacob and Joseph through dreams. God is speaking still.

People **You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.**

Voice 1 In the solitude of darkness, we sometimes remember those who need God's presence in a special way—the sick, the unemployed, the bereaved, the persecuted, the homeless; those who are demoralized and discouraged, those whose fear has turned to cynicism, those whose vulnerability has become bitterness.

Voice 2 Sometimes in the darkness, we remember those who are near to our hearts—colleagues, partners, parents, children, neighbors, friends. We thank God for their presence and ask God to bless and protect them in all that they do—at home, at school, as they travel, as they work, as they play.

People **You are with us, O God, in darkness and in light.**

Voice 1 Sometimes, in the solitude of darkness, our fears and concerns, our hopes and our visions rise to the surface. We come face to face with ourselves and with the road that lies ahead of us. And in that same darkness, we find companionship for the journey.

Voice 2 In that same darkness, we sometimes allow ourselves to wonder and worry whether the human race is going to make it at all.

People **We know you are with us, O God, yet we still await your coming. In the darkness that contains both our hopelessness and our expectancy, we watch for a sign of God's Hope. Amen.**

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us.
People **To give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O HOLY ONE, whose coming we await, you invite us into the light of your presence on this longest night of the year: Illumine the dark and doubting places of our weary and wounded hearts, community and world. We are thirsty for your healing comfort, compassion, and peace. Draw near to us and fill us, that we may pour out your goodness to all who hunger and thirst for your mercy. **AMEN.**

The people are seated.

—————THE LITURGY OF THE WORD—————

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 43:1-7

BUT NOW THUS SAYS THE LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, ‘Give them up’, and to the south, ‘Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.’

Silence follows

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

TAIZÉ CHANT

Wait for the Lord, his day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)
text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7

THE GRADUAL: PSALM 42:1-7

Quemadmodum

The Psalm is read in unison.

AS THE DEER LONGS for the water-brooks, *
So longs my soul for you, O God.
My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God; *
when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?
My tears have been my food day and night, *
while all day long they say to me, "Where now is your God?"
I pour out my soul when I think on these things: *
how I went with the multitude and led them into the house of God,
With the voice of praise and thanksgiving, *
among those who keep holy-day.
Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul? *
and why are you so disquieted within me?
Put your trust in God; *
for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance, and my God.

LET THE REST
L in this rested place
rest for you.

Let the birds sing
and the geese call
and the sky race
from west to east
when you cannot raise
a wing to fly.

Let evening
trace your loss
in the stonework
of a fading sky.

So that
you can give up
and give in
and be given back to,

so that you can let
winter
come and live
fully inside you,

so that
you can
retrace
the loving path
of heartbreak
that brought you here.

So you can cry alone
and be alone
so you can let
yourself alone
to be lost,

so you can
let the one
you have lost
alone,

so that
you can let
the one
you have lost
have their
own life
and even
their own
death
without you.

So the world
and everyone
who has ever lived
and ever died
can come and go
as they please.

So you can
let yourself
not know, what
not knowing
means.

So that
you can be
even more generous
in your letting go
than they
were
in their leaving.

So that you can
let winter
be winter.

So that you can let
the world alone
to think of spring.

HYMN

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

ONE DAY HE GOT INTO A BOAT with his disciples, and he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side of the lake.’ So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, ‘Master, Master, we are perishing!’ And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, ‘Where is your faith?’ They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?’

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

HOMILY

The Reverend Gwynn Crichton, *Associate Rector for Pastoral Care*

LITANY OF HEALING

from Book of Occasional Services, 2018 (Church Publishing)

Presider Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.
Intercessor God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation.
People **We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Intercessor God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly.
People **We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Intercessor God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence.
People **We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Intercessor Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being.
People **We praise you and thank you, O Lord.**

Intercessor Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled.
People **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Intercessor Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence.
People **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Intercessor Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit.
People **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Intercessor Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy, and patience.
People **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Intercessor Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved.
People **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Intercessor Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world.
People **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Intercessor You are the Lord who does wonders:
People **You have declared your power among the peoples.**

Intercessor With you, O Lord, is the well of life:

People **And in your light we see light.**

Intercessor Hear us, O Lord of life:

People **Heal us, and make us whole.**

Intercessor Let us pray.

A period of silence is kept.

Presider Gracious God, we give you thanks for your beloved Jesus Christ, in whom you have shared the beauty and pain of human life. Look with compassion upon all for whom we pray, and strengthen us to be your instruments of healing in the world, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The people say together.

MOST HOLY GOD, in this season of Advent as we await the coming of Christ anew, we confess: We have resisted the light of your love; we have not fully shared the gifts entrusted to us; and we have not treasured the gifts of others around us. We stand in need of your love. Holy Father, make us holy. Holy Jesus, make us holy. Holy Spirit, make us holy. Holy God, make us whole. Amen.

The Presider gives the absolution.

CANDLE LIGHTING WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANNOINTING

TAIZÉ CHANT

O Lord hear my pray'r, O Lord hear my pray'r.

When I call, an - swer me. O Lord hear my pray'r. O

Lord hear my pray'r, Come and lis - ten to me. O

music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

text: Psalm 102

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

from Common Worship: Additional Eucharistic Prayers (Church House Publishing)

Presider God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to God, our Life and Creator.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues

GOD OF ALL LIFE, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us this great and beautiful earth, to discover and to cherish. You give us friends and families, communities to support us and care for us. You have made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with angels and archangels in singing your praise.

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS



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

music: Land of Rest, American folk tune

text: Mass Ordinary, Fifth century

The people remain standing as the Presider continues.

WE THANK YOU, loving God, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his friends, saying: 'Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

After they had eaten, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his friends, saying: 'Drink this, all of you; this is my Blood of the New Covenant which is shed for you and for all, for the remission of sins. As often as you shall drink it, do this in remembrance of me.'

And so, present God, with this bread and this cup we celebrate your love, your death, your risen life. Send your creative Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be for us Christ's body and blood.

As we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, help us to love one another and all creation. Through the awakened and risen Christ, be all honor and glory, world without end. **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

The Presider breaks the bread followed by silence.

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE AND HOLY COMMUNION

Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion.

HYMN

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil - e - ad, to make the wound - ed
whole, there is a balm in Gil - e - ad, to
heal the sin - sick soul. soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and
2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you
think my work's in vain, but then the Ho - ly
can - not pray like Paul, you can tell the love of
Spi - rit re - vives my soul a - gain.
Je - sus, and say, "He died for all."

music: Balm in Gilead, Afro-American spiritual; acc. David Hurd (b. 1950)

text: African-American spiritual

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The people stand and say together.

LOVING GOD, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

The Presider says

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer, be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Presider Let us go forth in the light of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God!**

PIANO VOLUNTARY

Ricercar pro Tempore Adventus: Ave Maria klare

Johann Kaspar Fischer (1650-1746)

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— PARTICIPANTS —

Clergy

The Reverend Gwynn Crichton, *Associate Rector for Pastoral Care*
The Reverend Dr. Jenny Montgomery, *Assistant for Pastoral Care*

Musicians

Dr. Christopher Reynolds, *Director of Music and Organist*
Stephanie Hill Blackwood, *Cantor*

Lectors

Erica Naone
Edie Patterson



ST. PAUL'S
CELEBRATING 175 YEARS