

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 2024  
TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING

# 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?*

St. Paul's is an Episcopal Church and uses liturgy or language for worship from *The Book of Common Prayer*. While we use a variety of other resources, all the words and music needed for today's service are found in this bulletin. There are helpful tips on when to stand and sit; however, do what feels most comfortable for you throughout the service.

## *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 on the website, 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. A host will be at the table throughout coffee hour, which is an opportunity immediately following the service to share refreshments with our members and visitors here today.

## *Restrooms*

Restrooms are located in the Parish House. You are welcome to use the bathroom that best aligns with your gender identity.

## *Nursery*

The nursery is open from 8:50 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There is a child-size restroom and a changing table available as well as the ability to hear service.

## *Contact the Clergy*

The St. Paul's clergy are eager to hear from you and to support you. On most Sundays a member of the clergy is available to pray with you during Communion at the station to the left of the altar railing. If you are going through a life transition, have an emergency, or are in need of pastoral care for any other reason, please call the church at 804.643.3589.

## *For Families and Children During Worship*

Young ones need to be able to see and experience worship. Our ushers are 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. During the **Gospel Procession**, children and families are encouraged to participate, and Children's Chapel follows. Kids will leave with our staff to participate in their own time of prayer and fellowship. They will return after the sermon during the Peace.

# THE ENTRANCE RITE

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Missa Brevis for Organ on Gospel Tunes

Sam Batt Owens (1928-1998)

3. Agnus Dei, An altar call in blue ("Just as I am, without one plea")

## HYMN



1. Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty of our God;  
2. See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring ing from e - ter - nal love,  
3. Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and fire ap - pear  
4. Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re - deem - er's blood!



he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;  
well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.  
for a glo - ry and a cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.  
Je - sus, whom their souls re - ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.



on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy sure re - pose?  
Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage?  
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and shade by day,  
'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to reign as kings:



With sal - va - tion's walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
Grace which, like the Lord the giv - er ne - ver fails from age to age.  
safe they feed up - on the man - na which he gives them when they pray.  
and as priests, his sol - emn prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

*Text:* John Newton (1725-1807), alt.

*Music:* Austria, Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1807)

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Presider* Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

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

*All say together the Collect for Purity.*

**A**LMIGHTY 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

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The lyrics are: To God, be the glo - ry who through meek and mild; God came down from heav - en and gave us the Child. Who yiel - ed his life, an a - tone - ment for sin and open - ed the life - gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let us all hear God's voice. Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let cre - a - tion re - joice! O come, to our Mak - er through Je - sus the One, who shows forth God's glo - ry! Great things God has done!

*Text:* Fanny Crosby (1820-1915), alt.

*Music:* *To God be the Glory*, William H. Doane (1832-1915)

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Let us pray.

**L**ET YOUR continual mercy, O Lord, cleanse and defend your Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without your help, protect and govern it always by your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The people are seated.*

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## THE FIRST READING

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

WHEN THE WIFE of Uriah heard that her husband was dead, she made lamentation for him. When the mourning was over, David sent and brought her to his house, and she became his wife, and bore him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord, and the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him, and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. The rich man had very many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. He brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children; it used to eat of his meager fare, and drink from his cup, and lie in his bosom, and it was like a daughter to him. Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was loath to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the wayfarer who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb, and prepared that for the guest who had come to him." Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man. He said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die; he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity." Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: I anointed you king over Israel, and I rescued you from the hand of Saul; I gave you your master's house, and your master's wives into your bosom, and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would have added as much more. Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, for you have despised me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife. Thus says the Lord: I will raise up trouble against you from within your own house; and I will take your wives before your eyes, and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this very sun. For you did it secretly; but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun." David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## THE GRADUAL: PSALM 51:1-13 *Miserere mei, Deus*

*The Psalm is read responsively by whole verse.*

- 1    Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*  
      in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2    Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*  
      and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3    For I know my transgressions, \*  
      and my sin is ever before me.
- 4    Against you only have I sinned \*  
      and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5    And so you are justified when you speak \*  
      and upright in your judgment.
- 6    Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*  
      a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7    For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*  
      and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8    Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*  
      wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9    Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*  
      that the body you have broken may rejoice.

*Continued on the following page.*

- 10 Hide your face from my sins \*  
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*  
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence \*  
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*  
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

**THE EPISTLE READING**

Ephesians 4:1-6, 14-16

**I**HEREFORE, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

*Lector* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN**

*All are invited to participate in the Gospel procession, especially children. Simply follow the Gospel book around the church and stay in place for the Gospel reading. After the reading, the children are invited to attend Children's Chapel. They will return to the church at the Peace.*

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy  
 2 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - ya  
 \* 3 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es,  
 4 Just as I am: thou wilt re - ceive; wilt wel - come,  
 5 Just as I am, thy love un - known has bro - ken

1 blood was shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me  
 2 con - flict, man - ya doubt; fight - ings and fears with -  
 3 heal - ing of the mind, yea, all I need, in  
 4 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve, be - cause thy prom - ise  
 5 ev - ery bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea,

1 come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 2 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 3 thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 4 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.  
 5 thine a - lone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am, of thy great love  
 the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,  
 here for a season, then above:  
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

*Text:* Charlotte Elliott (1789-1871)

*Music:* Woodworth, William Batchelder Bradbury (1816-1868)

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 6:24-35

*Gospeler* The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

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

**T**HE NEXT DAY, when the people who remained after the feeding of the five thousand saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into the boats and went to Capernaum looking for Jesus. When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?” Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.” Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.” So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’” Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.” Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

*Gospeler* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE SERMON

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

## THE NICENE CREED

*The people stand.*

**W**E BELIEVE in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Presider* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

*Intercessor* For those who work to keep us healthy and safe, and for all people in their daily life and work;  
*People* **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

*Intercessor* For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*People* **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

*Intercessor* For those who work to reduce global warming, and for the just and proper use of your creation;  
*People* **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

*Intercessor* For those who have asked for our prayers, especially *N.*, and those we name now;  
for all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*People* **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

*Intercessor* For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*People* **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

*Intercessor* For Michael, our Presiding Bishop, for Sean, our Presiding Bishop-elect, for Mark and Gayle our Bishops, for Charlie our Rector, and for all ministers and leaders;  
*People* **For all who serve God in God's Church.**

*Intercessor* For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*Intercessor* Hear us, Lord;  
*People* **For your mercy is great.**

*Intercessor* We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*The People may add their own thanksgivings.*

*Intercessor* We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*People* **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

*Intercessor* We pray for all who have died, especially *N.*, and those we name now. We pray that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon us;

*People* **Who put our trust in you.**



## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Presider* We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

*The People stand or kneel.*

*People* **Have mercy upon us, most merciful God; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Presider gives the absolution.*

## THE PEACE

*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

Author of life divine,  
Who hast a table spread,  
Furnished with mystic wine  
And everlasting bread,  
Preserve the life Thyself hast given,  
And feed and train us up for Heav'n.

Our needy souls sustain  
With fresh supplies of love,  
Till all Thy life we gain,  
And all Thy fullness prove,  
And, strengthened by Thy perfect grace,  
Behold without a veil Thy face.

*Text:* John Wesley (1703-1791)

*Music:* Richard Shephard (1949-2021)



*The vibrant ministries, creative worship, and faithful witness of St. Paul's are made possible by the generous commitment of our congregation. Our community extends beyond our city through our expansive mission programming and inclusive online presence. As our community has grown, we have developed innovative engagement opportunities to extend fellowship and hospitality to meet the needs of our congregation. Regardless of how you join us this morning, all are invited to use the QR to offer a gift to support our vital ministries.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider* The Lord 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 the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The Presider continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth  
your glory in all the world.

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,  
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.

*Text:* Mass Ordinary, Fifth century

*Music:* *Land of Rest*, American Folk Hymn

*The people stand or kneel as the Presider continues*

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*The people and Presider say together*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. 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. **AMEN.**

*The Presider continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*The people and Presider say together*

**O**UR 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.*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

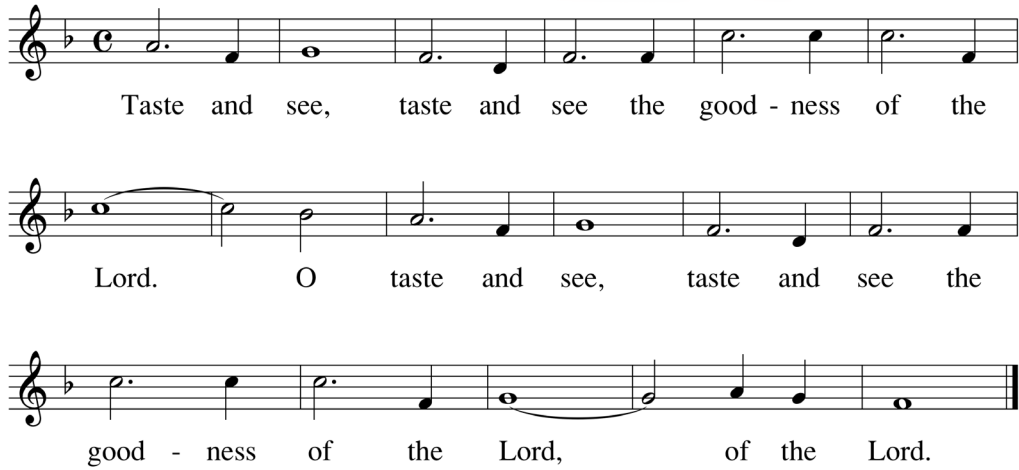
*Presider* The Gifts of God for the people of God.

#### THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE AND HOLY COMMUNION

*All are welcome at God's table. An usher will signal when you may go forward. All are invited to the altar rail to receive the sacraments (bread and wine) or a blessing. Bread will be placed in your hand by the priest. If you choose to receive the wine, the preferred (and most sanitary) way is by drinking from the common cup, guiding it by the base to your lips. While our preference is to keep fingers OUT of the chalice, if you plan to intinct, please use hand sanitizer before coming to the altar rail. Hand sanitizer is located on the tables in the back of the church.*

HYMN

Refrain



Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the  
 Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the  
 good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Verses



1. I will bless the Lord at all times.  
 2. Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me.  
 3. Wor - ship the Lord, all you peo - ple.

Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;  
 To - geth - er let us all praise God's name.  
 You'll want for noth - ing if you ask.

my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord  
 I called the Lord who an - swered me;  
 Taste and see that the Lord is good;

for God has been so good to me.  
 from all my trou - bles I was set free.  
 in God we need put all our trust.

*Text:* James E. Moore, Jr. (b. 1951), para. of Psalm 34

*Music:* *Taste and See*, James E. Moore, Jr. (b. 1951)

## SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

*The people stand.*

*Presider* In the name of God and of this congregation, we send you forth to share communion with *N.*, who cannot be present at this table.

*People* **We who are many are one because we all share one bread and one cup.  
Our prayers are with you. Go in peace.**

## THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

*The people say together.*

**E**ternal God, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

### HYMN



1. O day of ra - diant glad - ness, O day of joy and light,  
2. This day at the cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;  
3. This day, God's peo - ple meet - ing, his Ho - ly Scrip - ture hear;  
4. That light our hope sus - tain - ing, we walk the pil - grim way,

O balm of care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright;  
this day for our sal - va - tion Christ rose from depths of earth;  
is liv - ing pres - ence greet - ing, through Bread and Wine made near.  
at length our rest at - tain - ing, our end - less Sab - bath day.

this day the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,  
this day our Lord vic - to - rious the Spi - rit sent from heaven,  
We jour - ney on, be - liev - ing, re - newed with heaven - ly might,  
We sing to thee our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spi - rit, Son;

sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God Tri - une.  
and thus this day most glo - rious a tri - ple light was given.  
from grace more grace re - ceiv - ing on this blest day of light.  
the Church her voice up - rais - es to thee, blest Three in One.

*Text:* Sts. 1-2, Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1835), alt.; st. 3, Charles P. Price (1920-1999);  
st. 4, ver. *Hymnal* 1982

*Music:* *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*, German folk song; harm. George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)

## THE DISMISSAL

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

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Intermezzo in C Major

Hermann Schroeder (1904-1984)

*Those interested in the St. Paul's History Tour are invited to gather at the baptismal font immediately following the service.*

*The altar flowers are given by Bryn and Paul Davis in honor of Bryn's sister Darcy Renkens' birthday.*

## —————PARTICIPANTS—————

### *Clergy*

The Rev'd Charles Dupree, D.Min., *Rector*  
The Rev'd Gwynn Crichton, *Associate Rector for Community Engagement*  
The Rev'd Rainey G. Dankel, *Associate Rector for Worship and Liturgy*

### *Musicians*

Crystal Jonkman, *Music Associate*  
Summer Choir

### *Lectors*

Sue Davis  
Edie Patterson

### *Intercessor*

Sheena Mackenzie

### *Acolyte*

Sally Ray Griffith

### *Eucharistic Ministers*

Nancy Burns  
Zac Turnbow

### *Altar Guild*

Randy Blankenship, Amelia Paulie, Connie Rice;  
Sallie Nolte, Mary Ann Ready, *Co-Chairs*

Ted Brown, *Flower Guild*

## 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.

***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.

***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.

***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