



THE HOLY EUCHARIST
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 14, 2025

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together.

Isaiah 40:5

WELCOME! St. Paul's Church builds bridges — to God, to one another, to the city and beyond. We are glad you have joined us today.

In Advent we find that our worship looks to things which at first seem to be contrasting: light and dark; joy and sorrow; beginning and end; and, especially, chronological time and God's time. The worship we participate in transcends our understanding of time when we remember God's saving acts from the past and find those past acts becoming present reality that we participate in. Within our liturgies, we are always looking ahead to the end of time even as we find a foretaste of God's kingdom which is yet to come.

This service booklet, *The Book of Common Prayer* (red), *The Hymnal 1982* (blue), and *Wonder, Love and Praise* ("WLP," green paperbound) provide the resources needed for participation in our worship. Please silence your cell phones.

MUSIC NOTE

This morning's anthems are from the oratorio *Messiah* which was premiered in Dublin, Ireland in 1741. George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) wrote the entire work, totaling 259 pages of manuscript, in just 24 days and at the very end wrote the letters SDG standing for Soli Deo Gloria, "To God alone the glory."

During the Advent season we are singing metrical settings of the psalms based on familiar hymn tunes and if you want to see the hymn tune being used, please go to the Index of Tune Names in the back of the hymnal.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S LITURGIES

Readers: James Dorr (8:00)

Chari Krenis, Cheri Potter (10:15)

Eucharistic Ministers: Nancy Gear (8:00)

Angie Jones, Les Kernan, Vicki Harrison (10:15)

Crucifer: Andrew Ferrante

Altar Guild: Margaret Cochran, Louise Moore, Nancy Gear,
Judy McGrath, Nancy Reale

Ushers: Claudius Scott, Diane Healy, Lindsay Korth, Stan Refermat

ASL Interpreter: Luane Haggerty (10:15)

Live-Stream Operator: Nancy Gear (10:15)

Cover illustration by Sonja Slother

Before worship, let God speak to you. During worship, speak to God.

After worship, speak to one another.

VOLUNTARY Variations on “Watchman, Tell Us of the Night” Joseph Parry
arr. Aaron David Miller

✠ *indicates to stand as able.*

✠ HYMN 640 Watchman, Tell Us of the Night *Aberystwyth*

✠ OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

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

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

✠ KYRIE (Hymnal S-96) (*said at 8:00, sung by all at 10:15*) Franz Schubert

Presider Lord, have mercy

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Presider Lord have mercy.

✠ COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

MAGNIFICAT (*Said responsively at 8:00; Sung by ALL at 10:15*) *St. Thomas (Williams)*

1 My soul proclaims with joy the greatness of the Lord;

My spirit will rejoice in him, my Savior and my God.

2 The Lord has favored me, all ages will proclaim

That God has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

3 On those who fear the Lord his mercy will abide;

He showed the strength of his right arm, the proud are scattered wide.

4 The mighty are cast down, and lowly ones are raised;

He fills the hungry with good things and sends the rich away.

5 He comes to us to keep the promise made before

To Abraham and all his heirs of mercy evermore.

SECOND LESSON

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may

not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

✠ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (at 10:15 am)

Soon and Very Soon

Andre Crouch (b. 1942)

Soon and ve - ry soon - We are goin' to see the King, — Soon and ver - y soon - we are goin' to see the King, — Soon and ve - ry soon — We are goin' to see the King, — Hal - le - lu - jah -, Hal - le - lu - jah - we're goin' to see the King -! Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'Soon and ve - ry soon - We are goin' to see the King, — Soon and ver - y soon - we are goin' to see the King, — Soon and ve - ry soon — We are goin' to see the King, — Hal - le - lu - jah -, Hal - le - lu - jah - we're goin' to see the King -! Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.'

✠ HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:2-11

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dan Burner

A brief period of quiet reflection follows the sermon.

✠ NICENE CREED

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

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

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy 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.

✠ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer is offered for the Church, Nation, world, those who suffer, and for the departed.

Deacon: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *(additional prayers are offered here)* Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy *(additional prayers may be offered here)* all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Additional prayers may be offered, and the Presider adds a concluding collect.

✠ CONFESSION OF SIN

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Presider pronounces the Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

✠ EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please greet one another in Christ's Name. Words of welcome and announcements are then made.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Deacon says: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due God's Name; bring offerings and come into the courts with praise. (*Psalm 96:8*)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Lift Up Your Heads
from *Messiah*

George Frideric Handel

Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

✠ SAID AT 8:00 All things come of thee, O Lord,
and of thine own have we given thee.

✠ SUNG AT 10:15: HYMN 112 (*stanza 4*)

Cranham

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.

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

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 God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth through Jesus Christ our Lord. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

✠ SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS (Hymnal S-130)

Franz Schubert

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The congregation may remain standing 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 Father,

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

The Celebrant 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 [_____, 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 whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept.

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.

All are welcome at God's table.

The congregation comes forward for Communion at the direction of the ushers. The Sacrament is given in both kinds: bread and wine. If you are not able to go to any of the stations, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O Thou That Tellest
from Messiah

George Frideric Handel

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion get thee up into the high mountain. Lift up thy voice with strength. Lift it up, be not afraid. Say unto the cities of Judah, behold, your God. Arise, shine, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP p. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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.

✠ HYMN 75

There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

Ascension

✠ BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The children and Presider invoke God's blessing with the people repeating before the dismissal concludes:

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

The King of Glory Comes

Israeli folk song
arr. Aaron David Miller

PRAYER LIST

We entrust into your unfailing care, Merciful God...

Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; Kara Wagner Sherer, our Bishop; and, the
Clergy, Staff, and Lay Leaders of St. Paul's Church

In Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil

In the Diocese Cycle of Prayer: Church of Incarnation, Penfield

Bill & Diane Bailey, Lois, Matthew, Donna Grear, Gwen Cheney, Hans Thurston,
Nathan, Noreen, Scott, Bertha Simpkins, Jeff, Tom, Amelia Smith, Ella Richard-
Dyson, and Bill Dewart

Those who have died: Bob Potter, Sr.

*Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth:
Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FLOWER MEMORIALS

The flowers this Sunday are given to the Glory of God and
in loving memory of Claude Charles Noyes and Christine K Moorhead, J. Upshur
Moorhead, Elizabeth D. Knapp and Elizabeth Knapp.

When immigrants live in your land with you, you must not cheat them.
Any immigrant who lives with you must be treated as if they were one of your
citizens. You must love them as yourself, because you were immigrants
in the land of Egypt; I am the Lord your God.
Leviticus 19:33-34 (CEB)

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S

8:00 am: Holy Eucharist (Chantry)
10:00 am: Sunday School
10:15 am: Holy Eucharist (Church)
11:30 am: Fellowship Hour (Parish Hall)
11:30 am: Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Church)

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Monday, December 15th

7:00 pm: ACA Survivors (Stone Hall)

Tuesday, December 16th

7:00 pm: Vestry Meeting (Cadigan Room)

Wednesday, December 17th

9:00 am: Wednesday Women AA (Stone Hall)
Noon: Holy Eucharist (St. Peter's Chapel)
8:15 pm: Young & Restless AA (Stone Hall)
6:00 pm: Handbell Rehearsal (Church)
7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal (Church)

Thursday, December 18th

12:00 pm: Caregivers Support Group (Vestry Room)
6:00 pm: AA Meeting (Stone Hall)
8:30 pm: Academy Group AA (Stone Hall)

Friday, December 19th

6:00 pm: The Great Fact AA Meeting (Stone Hall)

Saturday, December 20th

10:30 am: Debtors' Anonymous (Quilt Room)
8:00 pm: AA Saturday Group (Stone Hall)

NEWS AND NOTICES

- ❖ **Christmas Memorial Flowers:** Memorial Flower Envelopes have been placed around the church. Clearly print the names of those you wish to remember and place your offering in the collection plate at the back of the church or return it to the church office no later than **this Wednesday, Dec. 17th**. You can also email your names to info@stpaulsec.org.
- ❖ **Thank you** to everyone who participated in the **School 9 Giving Tree** this year! The gifts will be delivered to School 9 later this week. If you are waiting on a couple of items to arrive, please let Jay know today.
- ❖ **The St Paul's Christmas Pageant will be next Sunday**, within the 10:15 am service. All children are encouraged to participate! Costumes will be distributed TODAY, and you can still participate on the day of the pageant! Contact Amy with questions: awelker@stpaulsec.org.
- ❖ **Name Tags** are now going to be grouped alphabetically in baskets at the rear of the church. If you want to leave your nametag here during the week, please return it to the same alphabetical basket. You can also take your nametag with you if you choose.
- ❖ **St. Joseph's House of Hospitality:** Throughout December, we will be gathering donations of **men's underwear (all sizes), men's and women's travel-size deodorant, coffee, sugar, coats, gloves, hats, bath towels, laundry detergent, and men's boots**. Please place your donations in the baskets at the back of the church.
- ❖ **Thank you to all who have turned in your pledge cards for 2026!** We are pleased that we have received \$382K in pledges to date. Over 62% of the pledges were increases over 2025. We also have 10 new pledges. You may use the card in your pew or visit www.stpaulsec.org/donate to pledge today.
- ❖ **Third Sundays at 3pm** will feature an annual favorite on December 21 with Christmas Lessons and Carols sung by the St. Paul's Choir. The choir will be singing works by Handel, Willcocks, and Rutter, along with congregational carols for the season. Reception will follow from 4:00 – 5:00 pm.



Advent & Christmas Services

Advent Service of Light & Hope

Thursday, December 11th at 5:30 pm

A quiet, meditative service for those who need a
quiet space amidst the December rush.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21st at 3:00 pm

Reception to follow, 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

Christmas Eve

Festival Service at 3:00 pm

Candlelight Service at 8:00 pm

Christmas Day

Morning Service at 10:00 am

ST. PAUL'S STAFF

The Reverend Dan Burner
Interim Rector

The Reverend Sue Ouellette, PhD
Deacon

Amy Welker
Director, Children & Youth Faith Formation

Bob Potter
Property Manager

Dave McEntee
Maintenance Associate

Judy McGrath
Parish Accountant

The Reverend Jay Burkardt
Assistant Rector

Dr. John W.W. Sherer
Organist and Director of Music

Augustine Sobeng
Organ Scholar

Sonja Slother
Director of Communications & Digital Ministry

Natosche Holt
Parish Office Administrator

Lisa Werner
Accounting Assistant

Susan Hall & Dorrie Champlin
Sunday Childcare

ST. PAUL'S VESTRY

Officers

Wardens: Erin Glanton & Ingrid Stanlis
Treasurer: Rick Harrison • *Clerk:* Judy McGrath

Class of 2025

Swing Harre
Mara Hazzard-Wallingford
Christopher Moore

Class of 2026

Floyd Bayley
Laura Carr
Chari Krenis

Class of 2027

Lila Kennedy
Les Kernan
Abuk Mabut



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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