

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT &
THE HOLY EUCHARIST
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 21, 2025 ✠ 10:15AM

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

The anthem sung during the Pageant, "Holy Night, Blessed Night" is a lovely Chinese lullaby with a hypnotic quality caused by its lilting tune and five note, pentatonic, scale. The simplicity of the music adds to its tranquility.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S LITURGIES

Eucharistic Ministers: Grace Henshaw, Joan Flint, Nancy Curtis

Crucifer: Dan Wright

Altar Guild: Louise Moore, Linda White, Jackie Barnes, Judy McGrath,
Kitty MacDowell

Ushers: Duane Swanson, Lila Kennedy, Malual Thongjang, Margaret Cochran

ASL Interpreter: Jean Rodman

Live-Stream Operator: Sonja Slother

Cover illustration by Sonja Slother

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

After worship, speak to one another.

VOLUNTARY

A Christmas Carol Medley
He Is Born, the Divine Christ Child
Away in a Manger
Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Douglas E. Wagner

✠ *indicates to stand as able.*

✠ HYMN 65

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herren

✠ 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 (*sung by all*)

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. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Congregation is seated for the Children's Pageant.

CHILDREN’S PAGEANT

Welcome to Bethlehem

Ruby Carr, *Narrator*

Part One: Mary and Joseph

Hymn 79 (*stanza 1*)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

Part Two: The Stable

Hymn 101 (*stanza 1*)

Away in a Manger

Cradle Song

Part Three: Angels

Hymn 96 (*stanza 1*)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Part Four: Shepherds

Anthem

Holy Night, Blessed Night

Qigui Shi

Holy night, blessed night. Stars shine brightly, earth is still. Hills and valleys, field and woodlands, all surround the small town Bethlehem. In a manger, Christ the Lord sleeps.

Holy night, blessed night. Angels sing praise, shepherds fear, earth and heaven ring with praises, “Alleluia” all creation sings. Tell the good news, Christ is born now.

Part Five: A Star and the Magi

Hymn 128 (*stanza 1*)

We Three Kings of Orient Are

Three Kings of Orient

Conclusion

✠ Hymn 99

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Go Tell it on the Mountain

(This is a great time for photos to be taken.)

✠ 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

People, Look East!

Besançon carol
arr. Craig Phillips

People, look East, the time is near, of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth, and set the table. People, look East, and sing today; Love, the guest is on the way. Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there; give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish. People, look East, and sing today; Love, the rose is on the way. Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen, he for fledgling time has chosen. People, look East, and sing today; Love, the bird on on the way. Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim, shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon togetehr. People, look East, and sing to day; Love, the star, is on the way. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth, Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming. People, look East, and sing today; Love, the Lord, is on the way.

✠ 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.

All are encouraged to come 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

Hark, the Glad Sound!

Walford Davies

Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long; let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song! He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held; the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield. He comes, from thickest films of vice to clear the mental ray, and on the eyeballs of the blind to pour celestial day. He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor. Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim, and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved name.

✠ 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 66

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

✠ 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

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

Johann Pachelbel

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: The Anglican Church of Burdundi

In the Diocese Cycle of Prayer: St. Stephen's Church, Rochester

Jean Rodman, Luke Humphry, 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.

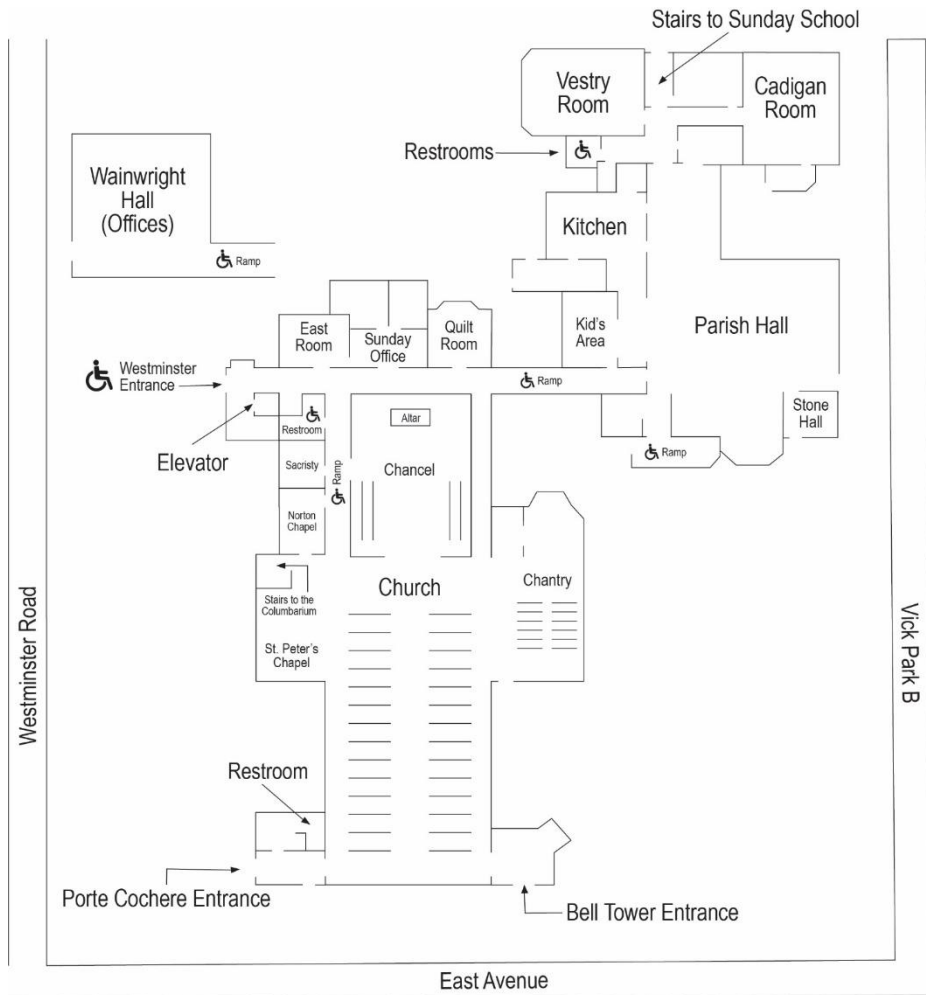
Those who have died.

*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 George & Esther Young and Leonard & Rosemary Bero

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)



All are invited to make a gift to support our mission:
 As the plate is passed. • By scanning the QR code at the left. • Online at stpaulsec.org/donate. • By texting PAUL to 73256 and following the prompts.
 Thank you for your generosity!

TODAY AT ST. PAUL'S

8:00 am: Holy Eucharist (Chantry)

10:15 am: Holy Eucharist (Church)

11:30 am: Fellowship Hour (Parish Hall)

3:00 pm: Third Sunday @3pm Concert – Christmas Lessons & Carols

4:30 pm: Youth Group (Stone Hall)

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Monday, December 22nd

7:00 pm: ACA Survivors (Stone Hall)

Wednesday, December 24th

9:00 am: Wednesday Women AA (Stone Hall)

No Noonday Service

3:00 pm: Christmas Eve Festival Service

8:00 pm: Christmas Eve Candlelight Eucharist with Choral Prelude

8:15 pm: Young & Restless AA (Stone Hall)

Thursday, December 25th

Office closed for the Christmas holiday

10:00 am: Christmas Day Holy Eucharist with Carols

6:00 pm: AA Meeting (Stone Hall)

8:30 pm: Academy Group AA (Stone Hall)

Saturday, December 27th

10:30 am: Debtors' Anonymous (Quilt Room)

8:00 pm: AA Saturday Group (Stone Hall)

NEWS AND NOTICES

- ❖ **Third Sundays at 3pm** will feature an annual favorite TODAY 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.
- ❖ We are looking forward to having the **St. Paul's children's choir** sing "People, Look East" TODAY after the Christmas Pageant. The kids can all return to their seats after the Pageant, but come back to the front after the *Exchange of Peace*, so the children's choir can sing with the adult choir during the Offertory Anthem.
- ❖ Noonday services will not be held on December 24 or December 31 due to the holiday service schedule.
- ❖ The church office will be closed December 25th for the Christmas holiday and will reopen Monday, January 5th at 10:00 am. For pastoral emergencies, please call 585-483-0472.
- ❖ **Name Tag Update:** Thank you all for your patience as we get used to using nametags! We have made a change that we hope will clarify where to find and leave nametags. **All nametags will now be kept in the back of the church.** They will be grouped alphabetically into baskets. If you want to leave your nametag here during the week, please return it to the same alphabetical basket. You may also take your nametag with you if you choose.
- ❖ **Thank you to all who have turned in your pledge cards for 2026!** We are pleased that we have received \$390K 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.
- ❖ **Tips for Year-End Giving:** To qualify for a tax-deductible charitable contribution, all gifts to St. Paul's Church must be received in the office or postmarked by December 31. Non-cash gifts, such as stock, may be made electronically by December 31. For routing and account information, please contact Judy McGrath at 585-271-2240 or jmcgrath@stpaulsec.org. Stock donors are asked to provide a letter or email confirming the gift and the number of shares donated. You may also prepay your 2026 pledge by December 31 to qualify as a charitable deduction on your 2025 tax return. If your gift includes a prepaid 2026 pledge, please notify the financial office so it can be recorded correctly.



THIRD SUNDAYS @ 3:00 PM

a concert series at st. paul's
at the corner of east ave. and westminster rd.



December 21, 2025

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sung by St. Paul's Choir



Christmas Services

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24

Festival Eucharist (live stream) - 3:00 pm

Candlelight Eucharist w/Choral Prelude - 8:00 pm

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25

Holy Eucharist with Carols - 10:00 am



FIRST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH

6:00 pm in the Parish Hall

Bring a dish to pass.

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

25 Westminster Road
Rochester, New York 14607
585-271-2240 • www.stpaulsec.org
After-hours Pastoral Emergency Line:
585-483-0472