

THE HOLY EUCHARIST  
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 8, 2024

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

*Isaiah 40:5*

**W**ELCOME! 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 NOTES

This morning's opening and closing voluntary features two settings of the advent chorale "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us. The first setting by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) is from his collection of Schübler Chorales, published in 1748. These are among the very few compositions published by Bach during his lifetime. The second setting in the closing voluntary is by the German composer Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933) who, like Bach, also lived in Leipzig.

### PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S LITURGIES

*Readers:* John Currie, Doug Kelley (8:00)

Kitty MacDowell, Christopher Moore, Gary Scott (10:15)

*Eucharistic Ministers:* Suzy Spencer (8:00);

Melinda Johnston, Nancy Curtis (10:15)

*Crucifer:* Wayne Least

*Altar Guild:* Louise Moore, Nancy Reale, Jackie Barnes, Carey Wilcox,  
Jennifer Blecker

*Ushers:* Al Zenner, Gretchen Zenner, Jane Newcomb, Sally Kittredge

*ASL Interpreter:* Jean Rodman (10:15)

*Live-Stream Operator:* Cheri Potter (10:15)

*Cover:* Advent Cross (illustration by Sonja Slother)



# THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST LESSON

*Baruch 5:1-9*

**T**ake off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

[8:00] CANTICLE 16, BCP p 92

*Said in unison*

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \*  
he has come to his people and set them free.

He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \*  
born of the house of his servant David.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,  
that he would save us from our enemies, \*  
from the hands of all who hate us.

He promised to show mercy to our fathers \*  
and to remember his holy covenant.

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \*  
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

Free to worship him without fear, \*  
holy and righteous in his sight  
all the days of our life.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \*  
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

To give his people knowledge of salvation \*  
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God \*  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \*  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

[10:15] CANTICLE 16, Hymnal S-248

*Congregation joins in singing the antiphons.*

SECOND LESSON

*Philippians 1:3-11*

**I** thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

✠ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (*at 10:15am*)

*Soon and Very Soon*

*On next page, sung by ALL before the Gospel reading.*

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

Luke 3:1-6

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

**I**n the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low,

and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*Deacon* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Robert Picken

✠ 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, the Nation and the world, for those who suffer, and for the departed.*

*Intercessor* May we trust in you,  
*People* And not be afraid.

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

✠ CONFESSION OF SIN

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 ANTHEM

Keep Your Lamps!

André Thomas

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh. Children don't get weary till you work is done. Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh. Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.*

✠ AT THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

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 HYMN S-130

Franz Schubert

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest. 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 his coming in glory.**

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.

*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    Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Claude Goudimail  
arr. Paul G. Bunes

*Comfort, comfort ye my people, speak ye peace, thus saith our God; comfort those who sit in darkness, mourning 'neath their sorrows' load. Speak ye to Jerusalem of the peace that waits for them; tell her that her sins I cover and her warfare now is over. Hark, the herald's voice is crying in the desert far adn near, bidding all to repentance since the kingdom now is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way; let the valleys rise to meet him and the hills bow down to greet him.*

✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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 59

Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

*Merton*

BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

*The children come forward with their stockings*

✠ BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*The children and presider invoke God's blessing and the people respond, Amen.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

VOLUNTARY

“Sleepers, Wake!” A Voice Astounds Us

Sigfrid Karg-Elert

## 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: Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan

In the Diocese Cycle of Prayer: St. Thomas' Church Bath

Those for whom our prayers have been requested: Dick, Dawn, Will, Scott, Bertha  
Simpkins, Jeff, Tom, Bob Potter, Sr., Joyce Crofton, John, Hank Couch, Ned Atwater,  
Paula Zanhizer, Amelia Smith, Ella Richard-Dyson, Dean Arvan, and Bill Dewart.

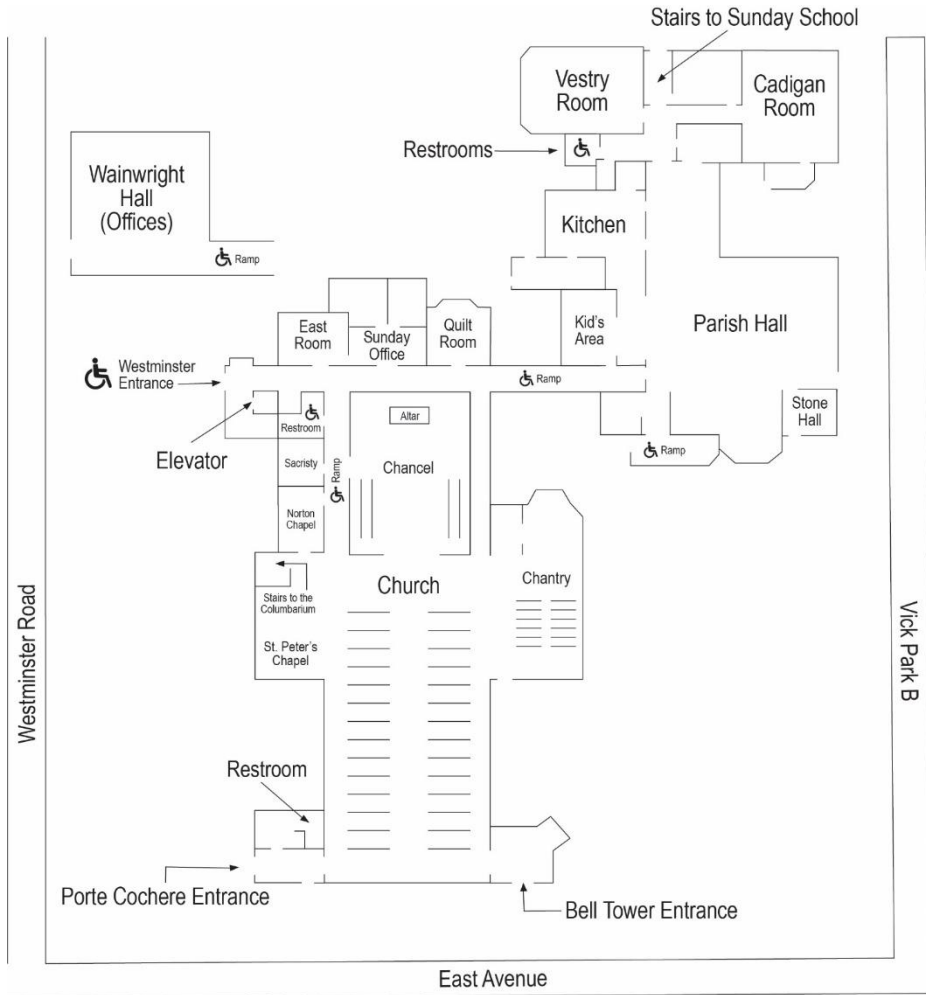
Those who have died.

*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  
Claude Charles Noyes, Christine K. Moorhead, J. Upshur Moorhead, Elizabeth D Knapp  
& Elizabeth Knapp

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*Gospel Acclamation:* Soon and Very Soon, *Words and Arrangement:* Andre Crouch



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](http://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)
- 9:00 am: Sunday Forum (Cadigan Room)
- 10:15 am: Holy Eucharist (Church)
- 11:30 am: Choristers' Rehearsal (Church)
- 11:30 am: Fellowship Hour (Parish Hall)
- 11:30 am: Sunday Speakers' Series (Cadigan Room)
- 4:00 pm: Newcomer's Dessert (Wainwright Hall)

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S**

### **Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup>**

- 10:00 am: Archives Committee (Stone Hall)
- 7:00 pm: ACA Survivors (Stone Hall)

### **Tuesday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

- 7:00 pm: Vestry Meeting (Vestry Room)

### **Wednesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>**

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

### **Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

- 6:00 pm: AA Meeting (Stone Hall)
- 7:00 pm: Bell Choir Rehearsal (Church)
- 8:30 pm: Academy Group AA (Stone Hall)

### **Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

- 10:00 am: St. Paul's Needle Arts Ministry (Parlor)
- 10:30 am: Debtors' Anonymous (Quilt Room)
- 8:00 pm: AA Saturday Group (Stone Hall)

## NEWS AND NOTICES

- ❖ **Sunday Forum at 9:00 am** in the Cadigan Room - *Adventus: The Once and Future Advent of Christ*. Advent is also a time of rich paradoxes, a season celebrating at once Christ's incarnation and his return. Together, we will unfold the ethical and future-oriented significance of Advent for the Church.
- ❖ **The School 9 Giving Tree** is up in the Parish Hall! Please take a card, complete the sign-up sheet, and enjoy shopping for a student at School 9. Gifts will be collected on Sunday, December 15th so we can deliver them in time for their winter break. Contact Rev Jay with any questions!
- ❖ **Sunday Speakers' Series: *In My First Book, Theophilus: An Introduction to the Gospel of Luke*** TODAY at 11:30 am in the Cadigan Room. The Gospel lessons for this Church year will be taken from Luke's Gospel. Join the Rector for an introduction to the Gospel of Luke, its background, history, and key themes.
- ❖ **Newcomer's Dessert:** If you are new to St. Paul's since 2020, please join us TODAY at 4:00 pm in Wainwright Hall for a fun evening of hot cocoa, music, tasty treats, and decorating the office Christmas Tree. This is open to the whole family and will be a great chance to connect with one another.
- ❖ **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 Wednesday, Dec. 18th. You can also email your names to [info@stpaulsec.org](mailto:info@stpaulsec.org).
- ❖ **Stocking Stuffer Sunday!** Looking for some Christmas gifts? Check out John's latest CD *Pomp, Pipes and Power* (Gothic, 2024) and Rob's *first* book, a well-reviewed introduction to liturgy with a focus on the ministry of sacristans (Church Publishing, 2024)! Both are on sale in the Parish Hall.
- ❖ **Healing Prayer Ministry.** If you are interested in learning about how you can offer prayers for healing for fellow parishioners during our Services, please be in contact with Deacon Sue.
- ❖ Save the Date for our **Christmas Pageant** on Sunday, December 22nd during the 10:15 am service. All children and youth are highly encouraged to participate!
- ❖ **Thank you to all who have turned in your 2025 pledges!** We are pleased that we are nearly our pledge goal with a majority of the stewards increasing their pledge for 2025... and we have new pledges! You may use the card in your pew or visit [www.stpaulsec.org/donate](http://www.stpaulsec.org/donate) to pledge today.

## ST. PAUL'S STAFF

The Reverend Canon Robert Picken  
*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*

Candace Hoffman-Hussain & Susan Hall  
*Sunday Childcare*

## ST. PAUL'S VESTRY

### Officers

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

### Class of 2024

Kevin Frisch  
Julie Gedro  
Brent Johnson

### Class of 2025

Swing Harre  
Mara Hazzard-Wallingford  
Christopher Moore

### Class of 2026

Floyd Bayley  
Laura Carr  
Chari Krenis



## ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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