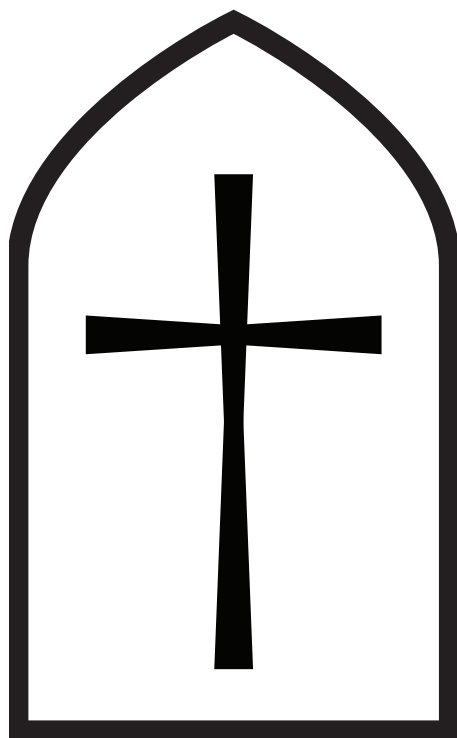


SAINT ♦ PAUL'S

E P I S C O P A L C H U R C H

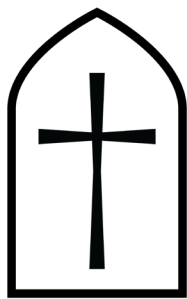


THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 10, 2023

10:00 AM, RITE II

LIVE FAITHFULLY.



Festival of Lessons & Carols with Eucharist

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 10, 2023 • 10 AM

Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, Waco, TX

♦♦♦ Live Faithfully

Worship lies at the heart of the Christian life. It is in worship that we express our theology and define our identity. It is through encountering God within worship that we are formed and transformed as the people of God. One of the glories of the Episcopal Church is its liturgical worship. Liturgy refers to the patterns, forms, words, and actions through which public worship is conducted.

*The people's responses are in **bold**.*

When the service is accompanied by music, it often begins with an instrumental piece of music, during which the congregation can prepare for worship.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, made famous by Kings College in Cambridge, has been celebrated annually for more than 100 years across the globe. This service is inspired by the festival, adapted from our Book of Occasional Services, and consists of five lessons, hymns, and carols.

The flowers on the altar today are given by Dr. and Mrs. Richard W. Brunn to the glory of God and in loving memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Coleman and Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Brunn, and in thanksgiving for their children, Ruth and Richard and their families

PRELUDE: *The Angel Gabriel*

Kristina Langlois
(b.1959)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

INTROIT: *Advent Wreath Prayer*

Malcolm Archer
(b.1952)

Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord, just and true,
To you be praise and glory forever!
For you are our light and our salvation,
Blessed be God forever.

The second candle in the Advent Wreath symbolizes faith. It is also called the Bethlehem Candle. Micah foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, the birth place of King David, and this candle honors that prophecy. It also symbolizes the journey Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem.

We begin our worship as a gathered community by praising God in song.

The people stand as able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • *Once he came in blessing* • 53



1 Once he came in bless - ing, all our ills re - dress - ing;
 2 Still he comes with - in us, still his voice would win us
 3 Thus, if thou canst name him, not a - shamed to claim him,
 4 One who thus en - dur - eth bright re - ward se - cur - eth.

came in like-ness low - ly, Son of God most ho - ly;
 from the sins that hurt us, would to Truth con - vert us:
 but wilt trust him bold - ly nor dost love him cold - ly,
 Come, then, O Lord Je - sus, from our sins re - lease us;

bore the cross to save us, hope and free - dom gave us.
 not in tor - ment hold us, but in love en - fold us.
 he will then re - ceive thee, heal thee, and for - give thee.
 let us here con - fess thee till in heaven we bless thee.

Words: Jan Roh (1485?-1547); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Gottes Sohn ist kommen*, melody Michael Weisse (d. 1534); harm. Jack W. Burnam (b. 1946).

A BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, with grace and hope. Let us pray.

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The people sit. The congregation will sit for the lessons and choir anthems and stand for congregational hymns.

THE LESSONS

THE FIRST LESSON • Genesis 3:1-15

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
 cursed are you among all animals
 and among all wild creatures;
upon your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman
and between your offspring and hers;
he will strike your head,
and you will strike his heel.”

ANTHEM • *Come Down, O Love Divine* Ralph Vaughn Williams (1872-1958)
arr. Philip Dietterich (b. 1931)

*Come down, O Love divine,
seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardor glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

*O let it freely burn,
till earthly passions turn
to dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
and let thy glorious light
shine ever on my sight,
and clothe me round, the while my path illumining.*

*And so the yearning strong,
with which the soul will long,
shall far outpass the power of human telling;
for none can guess its grace,
till Love create a place
wherein the Holy Spirit makes a dwelling.*

THE SECOND LESSON • Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

HYMN • *Comfort, comfort ye my people* • 67



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

THE THIRD LESSON • Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY • *Once He Came in Blessing*

John Leavitt
(b.1956)

THE FOURTH LESSON • Isaiah 65:17-25

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

ANTHEM • *Sussex Carol*

Traditional English Carol
arr. David Wilcox (1919-2015)

*On Christmas night, all Christians sing
To hear the news, the angels bring*

*News of great joy, news of great mirth
News of our merciful King's birth*

*Then why should men on Earth be sad?
Since our Redeemer will make us glad*

*When from our sin He set us free
All for to gain our liberty?*

*When sin departs before His grace
Then life and health come in its place
Angels and men with joy may sing*

All for to see the newborn King

*All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night
Glory to God and peace to men*

Now and forevermore, Amen.

THE FIFTH LESSON • Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

ANTHEM • *Thee We Adore*

Gregorian Tune
arr. Ralph Johnson (b. 1955)

*Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, Thee,
Who in Thy sacrament art pleased to be;
Both flesh and spirit in Thy presence fail,
Yet here Thy presence we devoutly hail.*

*Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God:
Cleanse us, unclean, with Thy most cleansing blood;
Increase our faith and love, that we may know
the hope and peace which from Thy presence flow.*

*O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see,
May what we thirst for soon our portion be,
To gaze on Thee unveiled, and see Thy face,
The vision of Thy glory and Thy grace.*

Amen.

THE SERMON • The Rev. Ray Bagby

The sermon directly follows the Gospel and helps illuminate the scriptural readings and relate them to daily life.

The people stand as able at the invitation of the celebrant to recite the Nicene Creed.

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

The word "creed" comes from the Latin word "credo" which means "I believe." First formulated at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD and confirmed in 381 AD, the Nicene Creed is said at services of Holy Eucharist and reflects the Christian belief in the Holy Trinity and the relationship between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**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.

THE PEACE

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

The people greet one another with a sign of God's peace and then are seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, confessed our sins, received forgiveness, and shared in the peace, we are prepared for Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and materially in the money we give.

All are invited to support Saint Paul's mission to Live Faithfully as the plate is passed, at saintpaulswaco.org/ give, or by scanning the QR code on the card titled "Giving" on the back of the pew in front of you.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

The people stand as able.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

As the Dark Awaits the Dawn
Christopher Aspaas (b. 1973)

As the dark awaits the dawn

so we await your light.

*O Star of promise, scatter night,
loving bright, loving bright,
till shades of fear are gone.*

*As the blue expectant hour
before the silvering skies,
we long to see your day arise,
whole and wise, whole and wise,
O lucent Morning Star.*

*As the moon reflects the sun
until the night's decrease,
may we your healing light release,
living peace, living peace,
unto your holy dawn.*

*Shine your future on this place,
enlighten every guest,
that through us stream our holiness,
bright and blest, bright and blest;
come dawn, O Sun of grace.*

THE DOXOLOGY • *From all that dwell below the skies (verse 3)* • 380

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING • Eucharistic Prayer B BCP 361

In the Great Thanksgiving, we do what Jesus himself asked us to do: thank God and recall all that God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ. The Great Thanksgiving, or Eucharistic Prayer, is a long prayer with four parts. Each of these four parts corresponds to a different action of Jesus at the Last Supper, where he took, blessed, broke, and gave bread and wine as sacraments of his body and blood. We begin the Great Thanksgiving with the Sursum Corda, meaning “Lift up your hearts.”

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him 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.

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS • *Holy, holy, holy* • 114

The Sanctus (*Holy, holy, holy*) is the hymn of praise that never ceases before God and is based on Isaiah 6:3.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of

Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -

- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

We recall God's acts of salvation history. The presider says the "Words of Institution" that Jesus said at the last Supper. At the Memorial Acclamation we remember Christ's death, resurrection, and promise to return at the end of the age. During the prayer, the Holy Spirit is invoked to bless and sanctify the gifts of bread and wine.

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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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 he 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 his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

THE GREAT AMEN

The Great Amen is when the congregation with a unified great voice concurs with all that the presider has prayed. It is the only "Amen" in all capitals found in The Book of Common Prayer, signifying the greatness of the congregation's response.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 363

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM • *Jesus, Lamb of God* • 158

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -

way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -

on us. O Lamb of God, that

ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of

God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the

world, grant us thy peace.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE PRESENTATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion will be distributed at the altar rail. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion at the acolyte's direction. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. If you would prefer to receive communion from your pew, you may remain seated during altar rail distribution. A priest will come to the congregation for anyone wishing to remain in the pew. You may raise your hand to get their attention.

COMMUNION HYMN • *Prepare the way, O Zion* • 65



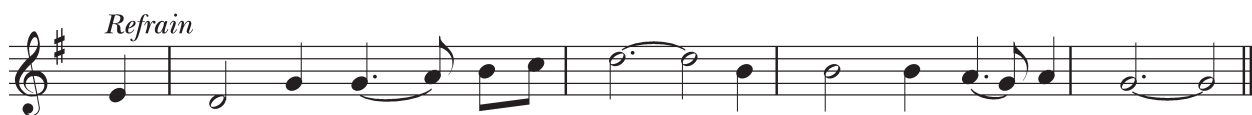
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



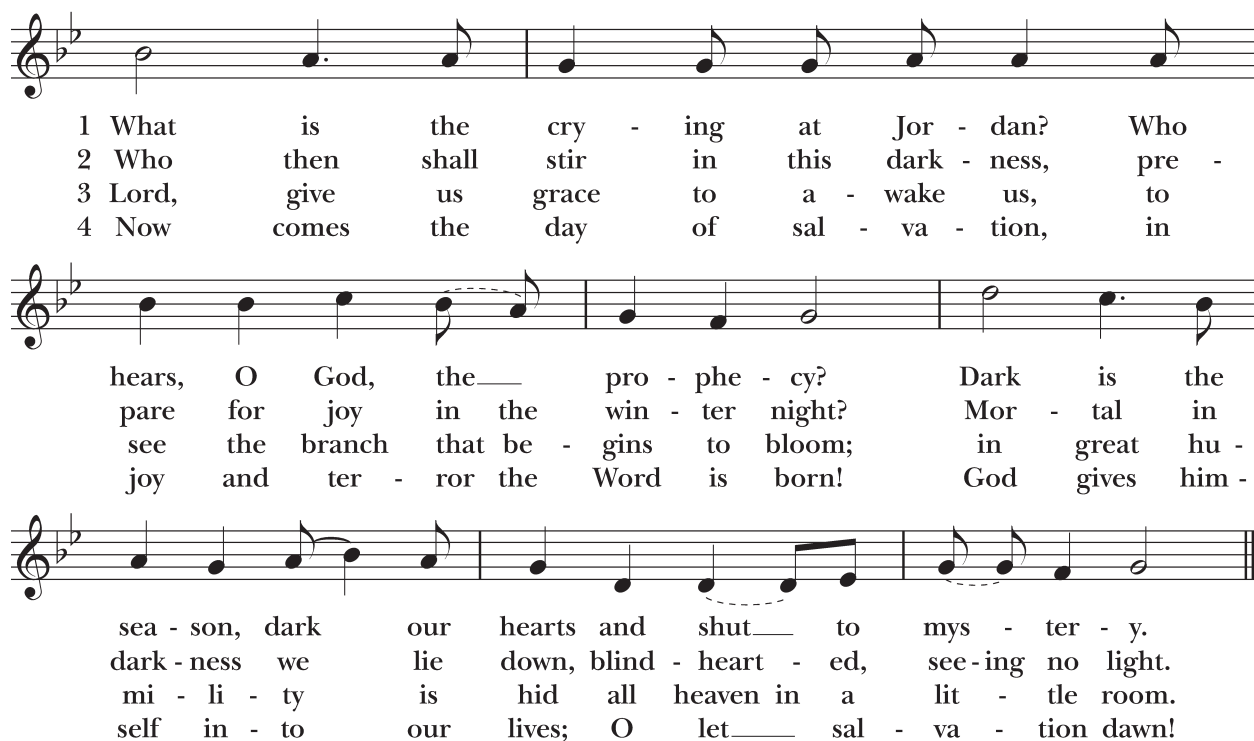
Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

COMMUNION HYMN • *What is the crying at Jordan?* • 69



1 What is the cry - ing at Jor - dan? Who
 2 Who then shall stir in this dark - ness, pre -
 3 Lord, give us grace to a - wake us, to
 4 Now comes the day of sal - va - tion, in

hears, O God, the pro - phe - cy? Dark is the
 pare for joy in the win - ter night? Mor - tal in
 see the branch that be - gins to bloom; in great hu -
 joy and ter - ror the Word is born! God gives him -

sea - son, dark our hearts and shut to mys - ter - y.
 dark - ness we lie down, blind - heart - ed, see - ing no light.
 mi - li - ty is hid all heaven in a lit - tle room.
 self in - to our lives; O let sal - va - tion dawn!

Words: Carol Christopher Drake (b. 1933), alt. Copyright © 1971, Carol C. Stone. Music: *St. Mark's, Berkeley*, Irish melody from *Danta De: Hymns to God, Ancient and Modern*; harm. Norman Mealy (1923-1987).

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

The people kneel or sit.

Let us pray.

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.

THE BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The people stand as able.

CLOSING HYMN • *The King shall come when morning dawns* • 73

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to
 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and
 4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by
 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the
 2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry
 3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing
 4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph
 5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.
 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.
 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;
 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.
 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

THE DISMISSAL

BCP 366

The dismissal signals the end of worship but the beginning of our service. Now that we have been renewed at Christ's altar, we are sent into the world to continue spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ. In seasons of festive celebration, like the great 50 days of Easter, we add "Alleluia, Alleluia" to our dismissal.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Wachet Auf*

Emma Lou Diemer
(b. 1927)

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Celebrant	The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith, Rector
Preacher	The Rev. Ray Bagby
Choir Director	Will McLean
Organist	Jeffrey Peterson
Readers	Piers Bateman, Sarah Khoury, Felicia Goodman, David Clinton, Pati Milligan
Intercessor	Karen Johnson
Candle Lighters	The Campbell Family
Ushers	Joel & Mandy Kuehl
Oblationer	Brooke Richards
Vestry Hosts	Suzy Nettles & Kristi Carlile
Altar Guild	Team III: Alison Fung, Bonnie Carpenter, Susan Harriman, Jane Hart, Dawn Khoury, Lorri Khoury, Ruth Miller, Suzy Nettles, Wanda Raley, Cindy SoRelle, Laura Swann, Ellen Taylor, Carl Ballew

THE PRAYER LIST • December 10-16

At Saint Paul's, prayer is an important part of our vision to Live Faithfully. Every week, we pray for upcoming birthdays and anniversaries, ten of our families, and the ill and infirm. If your birthday or anniversary is in the next week, you are welcome to join us at the front for a prayer following the announcements.

BIRTHDAYS

Tom Haddad, Matthew Johnson, Donna Miller, Markham W. Dossett, Lisa St. Romain, Jan Barger, Nancy McGovern, Suzy Nettles, Bart Romig, Rocky Bridges, Charlie Rigney, Diane Deaver

Watch over thy children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES

Jackie & Paxton Dove

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

MEMBERS CYCLE

Steve & Judy Green; Lois Greer; Lance, Amy, Compton, & Alden Grigsby; Pete & Michele Groetzinger; Charles, Kathleen, Emma, & Addison Guy; Christian Hack; Tom & Debbie Haddad; David & Dolores Haferkamp; Ken Hafertepe; Drew, Triniti, Porter, & Delaney Hall

ILL & INFIRM

Whether you are here for the first time or have been a member your whole life, we would love to pray for you. To send in a prayer request, you may call the church office at 254-753-4501 or email contactus@saintpaulswaco.org. You may also fill out the card titled "Prayer" on the back of the pew in front of you. If you are requesting prayer for someone else, please ensure you have their permission or the permission of an immediate family member before putting them on the public prayer list. We are happy to pray privately for those who do not wish to publish their names.

Do you see someone on this list who is doing better? Please let us know! We would love to celebrate with them.

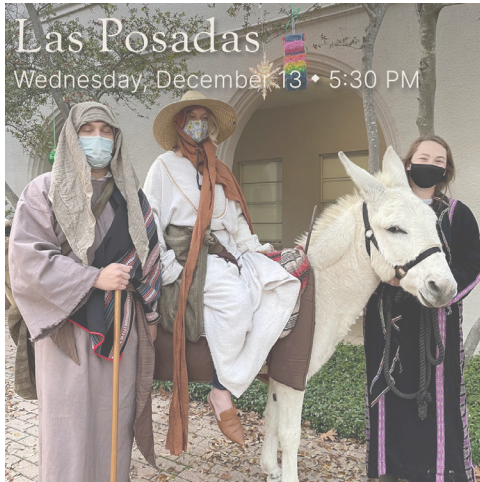
THIS WEEK

Mary Greaves, Ellen Thompson, Rob Young, Thomas, Jack Burgess, Mark Dizdar, Cindie Lehr, Brad Canon, Kelly, Gail Wade, Glenda Goehrs, Daniel Long, Foris Louvier, Paxton Dove, James Rowe, Wanda Raley, Laura McNutt, Beth Mayfield, Amanda Horner, Warner Barnes, Sue Davis, Dorothy Fisher, Jack Pierce, Shirley Williams, Khalida Javaid, Aidan Castro, Lillian Sage, Lily Williams, Tom Haddad, Lorri Khoury, Lisa Moon, Barbara Jensen, Anna Kessler, Suzie Wright, Rollin Khoury, David Janda

ONGOING

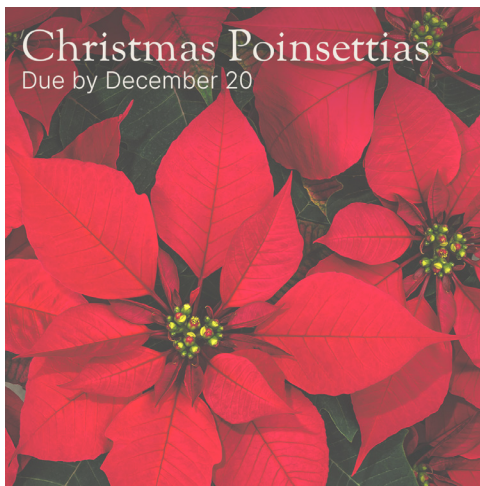
Tom Brothers, Laretta Buchanan, Samantha C., Merilyn Carden, Erin Clark, Clayton Felton, Janette Flanary, Lezlie Hall, Ben Hambleton, Nancy Hightower, Eva Jackson, Hannah Lessenger, Richard Mills III, Shannon O'Brien, Fred Rader, Dennis Ramsey, Carolyn Scheel, Wes Stafford, Adam Sattler III, Jan Sattler, Eric Stromme, Beverly Terrell, Bud Unell, Neela Vera, West Williams, Erin Young

ANNOUNCEMENTS



LAS POSADAS

Las Posadas (Spanish for “the inns” or “the shelters”) is a tradition in Mexico and some Central American countries where people dressed as Mary and Joseph re-enact Joseph’s search for a room at an inn. We will sing carols and read prayers as parishioners dressed as Mary and Joseph go from door to door looking for shelter.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

The Saint Paul’s Youth are raising money for their summer missions projects by selling poinsettias sponsorships. Please consider sponsoring poinsettias by filling out this form online by scanning the QR code or a paper form from the Welcome Desk in the Narthex on Sunday mornings.



HOLY HIKES

Join us for an easy-to-moderate hike with a service of holy eucharist celebrated in stations along the route. Our next Holy Hikes will be Saturday, December 16 at 9 AM. We will meet at the rock shelter by Jacob’s Ladder in Cameron Park (don’t worry, we will not be hiking Jacob’s Ladder). Email brandon@saintpaulswaco.org with questions.

GREENING OF THE NAVE

Join us after the 10 AM service on Sunday, December 17 to hang greenery around the nave in preparation for Christmas!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT CASTING CALL

We are preparing for our children's Christmas Eve Pageant! Email lisa@saintpaulswaco.org if you would like your child to participate!

ALTAR FLOWERS OPEN DATE

We have an open Altar Flowers date on December 29, 2024. Please email brandi@saintpaulswaco.org if you would like to sign up.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

EXCHANGE STUDENT HOST FAMILIES NEEDED



The Cambridge Network is looking for host families for exchange students who will be attending Vanguard. Host families are responsible for providing three meals a day, a private bedroom, and transportation to and from Vanguard High School. Families will be provided with support from staff, training, and a monthly stipend of \$1,200. Email **hostfamily@cambridgenetwork.com** with questions. Scan the QR code to submit the form to become a host family.

SUNDAY FORMATION

ADVENTUS

The season of Advent is not merely a countdown to Christmas Day; it is a countdown to the End of Days - to the Second Coming, or “Adventus,” of Jesus Christ. Join us as we explore the historic development of the season of Advent, the significance of its place in the sacred calendar, and the apocalyptic themes associated with it. This class begins on the first Sunday of Advent, December 3, at 9 AM in the Parish Hall.

YOUTH FORMATION

Saint Paul’s youth in grades 7 through 12 are welcome to join Sara Allison in the Youth Room for a bible study. Contact Sara for more information.

CHILDREN’S FORMATION

Children’s Sunday school will have a special Advent focus on December 3, 10, and 17. Students of all ages will meet in the Children’s Chapel to learn about those special people who prepared the way for our Savior, Jesus Christ. Please join us at 9 AM for a time of creativity and fun.

WEEKLY FORMATION



BENEDICTINE STUDY GROUP

Benedictine Study group meets on first and third Tuesdays at 12 PM in the church office library. Scan the QR code to visit their website.

CENTERING PRAYER

Centering prayer meets on Thursdays at noon in the chapel. All are welcome, and attendance is not limited to Saint Paul's parishioners.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Men's Prayer Breakfast meets weekly on Wednesday mornings in the Parish Hall. Breakfast begins at 6:30 AM and study begins at 7 AM.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible study group is embarking upon a study titled "Archeology and History of the Bible." We meet on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM in the office library. Join us for this exciting study from National Geographic with many beautiful scenes of the Holy Land!



SAINT • PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY

8:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite II

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

10:00 AM Service of Holy Eucharist, Rite I

OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9 AM-4 PM
Closed Federal Holidays
601 Columbus Ave
Waco, TX 76701
254-753-4501

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

517 Columbus Ave
Waco, TX 76701
office@speswaco.org
254-753-0246

SAINT PAUL'S STAFF

The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith
Rector

The Rev. Brandon S. McGinnis
Assistant Rector

The Rev. Preston Yancey
College Missioner

The Rev. Alberto Melis
Deacon

The Rev. John Wells
Retired Priest Associate

Lisa St. Romain
Director of Children & Family Ministry

Sara Allison
Director of Youth Ministry

Brandi Goddard
Parish Administrator

Sarah Martin
Director of Communications & Membership

Iona Easterwood
Accountant

Craig Finley
Facilities Director

Paul Hicks
Sexton

Charles Watson
Assisting Sexton

Willie Sargent
Retired Sexton Emeritus

Will McLean
Choir Director

Dr. Jeffrey Peterson
Organist

Liz Dover
Nursery Attendant

Skyler Skillman
Nursery Attendant

M'Lissa Howen
Head of School