

SAINT ♦ PAUL'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2024

8:00 PM, RITE II

Welcome to

SAINT ♦ PAUL'S

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

On behalf of the Saint Paul's vestry, clergy, and staff, and the Saint Paul's School staff and faculty, we welcome you to our Christmas services. If you have not yet found a church home, we invite you to consider Saint Paul's Episcopal Church where we always strive to live faithfully.

Blessings in this season of Incarnation,

The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith, Rector

The Rev. Preston Yancey, Interim Associate Rector



Participation

If you are visiting us, we invite you to participate in our worship as you are able and as you are comfortable. If you are visiting us from another denomination or church, much will feel familiar and some will feel new, and we invite you to participate in our worship as you are able and as you are comfortable. All are welcome here.

How to receive Communion

Communion will be distributed at the altar rail. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. To access the altar rail, the pulpit side of the congregation will form a line up the steps and on the right, and the lectern side of the congregation will form a line up the steps and on the left. To receive Communion, simply hold out your hands, one over the other, and bread will be placed in them. Gluten free wafers are available upon request. A chalice will then come by with wine. You may either eat the bread and then sip from the chalice, or you may keep the bread and dip it in the chalice. In the Episcopal Church, you may choose not to take the wine and still receive the full blessing of Communion. Should you wish to receive only a blessing, please come forward and fold your arms across your chest as you kneel or stand, and the priest will bless you. Once you have received either Communion or a blessing, please return to your pew through the side doors. If you do not wish a blessing or Communion, please remain in your pew.

Mobility and access

For those who prefer to remain in their pew but would like to receive communion or a blessing, please look for the ministers to come down the aisle and signal to them by holding up your hand, standing, or telling an usher prior to the service. We are happy to bring Communion directly to you if you let us know.

Sit, stand, and kneel

Please be aware that the congregation may be asked to kneel, stand, or sit. Please do so as you are able. Do know that remaining seated is always permissible.

A Christmas Prelude

Music for voices, strings, and organ

Gesù Bambino

Pietro A. Yon
(1886-1943)

Jeffrey Peterson, Organ

O Come, All Ye Faithful

The First Nowell

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Joseph, Dearest Joseph

Coventry Carol

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella

We Three Kings of Orient Are

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Amanda Schubert, violin, Eli Hoover, violin
Gina Gravagne, viola, Lydia Gravagne, cello

Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen

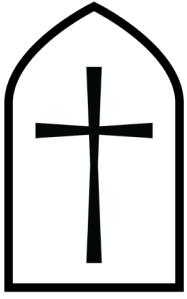
Johannes Brahms
(1833-1897)

Jeffrey Peterson, Organ

Once in Royal David's City

Arthur Henry Mann
(1850-1929)

Saint Paul's Choir



The Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2024 • 8 PM

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 flowers on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jennie D. and Andrew J. Dossett and Alethea Sleeper and Walter Brown Dossett, Sr., by Mr. and Mrs. Markham Dossett.

The flowers on the altar today are also given to the glory of God and in memory of Mary Martha and Walter Brown Dossett, Jr., by Walter S. Dossett and Markham W. Dossett.

The flowers on the cross are given by the Rev. Samantha and Mr. Austin Smith to the glory of God and in gratitude for the staff and parishioners of Saint Paul's Episcopal Church.

THE ENTRANCE RITE

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

The people stand as able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN • O come, all ye faithful • 83

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from _____ God, _____ Light from Light e - ter - nal, _____
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, _____
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, _____
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, _____

1 come ye, O come _____ ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors _____ not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, _____ draw _____ nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace _____ thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son _____ of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, _____ glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

This prayer is an English rendering of a Latin prayer that began the liturgy in the medieval church before the Reformation. It remains a distinctive part of Episcopal worship to this day.

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.

THE GLORIA • *Glory be to God* • 202



1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,



good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,



we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give



thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly



King, God the Fa-ther Al - might - y.



4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;



5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, that



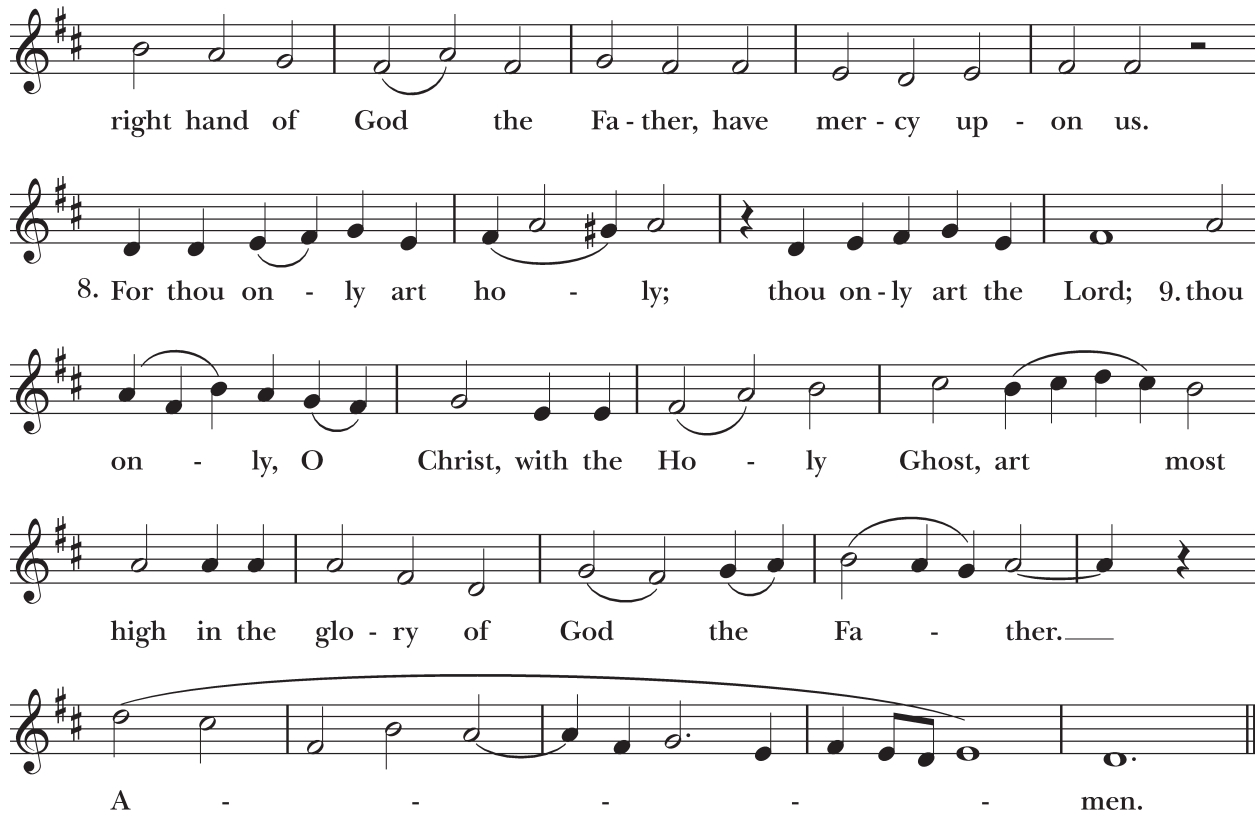
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -



on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the



world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the



right hand of God the Fa-ther, have mer-cy up-on us.

8. For thou on-ly art ho-ly; thou on-ly art the Lord; 9. thou

on-ly, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Ghost, art most

high in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. —

A - - - - - men.

Music: From *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1881-1968). By permission of Oxford University Press.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY

This collect is the prayer appointed for each Sunday that “collects” or captures the theme of the day or season of the Church year. It summarizes the attributes of God as revealed in the scriptures for the day.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The people sit.

THE WORD OF GOD

The propers of the service are the scriptural texts that change with the liturgical calendar. The collect, lessons, psalm, Gospel, and preface to the communion liturgy are propers. Our lessons come from the Revised Common Lectionary, which is a three year cycle of readings shared by many mainline denominations. Each year we retell the Christian story from Advent through Pentecost.

THE FIRST LESSON • Isaiah 62:6-12

Our first lesson is usually from the Old Testament, also known as the Hebrew Scriptures. The exception to this is in the Easter season, when we read lessons from the life of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles.

A Reading from Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night

they shall never be silent.

You who remind the Lord,

take no rest,

and give him no rest

until he establishes Jerusalem

and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The Lord has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain

to be food for your enemies,

and foreigners shall not drink the wine

for which you have labored;

but those who garner it shall eat it

and praise the Lord,

and those who gather it shall drink it

in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,

prepare the way for the people;

build up, build up the highway,

clear it of stones,

lift up an ensign over the peoples.

The Lord has proclaimed

to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,

“See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.”

They shall be called, “The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord”;
and you shall be called, “Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE • Psalm 97

The psalms are sung or spoken prayers that cover every mood of humanity’s relationship with God and one another. The psalm is a response to hearing the Old Testament lesson and often it relates to the themes read in the lesson.

Read responsively by whole verse.

- 1 The Lord is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 **Clouds and darkness are round about him, ***
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 **His lightnings light up the world; ***
the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 **The heavens declare his righteousness, ***
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, ***
because of your judgments, O Lord.
- 9 For you are the Lord,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The Lord loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

THE SECOND LESSON • Titus 3:4-7

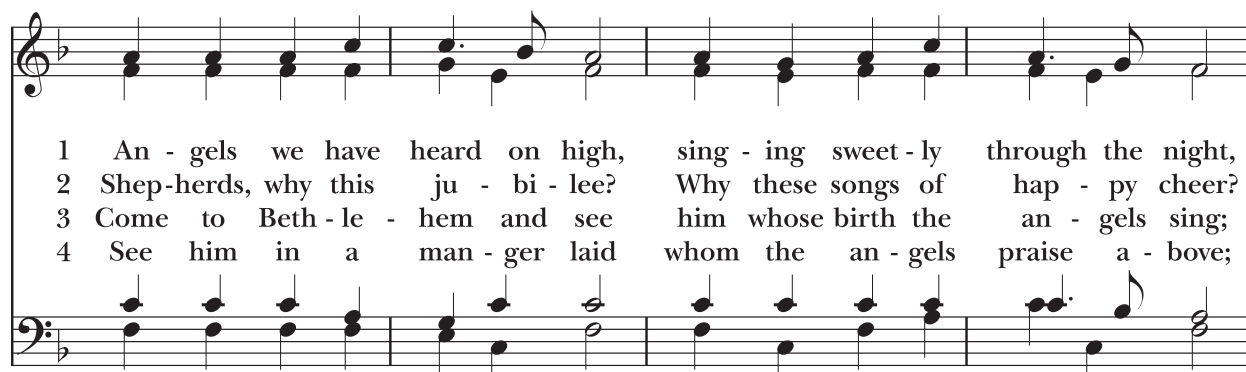
This reading, taken from the New Testament, is typically from a letter (epistle) to the early Church, the Acts of the Apostles, or the Revelation to John.

A Reading from Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN • *Angels we have heard on high* • 96



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

THE GOSPEL • Luke 2:8-20

This reading is taken from one of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John), which depict the life, teachings, death, resurrection, and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the particular importance placed on Jesus' words and actions.

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON • The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith, Rector

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 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.

We pray for ourselves and on behalf of others. In our prayers we pray for the Universal Church, the nation and all who govern, the welfare of the world, the concerns of our community of faith, including those who are in need or suffer, and for the departed. We are reminded in prayer that we are part of a larger fellowship, the Church — the Body of Christ. A brief silence is kept between each bidding.

The people kneel or sit.

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.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy 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.

THE CONCLUDING COLLECT

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP 360

Confessing our sins, receiving absolution, and sharing signs of peace with one another prepares us to receive Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

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

A brief silence is kept.

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 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.**

The people stand as able.

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 to the right.

If you give online, mail checks, or use other methods to give but still want to participate when the plate is passed, you are welcome to pick up a giving coin at the Welcome Center and place it in the offering plate as it is passed.

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. Yours, O Lord, is the kingdom, and you are exalted as head over all.

The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Come Thou Long Expected Jesus
Carles Wesley arr. Gina Gravagne

Amanda Schubert, violin, Eli Hoover, violin
Gina Gravagne, viola, Lydia Gravagne, cello

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Once As I Remember
Charles Wood

Saint Paul's Choir

The people stand as able.

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.

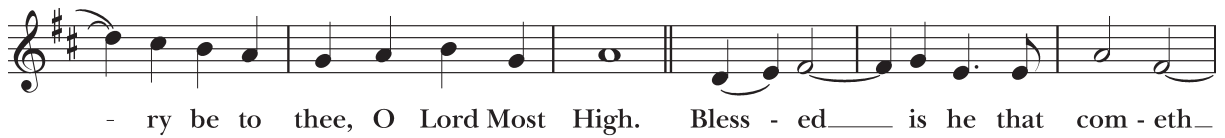
Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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.





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 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.**

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. For more information, see page 3.

COMMUNION MUSIC

A child of hope
Murphy

COMMUNION HYMN • *In the Bleak Midwinter* • 112

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

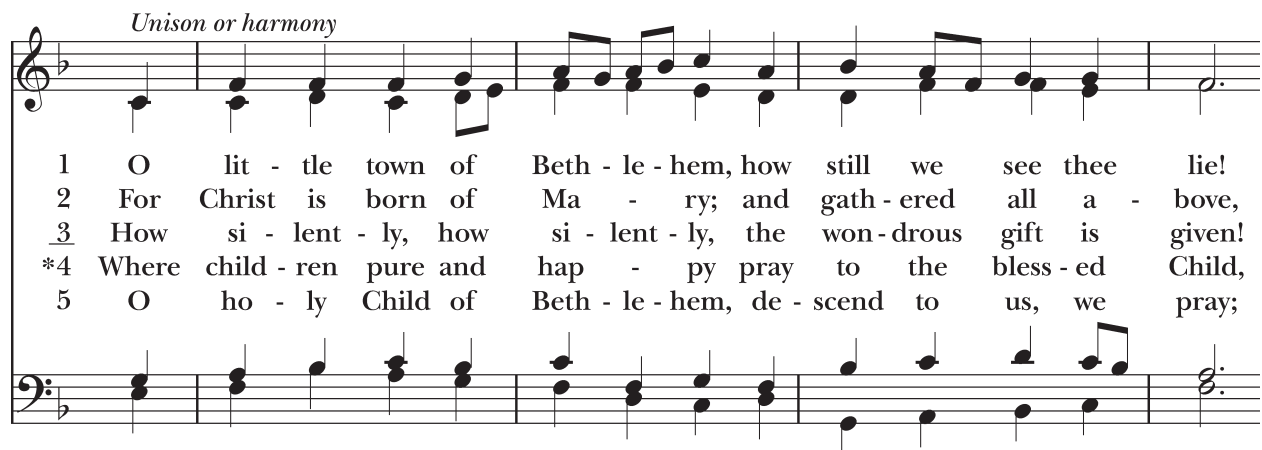
snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

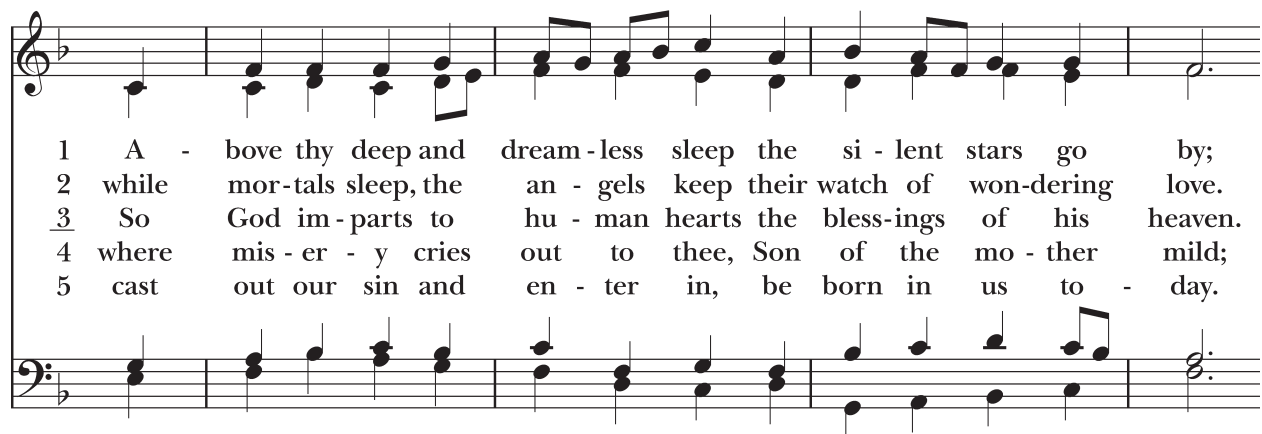
Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894). Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934).

COMMUNION HYMN • *O little town of Bethlehem* • 78

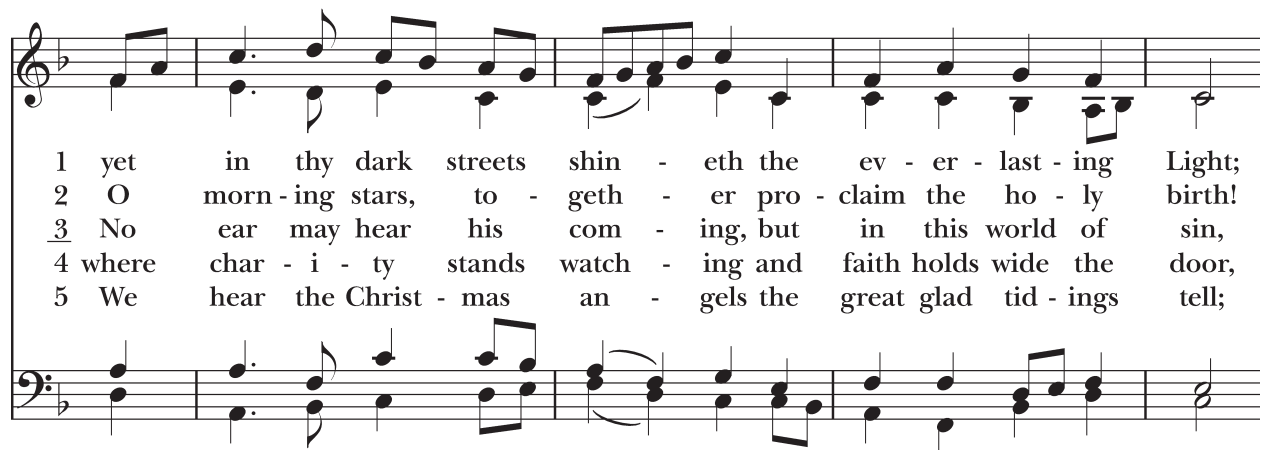
Unison or harmony



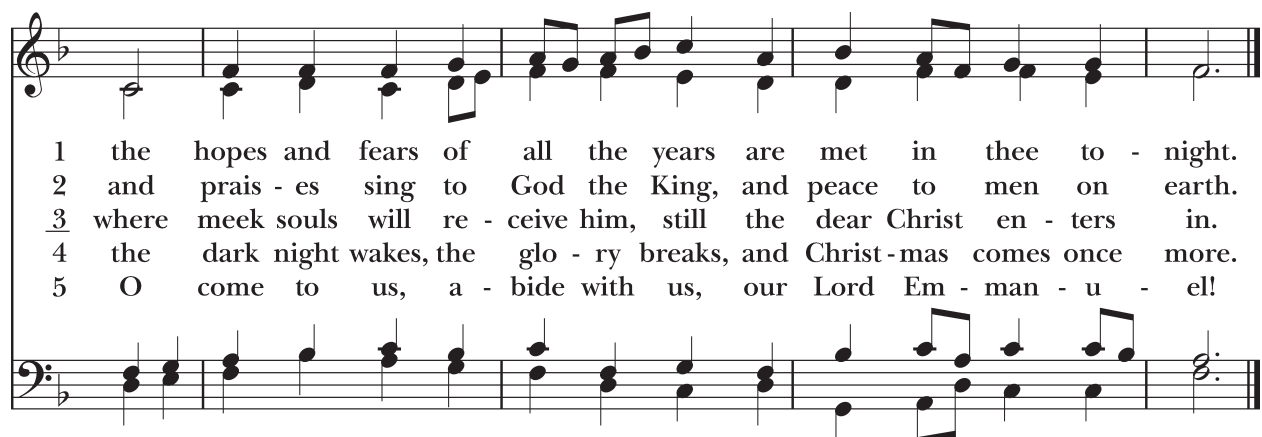
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

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 people kneel or sit for Silent Night.

HYMN • *Silent night* • 1 1 1

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace.
born!
birth.

Sleep
Christ,
Je - sus,

in
the
Sa - vior,
Lord,

hea - ven - ly,
at thy

peace.
born!
birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

THE BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; 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 • *Hark! the herald angels sing* • 87

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right-cous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

The image shows a musical score for a refrain. It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The music is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and homophonic, with chords moving from G4 to A4, B4, C5, and then back down. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

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 go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Puer Nobis Nascitur*

Gerald Near
 (b. 1942)

On the front cover: The Nativity by Geoffroy Dumoustier (French, active c. 1535-1573)

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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Celebrant	The Rev. Preston Yancey, Interim Associate Rector
Preacher	The Rev. Samantha R.E. Smith, Rector
Choir Director	Will McLean
Organist	Jeffrey Peterson
Musicians	Amanda Schubert, violin, Eli Hoover, violin Gina Gravagne, viola, Lydia Gravagne, cello
Ushers	Don Ickles and Kristi Carlile
Vestry Hosts	Len Brown and Jan Hicks
Altar Guild	Team III: Alison Fung, Bonnie Carpenter, Susan Harriman, Jane Hart, Dawn Khoury, Ruth Miller, Suzy Nettles, Cindy SoRelle, Laura Swann, Ellen Taylor, Carl Ballew

THE PRAYER LIST • December 22-28

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

Joe Flowers, Lee Ann Rader, Renee Yawn, Ava Clevenger, Megan Ferguson, Sarah Marcum, Charlotte McNamara, Lance Grigsby, Donald McLaughlin

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

Karina and John Deaver, Carolyn and Chet Scheel, Jill and Douglas Michaels, Frankye and Tom Oliver, RoseMary and Harold Rafuse

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

Marilyn Carden; Kristi Carlile; Ed and Bonnie Carpenter; Katherine and William Carpenter; Henry Carter; Paige Cashion; Jeff and Vanessa Castleberry; Ellie Caston; George and Cara Chase; Tom and Penny Chase

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

Betty Young, Chuck Reeves, Julia Burgess, Sharon Morrow, Lisa Moon, Doris Strain, Peter Dailey, John Wesley Bottoms, Jessica Attas, Kelly Whitehead, Rock McNair, Roger Yount, Benita Louvier, Carolyn Berry, Jack Compton, Mary Greaves, Rob Young, Brad Canon, Kelly, Gail Wade, Glenda Goehrs, Foris Louvier, Paxton Dove, James Rowe, Laura McNutt, Beth Mayfield, Amanda Horner, Warner Barnes, Sue Davis, Dorothy Fisher, Khalida Javaid, Lily Williams, Lorri Khoury, Barbara Jensen, Anna Kessler, Suzie Wright, Rollin Khoury, David Janda

ONGOING

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



2024 CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

IN MEMORIAM

Given by Piers and Alethea Bateman in memory of Jane and J Leigh Brooks; Sir Ralph and Lady Bateman.

Given by Robert and Aryn Burgess in memory of John Rapp and Susan Burgess.

Given by Earle Wm. and Sharon Calvert in memory of Earl Wm. Calvert, June Calvert, Jennifer Clavert, and Richard Kelm.

Given by Kristi Carlile and Family in memory of B.J. Carlile.

Given by Jack and Pam Compton in memory of Lucas Haralson Compton; Ethan Dell Compton.

Given by Roland and Rose Goertz in memory of John and Emma Goertz; Sebern and Alice Barker; Larry Goertz; Robert Patterson; Dolores Hart; Erin Davis; Anna Wilson; Margaret Brown.

Given by Felicia Goodman in memory of Helen Murchison Landa, Ellender and George Chase.

Given by Steve and Judy Green in memory of Tony Lombardo; Providence Lombardo.

Given by Karen and Bruce Johnson in memory of Clarence Johnson; Van Gladen; Ruth Gladen; Elayna.

Given by Justin, Nicole, Gordon, Lillian, & Olivia Sage in memory of J.P. Motley, Jr. & Aidan Castro.

Given by Ellen and Ford Taylor in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William W. Taylor, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. John W. North.

Given by Carolyn Turner in memory of Fred and Frances Hulme.

Given by Betty Young in memory of Robert and Lisa Young.

IN THANKSGIVING

Given by Trevor and Sara Allison in thanksgiving for the teachers of Saint Paul's Episcopal School.

Given by Piers and Alethea Bateman in thanksgiving for Sarah Brooks Levine; Andrew James Litton Bateman.

Given by Robert and Aryn Burgess in thanksgiving for Bill and Hackett Burgess and all the teachers and staff of Saint Paul's Episcopal School.

Given by Curtis and Jana Cleveland in thanksgiving for Mary Michael Cleveland, Piper Snokhous, Tucker Cleveland, Wallace Cleveland.

Given by Jack and Pam Compton in thanksgiving for Amy, Lance, Compton, and Alden Grigsby; Benjamin, Taryn, Caleb Rand, and Aaron Benjamin Compton.

Given by Tom and Betty Flowers in thanksgiving for Elizabeth and Charlie Rigney; Will Rigney and Reagan Rigney; Catherine and Kyle Parks; Hannah Parks and Andrew Parks.

Given by Felicia Goodman in thanksgiving for Helen and Daisy Goodman.

Given by Alex and Michele Green in thanksgiving for family and friends.

Given by Bruce and Karen Johnson in thanksgiving for Emily, Ryan, and Sorin; Nell Johnson.

Given by Charlie and Liz Rigney in thanksgiving for our children and our parents.

Given by Stuart and Elizabeth Smith in thanksgiving for Janet and Ray Bagby; Alethea and Piers Bateman; Alison and Eugene Fung; Michele and Alex Green; Amy and Lance Grigsby; M'Lissa and Steve Howen; Willie Sergent.

Given by Toni Riley in thanksgiving for my children, John and Mary.

Given by Julie and Bart Romig in thanksgiving for Madison, Taylor, Reese, Jenna, and Scott.

Given by Ellen and Ford Taylor in thanksgiving for Pearl and Lily Taylor.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 through Wednesday, January 1. The office will reopen for regular hours on Thursday, January 2. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Sam or Preston directly through email.

COMFORT MEALS

Know someone who could use a meal delivered to them while they recover from surgery, handle a major life event, or just need encouragement? Our Comfort Meals ministry is ready to help! Stop by the Parish Hall and head to the freezer to pick up a meal or two for those in need. Scan the QR code on the freezer to fill out a brief form online, and then take a meal to someone who needs it, or two for you to share. Special requests are welcome and we can always use more volunteers to cook! To learn more, contact **Lisa@saintpaulswaco.org**.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

The next Ladies Night Out will be Tuesday, January 7. We will meet at Casa se Castillo at 5:30 PM.

EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Join us after the 10 AM service on Sunday, January 5 to celebrate the Epiphany! We'll have a pinata, king cake, and fun activities. Bring a branch from your Christmas tree to participate in the burning of the greens in the church courtyard and be sure to pick up a bag of chalk with a short liturgy included so you can bless your home following an ancient practice of the Church.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place after the 10 AM service on January 19. We will elect new members to the vestry and hear reports from several members of the parish.

END OF YEAR GIVING



As 2024 comes to an end and we enter into this season of giving, we want to thank all of you who have donated to Saint Paul's and helped further our mission to Live Faithfully. We hope you will consider Saint Paul's as you plan your end-of-year giving. Your gifts will help us fund the last of our 2024 budget and continue doing the work of God in and around our community. To learn more about giving, scan the QR code.

SPIRITUS GLADIUS



The Winter Edition of Saint Paul's magazine, Spiritus Gladius, is here! Spiritus Gladius is an online publication with a limited print run. Scan the QR to read about Advent, Christmas, and all the exciting events happening at Saint Paul's this winter! If you would like a print copy of the magazine, you can pick one up in the narthex or email sarahm@saintpaulswaco.org.

FORMATION

Sunday School classes for all ages will return January 26 at 9 AM.



BENEDICTINE STUDY GROUP

Benedictine Study Group is taking a break for the month of December and will resume meeting on January 7. This group meets on first and third Tuesdays at 12 PM in the church office library. Scan the QR code to visit their website. All are welcome to join.

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

Men's Prayer Breakfast will not meet on December 25 or January 1 and will resume meeting January 8. 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

Women's Bible Study will not meet on December 25 or January 1 and will resume meeting January 8. The Women's Bible study group meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 AM in the office library. Our group is currently studying "Searching for the Historical Jesus with Jean-Pierre Isbouts" by Wondrium. Please join us.



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. Preston Yancey
Interim Associate Rector

The Rev. Alberto Melis
Deacon

The Rev. Dr. D. Ray Bagby
Retired Priest Associate

Lisa Terry-Ickles
Director of Children & Family Ministry

Sara Allison
Director of Youth Ministry

Brandi Goddard
Parish Administrator

Sarah Martin
Director of Communications & Membership

Iona Easterwood
Accountant

Paul Hicks
Sexton

Charles Watson
Assisting Sexton

Willie Sergent
Retired Sexton Emeritus

Dr. Will McLean
Choir Director

Dr. Jeffrey Peterson
Organist

Liz Dover
Nursery Attendant

M'Lissa Howen
Head of School