

3 He shall come down like show ers up on the fruit - ful earth, down be - fore 4 Kings shall bow him, and gold and in - cense bring; 5O'er vic - to ev - ery foe rious, he on his throne shall rest; -1 IIail, in the time ap - point ed, his reign on earth be - gun! 2 help the poor and bid the weak be to and need y, strong; 3 and love, joy, hope, like spring in path to birth: flow ers, his his 4 all na - tions shall а dore him. praise all peo - ple sing; $\mathbf{5}$ from glo rious, all bless - ing and all blest: age to age more _ 0 ĦĊ He the cap-tive 1 comes to break op pres - sion, to set free: 2 sigh - ing, their to give them songs for dark-ness turn to light, moun - tains shall 3 fore him on the peace, the her-ald, go; be 4 to him shall prayer un ccas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend; 5 of the tide time shall nev his cov - e - nant re - move; er 6 1 to take a - way trans-gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui ty. 2 his sight. whose souls, con-demned and dy ing, were pre - cious \mathbf{in} 3 and right - eous - ness in foun tains from hill to val - lev flow. 4 king - dom his still in - creas king - dom with - out end. ing, а - $\mathbf{5}$ Name shall stand his for his change-less Name of Love. ev er,

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP p. 355

Let us pray in unison

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.

TRISAGION: (S 102) Kyrie Eleison

The following is sung, all standing



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 357

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People:** And also with you. Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING:

The people sit.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow

PSALM:

Psalm 25:1-9

Remain seated.

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; *
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
²Let none who look to you be put to shame; *
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
³Show me your ways, O LORD, *
and teach me your paths.
⁴Lead me in your truth and teach me, *
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
⁵Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, *
for they are from everlasting.

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; * remember me according to your love

and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

⁷Gracious and upright is the LORD; *

therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸He guides the humble in doing right *

and teaches his way to the lowly.

⁹All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness *

to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

Jeremiah 33:14-16

SECOND READING:

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Remain seated.

^oHow can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

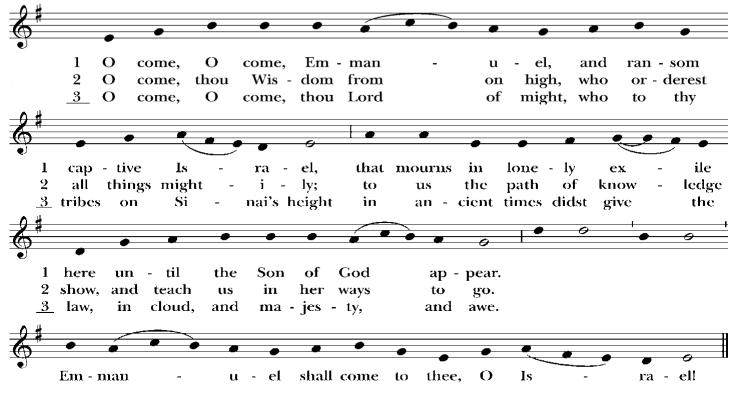
Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow.

GOSPEL HYMN: (H 56) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The following is sung, all standing



GOSPEL:

All stand

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. **People:** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON:

Judy Furlong



THE CREED

All stand.

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 PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All remain standing.

CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP p. 360

The Deacon or Celebrant says Let us confess our sins against God. *Silence may be kept.*

Celebrant and People

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. **Amen.**

The Celebrant stands and says

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 PEACE

All stand.Celebrant:The peace of Christ be always with you.People:And also with you.Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND TRANSITIONS

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin anew. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP p. 376



OFFERTORY HYMN: (H 57) Lo! He Comes, With Clouds Descending



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

SURSUM CORDA:

The People remain standing.

Celebrant:	The Lord be with you.
People:	And also with you.
Celebrant:	Lift up your hearts.
People:	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant:	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People:	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

BCP p. 370

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace. By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS: (S 124) Holy, Holy, Holy Celebrant and People Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

BCP p. 370

The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord...

...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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

BCP p. 370

The Celebrant continues

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

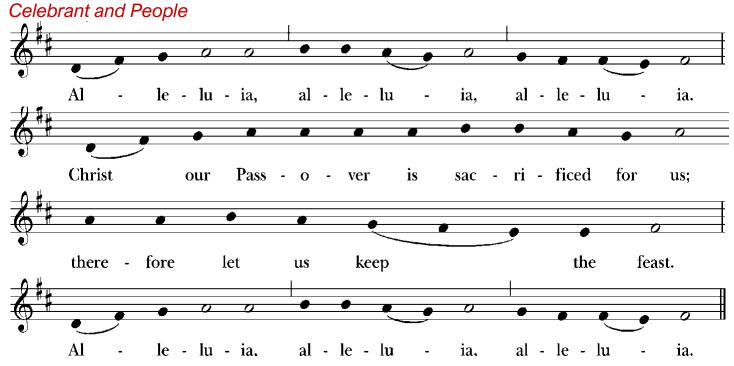
BCP p. 363

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

People and Celebrant

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, forever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD



FRACTION ANTHEM: (S 154) Christ Our Passover

11

INVITATION

The Celebrant says The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION

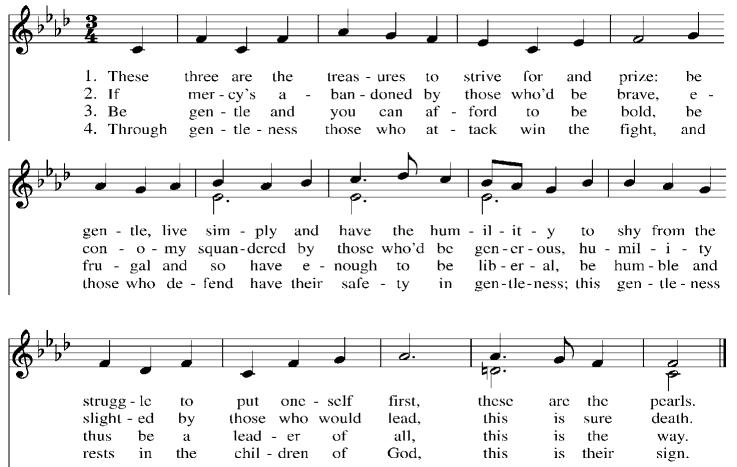
The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN: (WLP 803) These Three Are the Treasures

The following is sung



COMMUNION HYMN: Wait for the Lord – Jaques Berthier, Taizé Community

The following is sung

Refrain: Wait for the Lord Who's day is near Wait for the Lord Be strong, take heart

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.

BLESSING

The Celebrant blesses the people, saying

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**



BCP p. 366

RECESSIONAL HYMN: (H 344) Lord, Dismiss Us With Thy Blessing

The following is sung, all standing



DISMISSAL The Deacon or Celebrant will dismiss the people

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Christmas Events

EST 1855 ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH Worship, Love, Live the Message

DEC 20	BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
7 PM	A quiet and reflective Christmas service for those seeking peace and comfort on the
	longest night.
DEC 22	ADVENT IV: EUCHARIST & "COME AS YOU ARE" Christmas pageant
8:45 &11 АМ	The final Sunday of the preparatory season of Advent; Children's Christmas pageant at 11:00am Service.
DEC 24	CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST
4 PM	A festive and child-friendly celebration of Christ's birth.
DEC 24	CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST
10 PM	A traditional candlelit mass with carols and hymns.
DEC 25	FEAST OF CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST
10 AM	A celebration of the joy of Christmas in the morning light.
DEC 25	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST
10 AM	We continue the Christmas Season with a combined service.
JAN 5	SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST
8:45 & 11 _{AM}	We return to two services.
JAN 12	FEAST OF EPIPHANY (TRANSFERRED)
8:45 & 11 _{AM}	We celebrate the arrival of the Magi.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sierra Service Project: Chili Dinner Fundraiser



Brrrr!! Winter is rolling in and that means that the Benicia Holiday Open House & Tree Lighting is just around the corner! And with that, our annual St. Paul's Sierra Service Project chili dinner fundraiser! The youth will be serving chili, cornbread and salad at the dinner on **Friday, December 6th from 5:30pm to 7:30pm.**

Tickets will be sold after Sunday services in the Parish Hall beginning this Sunday. Adults are \$20, youth are \$15 and kids 5 and under are free!! Come join us, support our youth mission program and then head out to First Street for the festivities!!

Thank You For Your Pledges!



We are grateful to everyone for your generous annual pledges, which play a vital role in supporting the mission and ministries of St. Paul's.

There's still time to turn in your 2025 pledge! Blank cards are available in the back of the church.

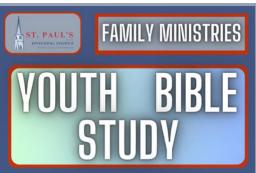


Let's Welcome Back the Healing Prayer Ministry!

Healing prayer is offered at each service during communion to individuals who wish to have personalized, one-on-one prayer with a healing prayer minister. A healing prayer minister listens carefully and empathetically and prays with individuals about their specific concerns. Healing prayer ministers serve once a month at their preferred service. If you would like to be a part of this rewarding ministry, please contact me by email at deacon@stpaulsbenicia.org. I

will be happy to meet with you individually to discuss how to pray with others and to practice this important skill.

Youth Bible Study (11 – 18 yrs.)



Sundays 10:00am

We are SO EXCITED to announce the launch of "Youth Bible Study" on Sunday November 3rd! If you have a child or know a child between the ages of 11-18 years old, who you think would be interested in eating donuts and discussing the Bible, please bring them to the undercroft on Sunday at 10:00am! There is NO registration required. Your preteen or teen can drop in

any Sunday and talk about the Word with one of our rotating clergy members who will be leading Bible study! Bibles and donuts provided!



Coffee Hosts Needed

We still need volunteers to sign up to be Coffee Hour hosts in November & December. Please remember that beginning There is a sign-up sheet to the left of the coffee pots under the Cross Wall in the Parish Hall. If you have any questions about what's required, there is an awesome reference guide in the binder next to the signup sheet or feel free to reach out to our Coffee Hour coordinators

Barry & Sally Cunningham at <u>bcunningsb@gmail.com</u>. Sign up with a friend and kick off your Sunday with caffeine and fellowship.

Longest Night (or "Blue Christmas")



Friday, December 20 7:00 PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 120 West J. Street Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other dis-ease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities. All are welcome at this quiet gathering of prayer, music, and

contemplation that makes room for all our sorrows in the midst of this busy season.

Prayer Shawls Needed:



ATTENTION St. Paul's Knitters and Crocheters.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is in need of shawls. The knitters and crocheters of St. Paul's have always been responsive and have created dozens of shawls, but our supply is low, and the need is always there. If you are interested in joining us, please let me know. This Ministry requires no meeting or deadlines for finishing what you choose to knit or crochet. For patterns, instructions and more

information please feel free to contact me at jeanneabrown@gmail.com. There will be a short meeting in the St. Paul's Rectory on Nov. 24 between the services. Please come and get more information and ideas for this rewarding Ministry.



One tap mobile +16699009128,,89062643237#,,,,*355908# US (San Jose) Dial by your location +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) Meeting ID: 890 6264 3237 Passcode: 355908

> The deadline for submitting announcements is Wednesday at noon. Please e-mail information to: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org Office phone: (707) 745-0307

> > NOTICE OF FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY

When you enter a St. Paul's Episcopal Church service or event, you enter an area where photography, audio, live streaming, and video recording may occur.

PRAYERS

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

Jim Wolf Carmen Montoya Doyle Morris James Carr Tyler, (Gerri's Grandson) Ambra, (Gerri's Daughter) Julia Padfield Mark Park Judith Mooney

WE GIVE THANKS FOR BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

12/4 Dennis Gaines

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THOSE SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES

Major Russ Morris, U.S. Air Force Reserves SFC Mike Moverley, 1st Battalion 143rd Field Artillery, U.S. Army Warrant Officer Brandon Niemann, U.S. Army Airman Andrew Severa, U.S. Air Force SA Michelle Severa, PA, Air National Guard Staff SGT Jake Sackett, U.S. Air Force Major Xacasia Evans-Walp, U.S. Army

E-mail: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org for updates or additions



Calendar



SUNDAY 12/1: First Sunday of Advent

6:30 am AA Meeting (U) 8:45 am +Communion 10 am Coffee Hour (P) 10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) (U) 10 am Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U) 11 am +Communion 12 pm Coffee Hour (P) 8 pm AA (P)						
MONDAY- 12/2	TUESDAY- 12/3	WEDNESDAY- 12/4				
9 am +Morning Prayer 4:30 pm Community Meal (P) 7 pm +GVRD Jazz Band 8 pm AA Meeting (P)	7 am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 5:30 pm Kiwanis Meeting (P) 7 pm +GGSOC Practice	7am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 10 am +Communion 11 am Bible Study (P) 4:30 pm Community Meal (P) 7 pm + GVRD Symph Band				
THURSDAY- 12/5	FRIDAY- 12/6	SATURDAY- 12/7				
7am AA Meeting (P) 7:30 am Coffee w/ Rev. Annie 9 am +Morning Prayer 10 am Sustainable Solano (K) 7 pm +GGSOC Special Rehearsal	7 am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 5:30 pm SSP Chili Dinner Fundraiser (P) 7 pm NA Meeting (U)	7 am AA Meeting (U) 7 am Men's Meeting (R)				

SUNDAY 12/8: Second Sunday of Advent

KEY

+ = Church P = Parish Hal

- U = Undercroft
- R = Rectory
- K = Kitchen

6:30 am AA Meeting (U) 8:45 am +Communion 10 am Coffee Hour (P) 10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) (U) & 10 am Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U) 11 am +Communion 12 pm Coffee Hour (P) 3 pm Meditation Christmas Gathering (P) 8 pm AA (P)

SERVING THIS WEEK - December 1, 2024				
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM		
Celebrant	Rev. Annie Mertz			
Preacher	Judy Furlong			
Deacon	Rev. Beth Gaines	Rev. Beth Gaines		
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch	Cameron De Palma		
Lector	Ann Lindsay	Kim Rodekohr		
Intercessor	Mary Frances Kelly-Poh	Steve Rodekohr		
LEM	Mary Frances Kelly-Poh	Steve Rodekohr		
Ushers	Fred & Mittie Railsback	Cathy Cellini & Carole Johnson		
Altar Guild	Eileen Fisk & Donna Patey			
Flower Guild	No Dedications for this Week			
Office Angels	N/A			
Verger	Chris Preovolos			

Parish Leadership				
Clergy	Staff	Vestry		
The Rev. Annie Mertz, Rector The Rev. Beth Gaines, Deacon The Rev. Canon Mary Goshert, Associate Priest The Rev. Pamela Higgins, Associate Priest The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder, Associate Priest	Dr. Matthew Welch, Traditional Music Director Eric Foster, Communications Director Lisa Lannoy, Parish Administrator Tim Markley, Archivist	Jeff Jarvis, Senior Warden Chris Preovolos, Junior Warden Donna Marshall, Ed Curtis, Laura Peabody-Park, Jill Morris, Lisa Pena, Ann Lindsay, Gerri MacGregor		



MISSION

St. Paul's welcomes all people at any stage of their spiritual journey to worship together, care for the community, and live the message of Jesus Christ.

VISION

We strive to be an active, diverse, and welcoming community where people come together to worship and deepen their faith.

VALUES					
Community	Inclusion	The Message of Jesus Christ	Spiritual Growth		
We support our neighbors through service and compassion. We are a safe space and a supportive community where members are cared for by one another.	We are an inclusive community where people of all identities, backgrounds, and histories are welcome to find and continue their spiritual journey.	We believe in striving to live the message of Jesus Christ every day. At St. Paul's, we walk the way of love together.	At any point in a person's spiritual journey, there are opportunities to learn, grow, and strengthen one's faith at St.Paul's.		