



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

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## Benicia, CA

**8:45 AM Worship for Sunday, December 15, 2024**

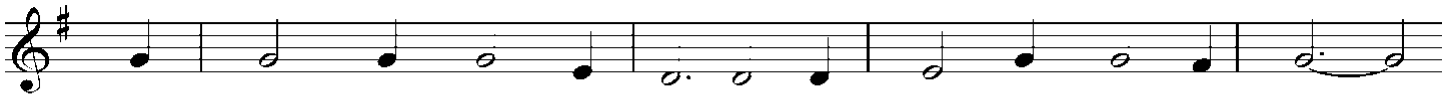
Eucharistic Prayer C

The Holy Eucharist Rite II

Third Sunday of Advent

**ENTRANCE HYMN: (H 65) Prepare the Way, O Zion**

*All stand.*



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.

*Refrain*



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

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

**BCP p. 355**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God: most holy glorious, and undivided Trinity.

**People:** And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen

## 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*

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,  
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP p. 357

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS

### FIRST READING:

**Zephaniah 3:14-20**

*The people sit.*

<sup>14</sup>Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! <sup>15</sup>The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. <sup>16</sup>On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. <sup>17</sup>The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing <sup>18</sup>as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. <sup>19</sup>I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. <sup>20</sup>At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence may follow*

**PSALM:**

**Canticle 9: The First Song of Isaiah**

*Remain seated.*

Surely, it is God who saves me; \*

**I will trust in him and not be afraid.**

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, \*

**and he will be my Savior.**

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing \*

**from the springs of salvation.**

And on that day you shall say, \*

**Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;**

Make his deeds known among the peoples; \*

**see that they remember that his Name is exalted.**

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, \*

**and this is known in all the world.**

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, \*

**for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.**

**SECOND READING:**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

*Remain seated.*

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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*



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us  
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of  
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.  
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

## GOSPEL:

**Luke 3:7-18**

*All stand*

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>9</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." <sup>10</sup>And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" <sup>11</sup>In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." <sup>12</sup>Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." <sup>14</sup>Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." <sup>15</sup>As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup>John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

## POST-GOSPEL HYMN: (H 56) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

*The following is sung, all standing*

(Dec. 23) I O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som  
I cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile  
I here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - ell

THE SERMON:

The Rev. Annie Mertz

THE CREED

BCP p. 358

*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

BCP p. 360

*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

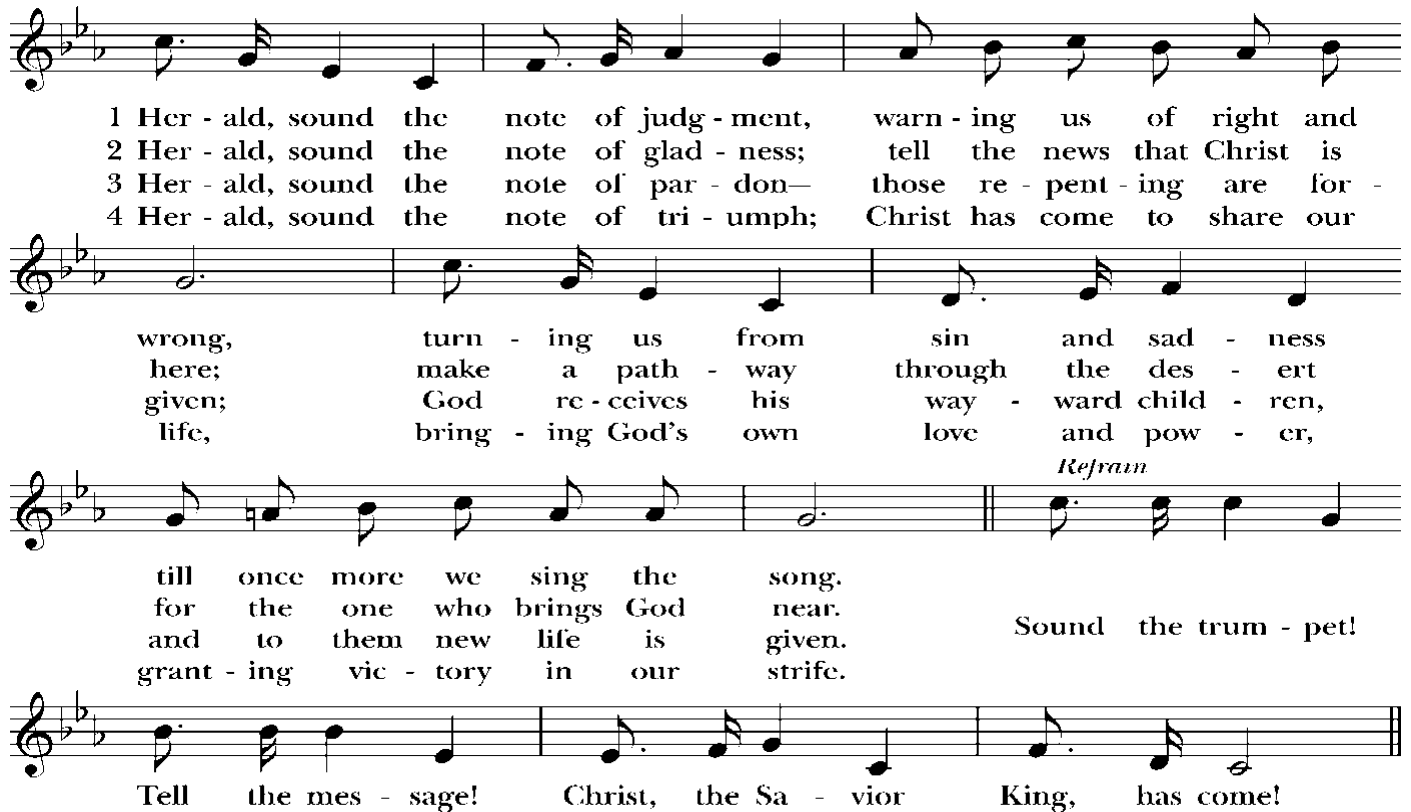
### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP p. 376



## OFFERTORY HYMN: (H 70) Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment

*The following is sung*



1 Her - ald, sound the note of judg - ment, warn - ing us of right and  
2 Her - ald, sound the note of glad - ness; tell the news that Christ is  
3 Her - ald, sound the note of par - don— those re - pent - ing are for -  
4 Her - ald, sound the note of tri - umph; Christ has come to share our  
wrong, turn - ing us from sin and sad - ness  
here; make a path - way through the des - ert  
given; God re - ceives his way - ward child - ren,  
life, bring - ing God's own love and pow - er,  
*Refrain*  
till once more we sing the song.  
for the one who brings God near. Sound the trum - pet!  
and to them new life is given.  
grant - ing vic - tory in our strife.  
Tell the mes - sage! Christ, the Sa - vior King, has come!

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER C

### SURSUM CORDA:

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*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 130) Holy, Holy, Holy**

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. 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. 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

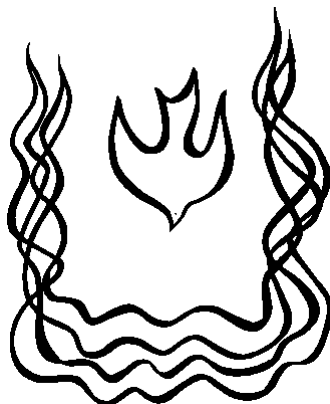
BCP p. 363

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

*Celebrant and People*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the 'Alleluia' chorus. The second staff contains the beginning of the verse. The third staff contains the middle of the verse. The fourth staff contains the final line of the 'Alleluia' chorus. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines.

## 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*



1. These three are the treasures to strive for and prize: be  
2. If mer-cy's a-ban-doned by those who'd be brave, e-  
3. Be gen-tle and you can af-ford to be bold, be  
4. Through gen-tle-ness those who at-tack win the fight, and



gen-tle, live sim-ply and have the hum-il-it-y to shy from the  
con-o-my squan-dered by those who'd be gen-cr-ous, hu-mil-i-ty  
fru-gal and so have e-nough to be lib-er-al, be hum-ble and  
those who de-fend have their safe-ty in gen-tle-ness; this gen-tle-ness

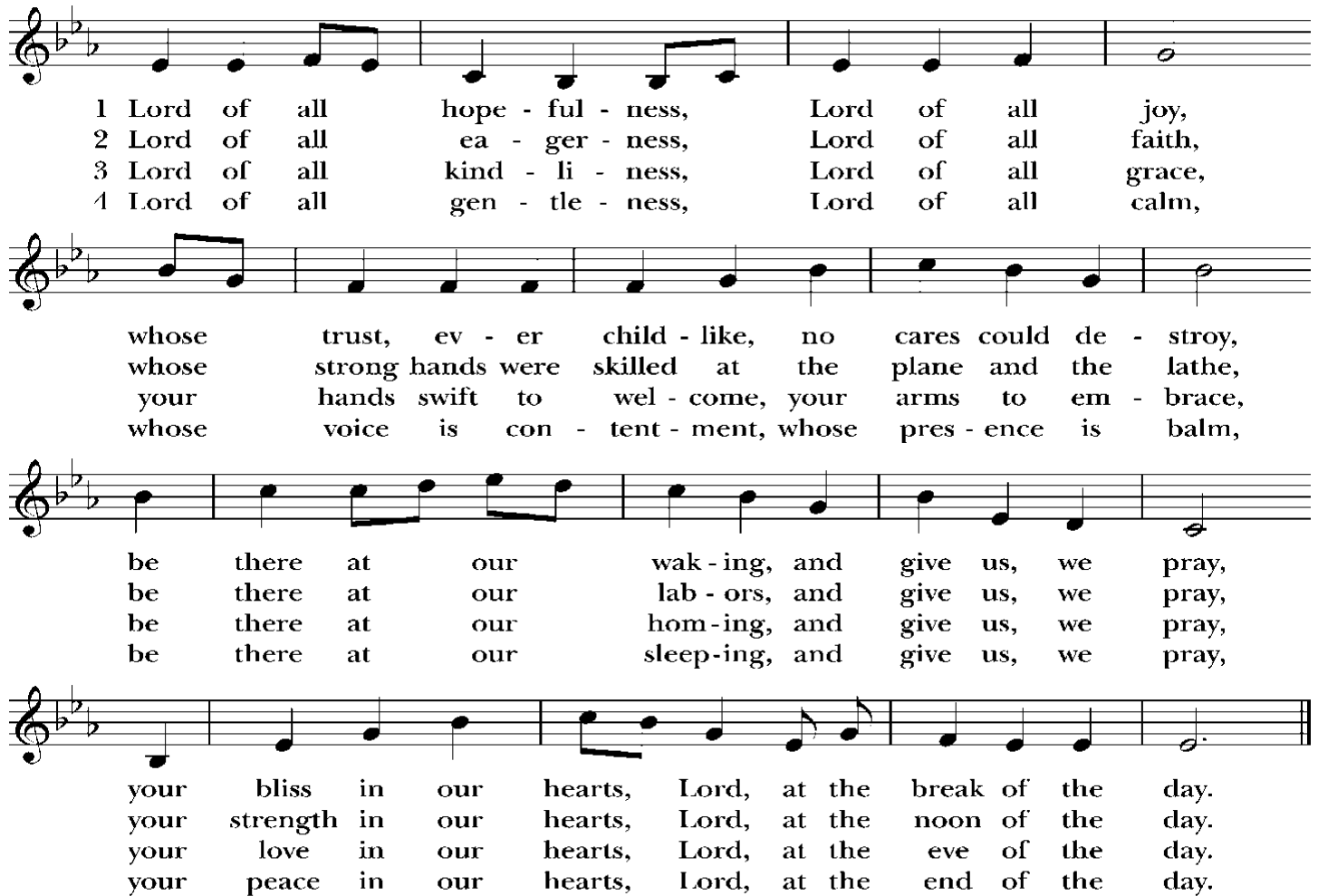


strugg-le to put one-self first, these are the pearls.  
slight-ed by those who would lead, this is surc death.  
thus be a lead-er of all, this is the way.  
rests in the chil-dren of God, this is their sign.



## COMMUNION HYMN: (H 482) Lord of All Hopefulness, Lord of All Joy

*The following is sung*



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our lab - ors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

## 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

**BCP p. 366**

*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.**

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

*The following is sung, all standing*



The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (D major). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system has three lines of lyrics. The second system has two lines. The third system has two lines. The fourth system has two lines. The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with thy bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and a - dor - a - tion for thy Gos - pel's  
3 so that when thy love shall call us, Sa - vior, from the  
joy and peace; let us each, thy love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound: may the fruits of thy sal - va - tion  
world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,  
tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace: O re - fresh us,  
in our hearts and lives a - bound: ev - er faith - ful,  
glad thy sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,  
O re - fresh us trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful to thy truth may we be found;  
may we ev - er reign with thee in end - less day.

## 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

**DEC 20**

**7 PM**

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A quiet and reflective Christmas service for those seeking peace and comfort on the longest night.

**DEC 22**

**8:45 & 11 AM**

## ADVENT IV: EUCHARIST & "COME AS YOU ARE" CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The final Sunday of the preparatory season of Advent; Children's Christmas pageant at 11:00am Service.

**DEC 24**

**4 PM**

## CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST

A festive and child-friendly celebration of Christ's birth.

**DEC 24**

**10 PM**

## CHRISTMAS EVE EUCHARIST

A traditional candlelit mass with carols and hymns.

**DEC 25**

**10 AM**

## FEAST OF CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

A celebration of the joy of Christmas in the morning light.

**DEC 29**

**10 AM**

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

We continue the Christmas Season with a combined service.

**JAN 5**

**8:45 & 11 AM**

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST

We return to two services.

**JAN 12**

**8:45 & 11 AM**

## FEAST OF EPIPHANY (TRANSFERRED)

We celebrate the arrival of the Magi.

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Pledge Update

as of 12/11/2024

	2025	2024
# Pledges	52	70
Amount Pledged	\$274,1700	\$303,374



## 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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## Community Meal Volunteer Online Signups

If you would like to volunteer at the Community Meal on Mondays or Wednesdays, check our weekly Friday e-mail for a sign-up sheet - or contact the Parish Office at [admin@stpaulsbenicia.org](mailto:admin@stpaulsbenicia.org). Need to sign up for e-mails? Please contact the Parish Office. Please note that we need only one volunteer each day.  
Thank You!



Vallejo Choral Society  
**LOVE CAME DOWN AT CHRISTMAS**



**Conducted by: JULIA MORRIS, Artistic Director**  
 Featuring the VCS Symphonic and Chamber Choirs and Chamber Orchestra

**SAT. DECEMBER 14th**  
**7 PM**

**SUN. DECEMBER 15th**  
**3 PM**

**ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH** - **SPRINGBROOK MASONIC TEMPLE**

[www.vallejochorcal.org](http://www.vallejochorcal.org)

**TUBA CHRISTMAS**  
**SAT. DEC 21st @ NOON**  
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church

 **GOLDEN GATE SYMPHONY**  
 Orchestra & Chorus

*Handel's*  
**SING IT YOURSELF MESSIAH!**  
 Sing with Maestro Urs Leonhardt Steiner!

**HERBST THEATRE, SF**  
*Sunday, December 8th, 2:00 PM*

**CLOCK TOWER, BENICIA**  
*Sunday, December 15th, 2:00 PM*

*A San Francisco tradition for 30+ years!*

**TICKETS**



 **GVRD CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 22, 2024**

 **SYMPHONIC BAND** **3 PM**

**JAZZ BAND** **4 PM**



**FREE OF CHARGE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
 VOLUNTARY DONATIONS TO THE **ST. PAUL'S COMMUNITY MEAL PROGRAM** ARE APPRECIATED





## Coffee Hosts Needed

**It's time to sign up for the New Year! We still need Coffee Hosts in January-** 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 sign-up sheet or feel free to reach out to our Coffee Hour coordinators Barry & Sally Cunningham at [bcunningsb@gmail.com](mailto:bcunningsb@gmail.com). Sign up with a friend and kick off your Sunday with caffeine and fellowship.



## Morning Prayer Weekdays at 9 a.m. in Church and on Zoom

Join Zoom meeting (Link in Weekly Announcements online)

Meeting ID: 890 6264 3237

Passcode: 355908

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](mailto: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  
James Carr  
Tyler, (Gerri's Grandson)  
Ambra, (Gerri's Daughter)  
Mark Park  
Judith Mooney

**WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL:**

Vicki Lynn Wininger  
Doyle Morris  
Annie Muriel Marcus Wilkes

**WE GIVE THANKS FOR BIRTHDAYS &  
ANNIVERSARIES**

12/17 Kim Rodekohr  
12/19 Diane Pinkham-Faustino  
12/18 Gary & Jackie French

**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](mailto:admin@stpaulsbenicia.org) for updates or additions



# Calendar



## SUNDAY 12/15: Third 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 (Greening of the Church after Service)  
 12 pm Coffee Hour (P)  
 8 pm AA (P)

MONDAY 12/16	TUESDAY 12/17	WEDNESDAY 12/18
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 pm Kiwanis Christmas Party (P) 7 pm Vestry Meeting (U)	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 12/19	FRIDAY 12/20	SATURDAY 12/21
7am AA Meeting (P) 7:30 am Coffee w/ Rev. Annie 9 am +Morning Prayer 4 pm Kiwanis Meeting (P) 6:30 pm +Music Practice	7 am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 7 pm +Blue Christmas Service 7 pm NA Meeting (P)	7 am AA Meeting (U) 7 am Men's Meeting (R) 12 pm Tuba Christmas - St. Paul's Square

## SUNDAY 12/22: Fourth Sunday of Advent

### "Come as You Are" Christmas Pageant - 11 am Service

6:30 am AA Meeting (U)  
 8:45 am +Communion  
 10 am Coffee Hour (P)  
 10 am Short Godly Play & Pageant Prep. (Elementary School) (U)  
 10 am Short Youth Bible Study & Pageant Prep. (Middle & High School) (U)  
 11 am +Communion  
 12 pm Coffee Hour (P)  
 3 Pm +GVRD Christmas Concert (Symphonic & Jazz Bands)  
 8 pm AA (P)

**KEY**

+ = Church  
 P = Parish Hall  
 U = Undercroft  
 R = Rectory  
 K = Kitchen

<b>SERVING THIS WEEK - December 15, 2024</b>		
	<b>8:45 AM</b>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
Celebrant	Rev. Annie Mertz	
Preacher	Rev. Annie Mertz	
Deacon	Rev. Beth Gaines	Rev. Beth Gaines
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch	Cameron De Palma
Lector	Debi Hall	Marjorie Lowry
Intercessor	Ann Lindsay	Barbara Jewell
LEM	Jim Brown	Barbara Jewell
Ushers	Sandy & Art Schipper	Martha Wolf & Steve Rodekohr
Altar Guild	Robin Silver & Liz Stallings	
Flower Guild	No Dedications this Week	
Office Angels	Jeanne Brown & Debbie Varson	
Verger	Bob Hall	

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



# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Benicia, California

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## **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**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Inclusion</b>	<b>The Message of Jesus Christ</b>	<b>Spiritual Growth</b>
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.