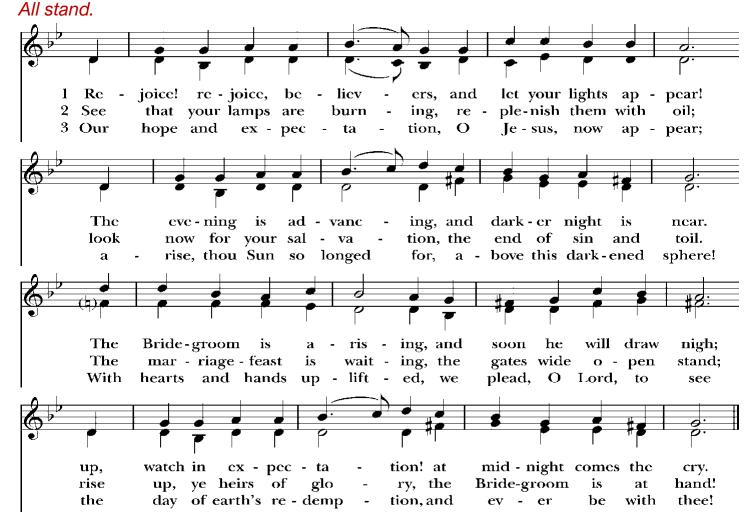


Second Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE HYMN: (H 68) Rejoice! Rejoice, Believers



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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING:

Baruch 5:1-9

The people sit.

¹Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. ²Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; ³for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. ⁴For God will give you evermore the name, "Righteous Peace, Godly Glory." ⁵Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. ⁶For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. ⁷For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. ⁸The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command. ⁹For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

- Reader: The Word of the Lord.
- People: Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow



Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah

PSALM:

Remain seated. To be read in unison. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; * he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, * born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, * from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers * and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, * to set us free from the hands of our enemies, Free to worship him without fear. * holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, * for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, To give his people knowledge of salvation * by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God * the dawn from on high shall break upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, * and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

SECOND READING:

Philippians 1:3-11

Remain seated.

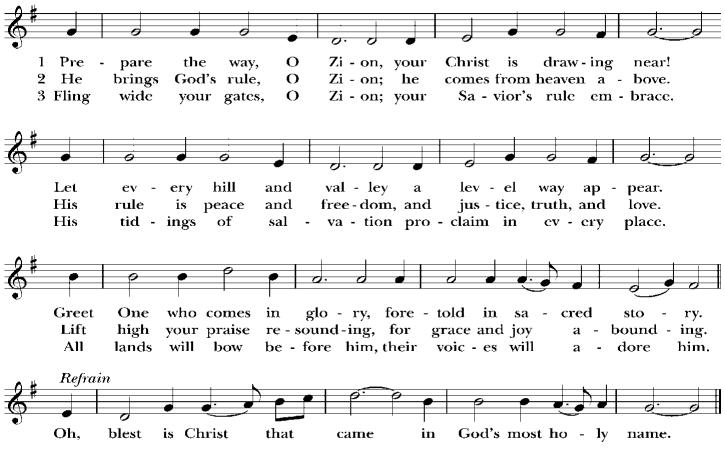
³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN: (H 56) Prepare the Way, O Zion

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.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. ⁵Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; ⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

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

(Dec. 23) 1 and 0 come, 0 come, Em - man el. ran - som u them from (Dec. 19) 4 0 thou Branch of Jes free come, se's tree, (Dec. 20) 5 0 thou of Da come, Key vid, come, and o - pen . Is cap - tive el. that mourns in lone - lv ile 1 ra ex 4 Sa - tan's ty ran ny that trust thy might - y power to 5 wide our heaven ly home; make safe the that leads way on 0 1 here un til the Son of God ap - pear. 4 save. and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! 5 high, and close the path mis er - y. to Is Em - man shall come to thee, 0 ra - ell u - el

The following is sung, all standing

THE SERMON:

The Rev. Annie Mertz

BCP p. 358

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

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.**

BCP p. 360

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 70) Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment The following is sung

			`	\
				• • •
€	•		F	r r
1 Her - ald, sound	the note of j	udg - ment, war	n - ing us	of right and
2 Her - ald, sound	the note of g	dad - ness; tel	l the news t	that Christ is
3 Her - ald, sound	the note of	oar - don— tho	se re - pent -	ing are for -
4 Her - ald, sound	the note of	tri - umph; Chr	ist has come	to share our
9 b	k			
			,,,,	• •
wrong,	turn - ing us	s from	sin and	sad - ness
here;	make a pai	th - way th	rough the	des - ert
given;	God re-ceiv			child - ren,
life,	bring - ing Goo		love and	
			Refran	
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		0	/	P
till once more	e we sing th			
	0	0		
for the one	Q D		Sound	the trum - pet!
and to them		Ø		1
grant - ing vic	- tory in o	ır strife.		
9 + b +	- / - k	•		— - — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
e P P		-		• •
Tell the mes -	sage! Christ,	the Sa - vior	King,	has come!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

SURSUM CORDA:

BCP p. 361

The People remain standing.			
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 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

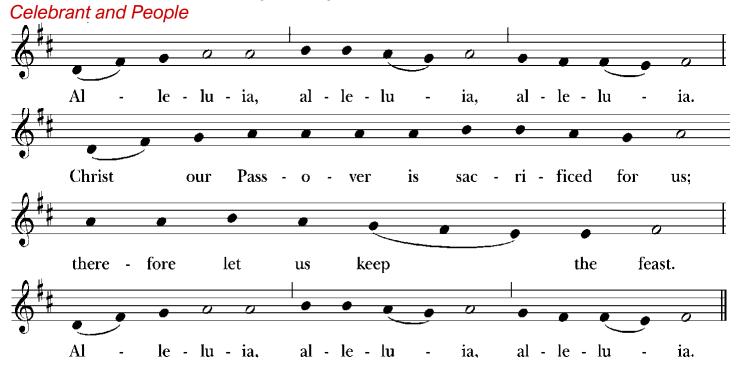
BCP p. 363

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



INVITATION

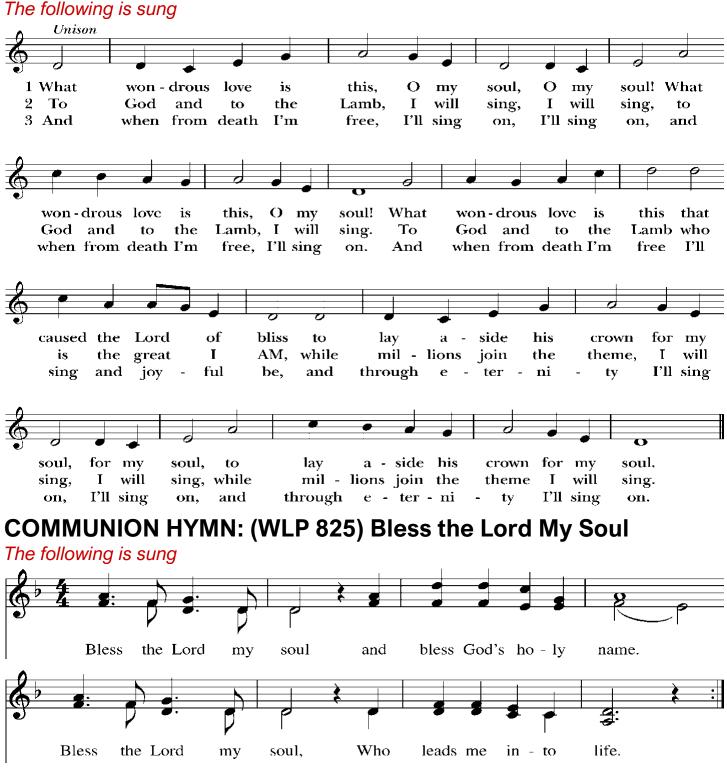
The Celebrant says

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: (H 439) What Wondrous Love is This



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.**

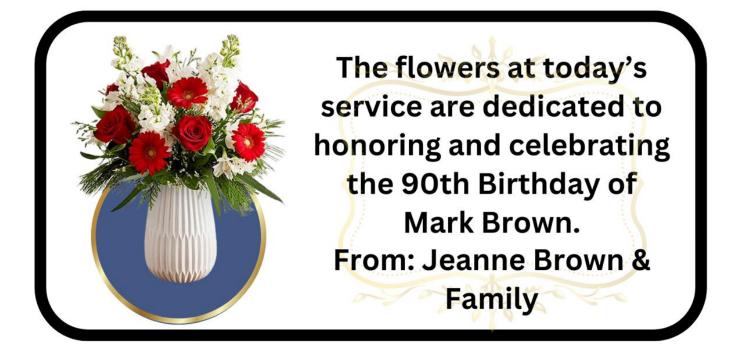
RECESSIONAL HYMN: (H 566) From thee All Skill and Science Flow

The following is sung, all standing 1 From thee all skill and sci-ence flow, all pi - ty, care, and love, per-fect day when pain and death shall cease, 2 And has-ten, Lord, that all calm and cour-age, faith and hope: O pour them from a - bove! fill the earth with health and light and peace; and thy just rule shall part them, Lord, to each and all, each and all shall need, Im as when ev - er - blue the sky shall gleam, and ev - er-green the sod, in - cense, each to thee, in no - ble thought and deed. to rise, like and our rude work de - face no more the hand - i - work of God.

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.
	ADVENT IV: EUCHARIST & "COME AS YOU ARE"
DEC 22	CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
8:45 & 11 AM	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.
DECAE	
DEC 25	FEAST OF CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST
10 AM	A celebration of the joy of Christmas in the morning light.
DEC 29	EIDST SUNDAV AFTED CHDISTMAS EUCHADIST
10 4 1 4	FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST We continue the Christmas Season with a combined service.
10 AM	
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



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.



Coffee Hosts Needed

We still need volunteers to sign up to be Coffee Hour hosts in 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 sign-up 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:



weekday worship MORNING

PRAYER

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.

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 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) Mark Park Judith Mooney

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL:

Vicki Lynn Wininger

WE GIVE THANKS FOR BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

12/11 Mark Brown 12/11 Jonah Morris 12/13 Nancy Bauschinger 12/10 Roy & Gerri MacGregor

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





SUNDAY 12/8: Second 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) 3 pm Meditation Christmas Gathering (P) 8 pm AA (P)				
MONDAY- 12/9	TUESDAY- 12/10	WEDNESDAY- 12/11		
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	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- 12/12	FRIDAY- 12/13	SATURDAY- 12/14		
7am AA Meeting (P) 7:30 am Coffee w/ Rev. Annie 9 am +Morning Prayer	7 am AA Meeting (P) 9 am +Morning Prayer 6 pm +Vallejo Choral Society Rehearsal 7 pm NA Meeting (P)	7 am AA Meeting (U) 8 am Cursillo Meeting (P) 7 pm +Vallejo Choral Society Concert & Reception (P)		

SUNDAY 12/15: Third Sunday of Advent

KEY

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)

SERVING THIS WEEK - December 8, 2024			
	8:45 AM	11:00 AM	
Celebrant	Rev. Annie Mertz		
Preacher	Rev. Annie Mertz		
Deacon	Rev. Beth Gaines	Rev. Beth Gaines	
Music	Dr. Matthew Welch	Cameron De Palma	
Lector	Karen Lowe	Megan Preovolos	
Intercessor	Jim Brown	Kim Rodekohr	
LEM	Jim Brown	Kim Rodekohr	
Ushers	Jeanne & Mark Brown	Jeff Jarvis & Steve Rodekohr	
Altar Guild	Jeanne Brown & Sandy Schipper		
Flower Guild	Ann Lindsay		
Office Angels	Jennifer Deal & Blaine Deal		
Verger	Gene Ekenstam		

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.