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

WORSHIP BULLETIN:
NOVEMBER 29, 2026 11:00 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II **EOW II**

First Sunday of Advent

ENTRANCE HYMN:

The following is sung, all standing.

People Get Ready

Verse 1:
People get ready
There's a train a-coming
You don't need no baggage
You just get on board
All you need is faith
To hear the diesels humming
Don't need no ticket
You just thank the Lord

Verse 2:
People get ready
There's a train to Jordan
Picking up passengers
From coast to coast
Faith is the key
Open the doors and board them
There's hope for all
Among those loved the most

Verse 3:
There ain't no room
For the hopeless sinner
Who would hurt all mankind
Just to save his own
Have pity on those
Whose chances grow thinner
So there's no hiding place
Against the kingdom's throne

CCLI Song # 1155812vCurtis Mayfield
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LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH:

The Youth Worship team lights the wreath and reads scripture

OPENING ACCLAMATION: BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: Glory to God for ever and ever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE:

The following is sung, all standing.

A Song of the Wilderness
Composed by: Cameron DePalma

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
It shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weary hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to the anxious, "Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God, coming with judgment to save you."
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened,
and the ears of the deaf be unstopped.
Then shall the lame leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
The burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground, springs of water.
The ransomed of God shall return with singing,
with everlasting joy upon their heads. Joy and gladness shall be theirs, *
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Canticle D, Isaiah 35:1-7, 10

COLLECT OF THE DAY: BCP p. 254

Celebrant: God be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

The celebrant prays the collect

. . . one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 64:1-9

The people sit.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
You have made us the derision of our neighbors; *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the

testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN:

The following is sung

(A3 131) Wait For the Lord

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord, be strong, take heart!

Text: Isaiah 40, Philippians 4, Matthew 6-7; Taize Community, 1984. Music: Jacques Berthier, 1984, Les Presses de Taize, From Gather, copyright 1989, GIA Publications, Inc. Used with permission under OneLicense.net license #9182.

GOSPEL: Mark 13:24-37

All stand.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.
"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates.
Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

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

POST-GOSPEL HYMN:

Please refer to Gospel Hymn

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

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:

- **Enjoy the combined St. Paul's & St. Dominic's Choirs at the Advent Benefit Concerts** on Thurs. Dec. 3, at 7 pm at St. Dominic's or Sat., Dec. 5 at 2 pm at St. Paul's supporting local community meal programs.
- **Today is the final day to buy SSP Chili Dinner tickets** after services in the Parish Hall for Friday, Dec. 4 from 5:30 – 7:30 pm.
- **The Giving Tree is Back!** - Please choose a gift tag in the Parish Hall today to help support families in need. Contributions must be returned by Sun., Dec. 13. See announcements for details.
- **Calendar**- Eucharist & Bible Study are cancelled on Weds., Dec. 2 & Coffee will be w/out the Rector on Thurs., Dec. 3.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE: BCP p. 376

OFFERTORY HYMN:

The following is sung

Harvest of Love
Composed by: Cameron DePalma

Verse 1:
Harvest of love in the fullness of time
Jesus is tending the fruit of the Father's vine
Harvest of love, show us the way
To bring the light of your truth to the world today

Chorus:
But the fruits of the spirit are love and peacefulness
The fruits of the spirit are joy and happiness

Verse 2:
Harvest of love, all you can eat
The bread overflowing the baskets in front of me
Harvest of love, fish from the sea.
Bursting our nets as he calls them all in to me
(Chorus)

Verse 3:
Harvest of love in the fullness of time
Jesus is lovingly tending the Father's vine
(Chorus)

Verse 4:
Yes, the fruits of the spirit are love and peacefulness
The fruits of the spirit are joy and happiness
Harvest of Love...



SURSUM CORDA: BCP p. 361

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 God thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God. . . And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

SANCTUS:

Celebrant and people

Mass Of Advent - Holy Holy Holy Lord God Of Hosts

Chorus:
Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.

CCLI Song # 7212661 Dave Moore | ICEL | Lauren Moore
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THE PRAYER CONTINUES:

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God...

...Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. **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.

FRACTION ANTHEM:

The following is sung.

Lamb of God
Composed by: Cameron DePalma

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:

All are welcome to come forward for communion. If you're new to the sacrament, please reference the card in the pews with more information. The bread is given with the words, 'The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.' The wine is given with the words, 'The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.'

COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

(H 56) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verse 1:
O come, O come, Emmanuel,
Thy people save and with us dwell
Who watch in expectation here
until thy reign of love appear.

Chorus:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to us and with us dwell.

Verse 2:
O come, thou Wisdom from on high,
who orderest all things mightily;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and teach us in her ways to go.
(Chorus)

COMMUNION HYMN:

The following is sung.

(A3 146) Softly and Tenderly

Verse 1:
Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals he's waiting and
watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Refrain:
Come home, come home.
Ye who are weary, come home!
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

Verse 2:
Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his
mercies,
Mercies for you and for me? **(Refrain)**

Verse 3:
Time is now fleeting, the moments are
passing,
Passing for you and for me.
Shadows are gathering, deathbeds are
coming,
Coming, coming for you and for me.
(Refrain)

Verse 4:
Oh! For the wonderful love he has promised,
Promised for you and for me;
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and
pardon,
Pardon for you and for me. **(Refrain)**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER: EOW p. 70

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.

SUNG BENEDICTION:

The following is sung.

Life is Short
Words by: Henri Frederic Amiel
Music by: Cameron DePalma

Life is short,
And we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts of those who
make the journey with us.
So... be swift to love,
and make haste to be kind.
And the blessing of God,
who made us,
who loves us,
and who travels with us
be with you now and forever.
A—MEN

BLESSING:

The Celebrant blesses the people.

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

The following is sung.

(LEVAS 72) Just a Closer Walk With Thee

Refrain:
Just a closer walk with thee;
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea.
Daily walking close to thee;
Let it be dear Lord, let it be.

Verse 1:
I am weak but thou art strong.
Jesus keep me from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, dear Lord, close to thee.

Verse 2:
Through this world of toils and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

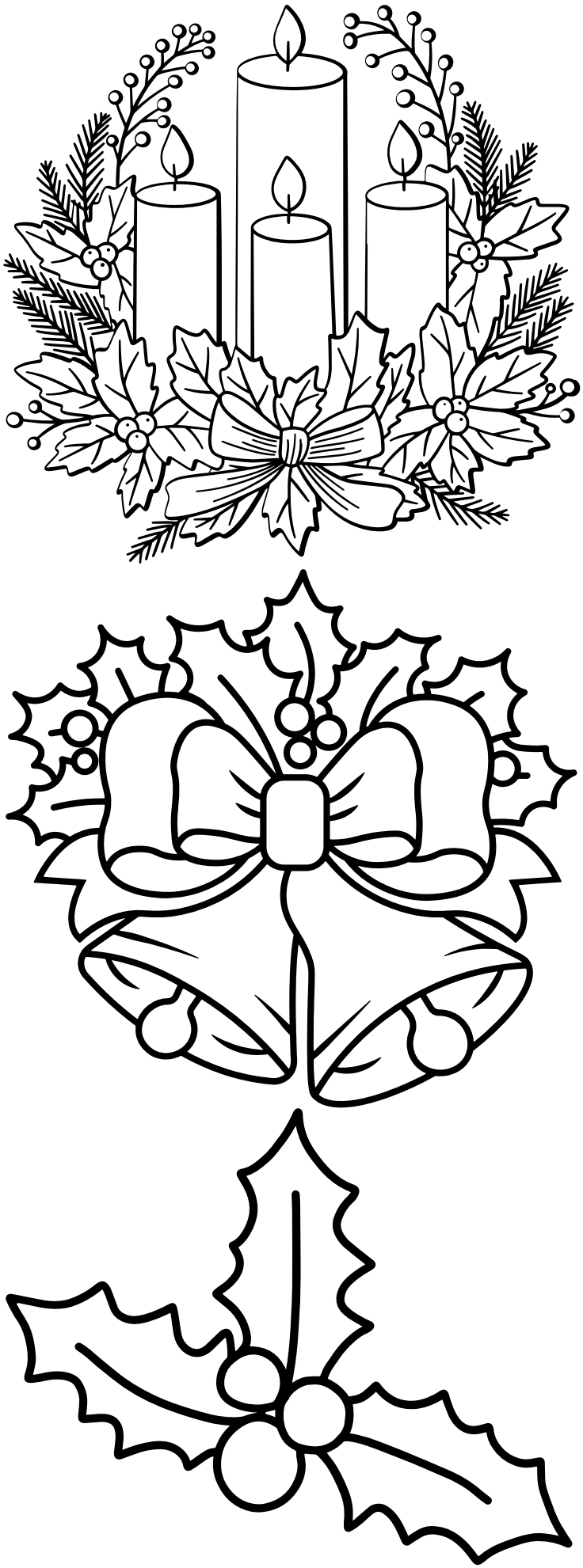
Verse 3:
When my feeble live is o'er,
Time for me will be no more.
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To thy kingdom's short, to thy shore.

DISMISSAL:

The Celebrant will dismiss the people

People: Thanks be to God.

KIDS COLORING PAGE:



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Scan or click for our weekly announcements online!

*** The Giving Tree is Back! - Please choose a gift tag in the Parish Hall today to support the Adopt-a-Family Program. Contributions must be returned by Sun., Dec. 13. See announcements for details.**

*** Calendar updates: Eucharist & Bible Study are cancelled on Weds., Dec. 2 and Coffee will be without the Rector on Thurs. Dec. 3.**

The deadline for submitting announcements is Wednesday at noon.
E-mail: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org Phone: (707) 745-0307

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(707) 745-0307 **120 E J St. Benicia, CA**
Please e-mail: admin@stpaulsbenicia.org for updates or additions

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S HEALING

R.C. Whitehead
Jude Augustus Emery
Neal Mulholand
Regina Williams
Michelle Ellett
Marty & Sue Kovach
Mark Stafforini
David Michael
Marta Kinney
Donna Lawson
Laura Peadbody-Park
Greer Nave
Jim Jewell
Jim Turner
Jack Carr
Dick Bryan
John David Gibbs
John Helm
Lolli Hilton
Norma Cook
Mark Park
Cathy W.
Art Patey
Erik C. Scott Yang
Bryce Philips

WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL

Sue Hammond, Patrick Fitzgerald & the Anniversary of the Death of Kenneth Boman

WE PRAY 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
Airman 1st Class Nevaeh Jarvis, U.S. Air Force
Captain Greg Arnold, U.S. Navy

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

12/1 Iris Martinez
12/4 Dennis Gaines

SERVING THIS WEEK:

Celebrant	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
Preacher	The Rev. Annie Mertz	
	8:45 AM	**11:00 AM**
Music	John Partridge	Cameron DePalma
Lector	Martha Saldaña-Wolf	Liz Stallings
Intercessor	Charlie Kilbourne	Kim Rodekohr
LEM	Dale & Charlie Kilbourne	Kim Rodekohr & Nancy Bryan
Shared Prayers	Jim Wolf	
Ushers	Donna Patey & Christine Stevens	Debbie Borst & Carole Johnson
Altar Guild	Robin Silver	
Flower Guild	Christmas Dedications - Due 12/16	
Verger	Jim Wolf	
Coffee Hour	Pam Gardner & Barry & Sally Cunningham	

PARISH LEADERSHIP

CLERGY:
The Rev. Annie Mertz, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Arthur Holder, Associate Priest

STAFF:
John Partridge, Traditional Music Director
Cameron DePalma, Contemporary Music Director
Eric Foster, Communications Director
Lisa Lannoy, Parish Administrator
Tim Markley, Archivist
Kylie Lazarek, Nursery Staff
Heather Pritchard, Nursery Staff

VESTRY:
Ann Lindsay, Senior Warden
Donna Patey, Treasurer
Charlie Kilbourne, Gerri MacGregor, Jim Peterson, Brandon Bailey, Kathryn Gojack, Megan Klingensmith, Michelle Fitzgerald

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:
We support our neighbors through service & compassion. We are a safe space & a supportive community where members are cared for by one another.

INCLUSION:
We are an inclusive community where people of all identities, backgrounds & histories are welcome to find & continue their spiritual journey.

THE MESSAGE OF JESUS CHRIST:
We believe in striving to live the message of Jesus Christ every day. At St. Paul's, we walk the way of love together.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH:
At any point in a person's spiritual journey, there are opportunities to learn, grow & strengthen one's faith at St. Paul's.

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.

CALENDAR

The First Sunday of Advent



6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
8:30 am - 12:30 pm Nursery Hours (U)
8:45 am +Communion
10 am Coffee Hour (P)
10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) & Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)
11 am +Communion
12 pm Coffee Hour (P)
4pm Meditation (P)
8 pm AA (P)

MONDAY: 11/30

7 am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
4:30 pm Community Meal (P)
8 pm AA Meeting (P)

TUESDAY: 12/1

7 am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
1 - 2:30 pm +Organ Practice
7 pm Facilities Committee Meeting (U)

WEDNESDAY: 12/2

7 am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
10 am +Communion - ***Cancelled***
11 am Bible Study (L) - ***Cancelled***
4:30 pm Community Meal (P)

THURSDAY: 12/3

7 am AA Meeting (P)
7:30 am Coffee ***w/out*** Rev. Annie
9 am +Morning Prayer
2:30 - 4:30 pm +Bagpipe Practice
7 pm St. Paul's & St. Dominic's Advent Benefit Concert @ ***St. Dominic's Church***

FRIDAY: 12/4

7 am AA Meeting (P)
9 am +Morning Prayer
10:30 am Al-Anon Meeting (U)
5:30 - 7:30 pm SSP Chili Dinner Fundraiser (P)
7- 9 pm NA Meeting **(U)**

SATURDAY: 12/5

7 am AA Meeting (U)
7 am Men's Meeting (R)

2 pm + St. Paul's Church St. Paul's & St. Dominic's Advent Benefit Concert

The Second Sunday of Advent



6:30 am AA Meeting (U)
8:30 am - 12:30 pm Nursery Hours (U)
8:45 am +Communion
10 am Coffee Hour (P)
10 am Godly Play (Elementary School) & Youth Bible Study (Middle & High School) (U)
11 am +Communion
12 pm Calling all Kids – Grinch Watch Party! (U)
12 pm Coffee Hour (P)
8 pm AA (P)

KEY

+ = CHURCH
P = PARISH HALL
U = UNDERCROFT
R = RECTORY
K = KITCHEN
L = RECTORY LIBRARY
O = OUTDOORS