



St. Paul's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

FIRST SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

The Rev. George Adamik, Celebrant
The Rev. Alice Graham Grant, Homilist

HOLY EUCHARIST
9:00 A.M. SERVICE
DECEMBER 3, 2023

Prelude

Carol Yeargin, Organist

Processional

Once He Came in Blessing

Hymn 53

Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant says

Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People

You come to your people and set them free.

The Celebrant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The following is sung.

Trisagion

Holy God

Hymnal S 99

(Sung Three Times)

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

Collect of the Day

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.*

Children's Processional

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Hymn 65

Verse 1

Children's Chapel is for children 3 years old through 5th grade.

First Reading

Isaiah 64:1-9

A Reading from Isaiah.

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 The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Psalm

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 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

A Reading from First Corinthians.

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 The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Gradual

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

Hymn 68

Gospel

Mark 13:24-37

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.
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."

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

Homily

The Rev. Alice Graham Grant

Nicene Creed

All who are able, 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.

Prayers of the People

People's Response: *Come, Lord Jesus, Come.*

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All who are able, kneel. Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest 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.*

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

BCP 360

Announcements

If you would like to donate online, follow the QR code found on the giving card in the back of the pews.

At the end of the announcements, you are also welcome to come forward to make a special donation to Heifer International, a non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty, to mark an anniversary, blessing, or other event.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory

Remember, O Thou Man

Thomas Ravenscroft

Olive McKrell, alto solo

arr. Russell McKinney

Jon Douglas, bass solo

St. Paul's Choir

Linda McKinney, tenor & soprano recorders

Carol Yeargin, harpsichord

Offertory Response

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee.

Eucharistic Prayer 2

Enriching Our Worship 1

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.*

The Celebrant proceeds.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

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:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Hymnal S130

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.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick,

and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

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 Celebrant then continues

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

Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Jesus, Lamb of God

Hymnal S164

Je - sus lamb of God: have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, bear - er
of our sins: have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er, re -
deem - er of the world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to come forward for communion, including children. Please follow the ushers' guidance as you come to the rail.

If you would like to receive the wine by intinction (dipping the bread in the cup), keep the bread in your hands and wait for the communion server to come to you.

If you would like to receive from the common cup (drinking from the cup directly), please consume the bread first and then make your way to the steps at the end of the rail. A communion server will be there with the common cup.

If it is not your custom to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms across your chest and the minister will offer a prayer.

A priest is also available to provide prayers for healing in the back southwest corner of the church. Simply head to the back during communion distribution and wait for your turn.

The Communion Music

Jesus Came, Adored by Angels
"Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us

Hymn 454

Hymn 61

If you are at home or otherwise unable to take communion, you may say the following prayer.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Final Prayer

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food as we hear your Word proclaimed and gather at your holy Table. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

Recessional

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending

Hymn 57

Dismissal

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Postlude

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MISSION STATEMENT

Worship. Serve. Grow.

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The Rev. Javier E. Almendárez-Bautista, Associate Rector
The Rev. Alice Graham Grant, Associate Rector
The Rev. Antoinette Wike, Priest Associate
The Rev. Candy Snively, Deacon
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DECEMBER 3, 2023

New to St. Paul's? Please let us know you are here by filling out a visitor card in the pew. Stop by our Welcome Station in the narthex (lobby) to chat with Greeters and find materials that might help if you are new to St. Paul's or the Episcopal Church. Contact Mary Kintz, our Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org to learn more.

Children's Chapel: Children ages 3 years old through 5th grade are invited to process to Children's Chapel during the 9 a.m. service and return to their families during announcements.

Coffee Hour (Parish Hall): Hosted this week by the St. Nicholas Ministry. Join us after the 9 a.m. service for coffee and conversation.

Adult Formation (Chapel, 10:15-11 a.m.): Our Advent series *Waiting with the Great Cloud of Witnesses* begins today with "What is Sainthood?" presented by Fr. George.

Children's Sunday School (Education Building): Classes are meeting from 10:15-11 a.m.

Youth Sunday School (Youth Wing): Classes are meeting from 10:15-11 a.m.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): Meets this evening for fun and fellowship from 5-7 p.m. in the Youth Wing.

Pre-EYC (4th and 5th graders): Meets from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., in the Annex/Old Kids' Club for White Elephant exchange and St. Nick sorting.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Newcomer Tour: Those new or newly returned to St. Paul's who wish to know more can join a tour of our campus on the third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m. No sign up is necessary; meet at the welcome station in the narthex (lobby).

Pledges for 2024 Giving: If you have not yet responded to our 2024 Stewardship campaign and you intend to give, please do so! Follow up phone calls will begin soon. Pledge forms can be found in the narthex, and the website has more information about ways to give. Contact the church office at 919-467-1477 for more information.

Lessons and Carols: Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 10 at 4 p.m. as the St. Paul's Choir and the Bells of St. Paul's present the traditional Anglican service of Advent Lessons and Carols, directed by Minister of Music Rusty McKinney. A light reception will follow the service, presented by the Fellowship Events Team. Invite friends and plan to join us for this beautiful, peaceful celebration in Advent. Childcare is available from 3:45-5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Contemplative Services in Advent: Join the clergy in the St. Paul's Chapel at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning November 29, for a contemplative Eucharist service. We will use the readings for Advent as our guide and have ample time for meditation and reflection.

Donate a Christmas Poinsettia: Donate a poinsettia for our Christmas services to honor the special people in your life! Christmas poinsettia envelopes are available now in the pews. Fill out the envelope with your name and the information about your loved one (s), noting whether it is given in memory of or in thanksgiving for them. Enclose \$35 per plant; drop the envelope in the collection plate or in the office by December 10; plants may be taken home after the Christmas Day service at 10 a.m.

Note in the Pocket Clothing Drive: Please help our Pre-EYC (4th and 5th graders) support Note in the Pocket by donating gently used clothing and shoes as well as new socks and underwear, now through December 17. All sizes (infant-adult) of garments are needed. The donation bin is located in the church hallway near the choir room.

Christmas Pageant: Children are hard at work on St. Paul's annual Christmas Pageant, but it's not too late to join in this treasured tradition! Rehearsals occur during Sunday School on Sunday, December 10, and on Saturday, December 16 from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The pageant will take place during the 9 a.m. service on December 17, followed by a festive "cast party" coffee hour for the entire congregation. There is plenty of room in the stable for additional angels, shepherds and animals if you have not yet signed up. Contact Melanie Williams (melanie@moyer.net) for more information.

Heifer International Donations: During the Christmas season, you are invited to honor family and friends with an Alternate Gift Giving opportunity, donating to Heifer International to support their mission of working with communities to end hunger and poverty and to care for the earth. For every \$10 donated, you may pick up a Heifer International Greeting Card (located in the narthex/lobby) for loved ones you wish to honor in this way. Donations can be placed in the Heifer Ark during the Offertory on Sunday mornings, mailed to the church office, or completed online through the St. Paul's Heifer donation webpage. Please make out checks to St. Paul's Episcopal Church with Heifer International written on the memo line. Questions can be directed to Alison Arnold at alisonarnold@gmail.com.

Prayer List: Dave, Walt, Bob, Peggy, Christa, Ann, Vickie, Ann, Wendy, Clarence and Susan, Jodi, Lynn, Laura, Margaret, Ava, Millie, Mary Jo, Sally, Bob, Thomas, Coby, Mary, Cindy, Nancy, Virginia, Daija, Lindsey, Des, Megan, Mary, Christine, Lizzie, Kathy, Russell, Alton, Doug, Jill, Jane and Roger, Guy, Cody, Margie, Katie, Michael, Jule, Janet, Ron, Liz, Cathy, Alan, John, Jessica, Nancy, Robert, Dianne, Sherry, John, Mary, Alison, and Susan.

In the prayers for deceased, we pray for Kent Smith.

If you have a name you would like to include on the prayer list, or a ministry event that you would like to announce in this printed bulletin, please send information to announcements@stpaulscary.org. Please note that there is a 2-week lead time on printed announcements.



St. Paul's Website