

St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT**

The Rev. Stephanie Yancy, Celebrant
The Rev. Javier E. Almendárez-Bautista, Homilist

**HOLY EUCHARIST
9:00 A.M. SERVICE
DECEMBER 15, 2024**

Prelude

Advent Orisons

Russell McKinney

Bells of St. Paul's

Linda McKinney, soprano recorder soloist

Processional

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Hymn 67

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.*

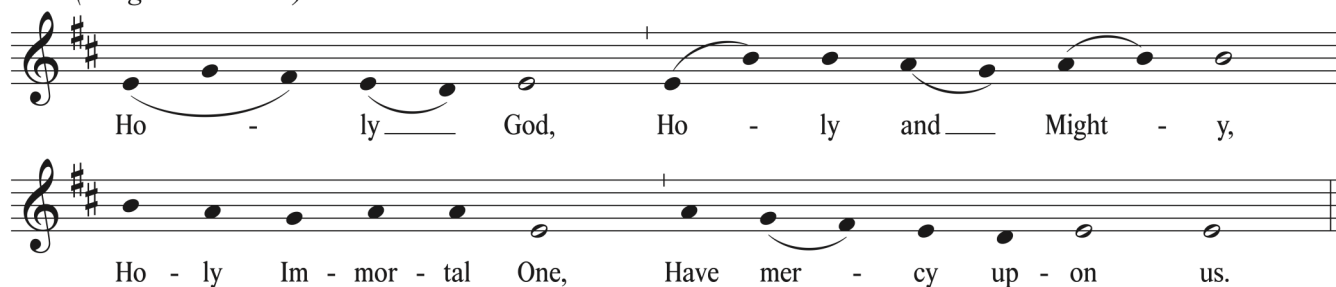
The following is sung.

Trisagion

Holy God

Hymnal S99

(Sung Three Times)



Collect of the Day

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.*

Children's Processional

Prepare the Way, O Zion (Vs. 1)

Hymn 65

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

First Reading

Zephaniah 3:14-20

A Reading from Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

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.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

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
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

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.

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Response

Canticle 9, The First Song of Isaiah, Isaiah 12:2-6

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

Philippians 4:4-7

A Reading from Philippians.

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

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Gradual

Creator of the Stars of Night

Conditor alme siderum



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
2. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray, re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
3. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son, and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,

O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all, we pray you hear us when we call.
de - fend us while we dwell be - low from all as - saults of our dread foe.
praise, hon - or, might and glo - ry be from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Gospel

Luke 3:7-18

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

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? 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. 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 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."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 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. 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."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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

Homily

The Rev. Javier E. Almendárez-Bautista

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

BCP 360

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

BCP 360

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

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

The Lord at First Did Adam Make
St. Paul's Choir

arr. Michael Nicholas

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.

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.

The Communion Music

Surely It is God Who Saves Me
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Hymn 678
Hymn 66

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.

Advent Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *Amen.*

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

Recessional

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

Hymn 436

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Carol Yeargin, Organist

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MISSION STATEMENT

Worship. Serve. Grow.

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The Rev. J. Carr Holland III, Bridge Priest
The Rev. Stephanie Yancy, Bridge Priest
The Rev. Antoinette Wike, Priest Associate
The Rev. Candy Snively, Deacon
Russell McKinney, Minister of Music
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TODAY – DECEMBER 15, 2024

New to St. Paul's? Welcome! 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. **Join a tour of our campus today at 10:15 a.m.** to learn more and meet others. Contact Mary Kintz, our Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org to learn more about us!

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 Refuge for Refugees Ministry. Join us after the 9 a.m. service for coffee and conversation.

Adult Formation (Chapel, 10:15-11 a.m.): Our Advent series *Preparing the Way* continues this week with "Advent: A Season of Deeper Listening," presented by the Rev. Carr Holland.

Children's Sunday School - 5th grade and under: Classes are gathering in the church from 10:15-11 a.m. for a pageant rehearsal. All children are welcome, regardless of their involvement in the pageant.

Youth Sunday School - 6th thru 12th grade (Youth Wing): Classes are meeting from 10:15-11 a.m.

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): Meets this evening for our Christmas Party and gift exchange (and other fun) from 5-7 p.m. in the Youth Wing.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday Evening Contemplative Services in Advent: Join the clergy in the Chapel at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, through Dec. 18, for a contemplative Eucharist service. We will use the readings for Advent as our guide and have ample time for meditation and reflection.

Advent Offering Envelopes: You are invited to contribute extra funds during the season of Advent in support of our parish during this time of transition, helping to defray the extra costs associated with searching for a new rector. You will find Advent offering envelopes in the pews, along with online giving instructions on the giving card. Please indicate Advent Offering in the memo. Your generosity is most appreciated.

St. Nicholas Day: A special word of thanks for the incredible generosity of the St. Paul's community in stepping up to make sure that all 305 tags were fulfilled in this year's giving season. Learn more about the impact of your giving on our St. Nicholas Ministry webpage.

Christmas Pageant Reminders: We're one week away from presenting our Christmas Pageant to the community, Dec. 22 at the 9 a.m. service. If you are new, or your plans have changed, it's never too late to join us! We can always use more shepherds, soldiers, angels and animals. We have a pageant rehearsal today at 10:15 a.m. in the church. The final rehearsal will be Saturday, Dec. 21 between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.; a detailed schedule is available. Join the fun by contacting Melanie Williams at melanie.moyer.williams@gmail.com.

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 15; plants may be taken home after the 10 a.m. Christmas Day service.

Parish Directory of Addresses: We are preparing copies of our directory for parishioner use only, for distribution in early 2025. To improve the accuracy and usefulness of the directory, we request each household review your entry; many landlines we have listed are no longer being used. Printed copies are available for review in the narthex. If you prefer, you can fill out an online form to ensure your entry is correct. If you would like **to opt out** of having your information included, please contact directory@stpaulscary.org and let us know by Dec. 31.

Alternate Gift Giving Supporting Heifer International this Christmas: During this giving season, you are invited to honor family and friends by giving a gift donation to Heifer International, supporting Heifer's mission to end world hunger and poverty. 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 donation checks to St. Paul's with Heifer International written on the memo line. After donating, pick up a Heifer International card (located in the narthex/lobby) to send to those in whose name you have given your gift, or you can send an eCard. Thank you for your generosity this holiday season and thank you for helping St. Paul's reach its annual goal of donating \$5000 to "Give a Gift Ark of Animals." Questions can be directed to Alison Arnold at alisonarnold@gmail.com.

Winter Book Study: Join us for a Zoom study group of the book "Elusive Grace" by Scott Black Johnston, Tuesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. starting Jan. 7. This work is described as providing "hope-filled guidance for more effective, transformative living amid our deeply divided society." If you have questions or would like to register for the group, please contact Gerri Batchelor at gerrikairos@gmail.com.

Pre-EYC (4th-5th Graders) Bowling in January: Be sure to mark your calendars now to join the fun and bowl with us on Sunday, Jan. 5 from 5-6:15 p.m. at Buffaloe Lanes in Cary; friends are welcome to come along. Details are posted in the narthex and on the St. Paul's website; contact Jacob Nelson at jacobnelson77@hotmail.com with any questions.

Prayer List: Dave, Bob, Ann, Vickie, Ann, Laura, Margaret, Mary, Virginia, Doug, Guy, Katie, Cathy, Alan, Jessica, John, Mary, Susan, Clarence, Susan, Mila, Florence, Noah, Sally, Chase, John, Janice, John, Randy, the Lytvinenko Family, Mary, Regina, Nathanael, Lisa, Parrish, Matias, Yosi, Trudy, Lorraine, Ralph, Judy, Jackie, Christy, Mark, Marty, Gary, Lou, Steven, Bonnie, Olive, and Randall.

In the prayers for the deceased, we pray for Gertrude (Trudy) Walker, aunt of Laura (Mike) Gorman.

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. Names included in the prayer list will remain for a month, and we are happy to extend at your request. Please note that there is a 2-week lead time on printed announcements.

Christmas Eve Services (December 24)

4 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Family Service

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Christmas Day (December 25)

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

First Sunday after Christmas (December 29)

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II



St. Paul's Website