

St. Paul's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

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

HOLY EUCHARIST
4:00 P.M. SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2024

Prelude

Angels We Have Heard on High

arr. Jacob B. Weber

Processional

O Come, All Ye Faithful (Vs. 1-3, & 6)

Hymn 83

Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Gloria

Angels We Have Heard on High (Vs. 1 & 3)

Hymnal 96

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their brave de - light. Glo - - -
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - -
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. 3. Come to Beth - le -
hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing; come, a - dore on bend - ed knee
Christ, the Lord, the new - born King. Glo - - -
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - -
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

Psalm of the Day

Psalms 96

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
 sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
 proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
 and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
 he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
 but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
 Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
 ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
 bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
 let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
 he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, *
 when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
 and the peoples with his truth.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.***Homily**

The Rev. Stephanie Yancy

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 PeoplePeople's Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.***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**

Suo Gân (Lullaby)
 Canterbury Choir
 Caitlin Belington, soloist

Welsh Tune
 arr. James Kirkby

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

*The people remain standing.**The Celebrant proceeds.*

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.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Hymnal S 130

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

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant and People

*We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;*

The Celebrant then continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray to you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **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.

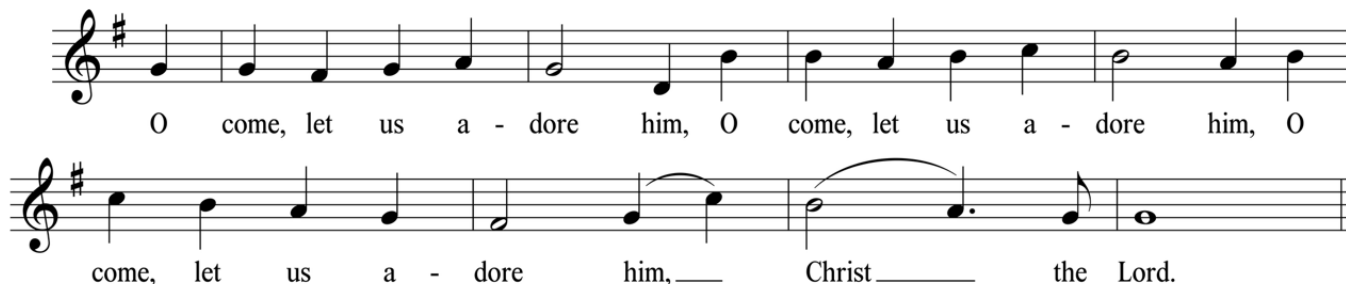
Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

O Come, Let us Adore Him

from Hymn 83



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.

Communion Music

The First Noel
Away in a Manger
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 109
Hymn 101
Hymn 78

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 people remain seated.

*Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!*

*Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

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.

Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *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

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn 87

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Carol Yeargin, Organist

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Worship. Serve. Grow.

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The Rev. Javier E. Almendárez-Bautista, Senior Associate Rector
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
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Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for:

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Kaela & Catlin Belington by Tom & Myrna Belington | Thanksgiving for Family by Sue Harrison | Pfeiffer by Dennis and Cathy Pfeiffer |
| Thanksgiving for St. Paul's Clery, staff & Wardens by Kay and Brad Burgess | Roger Herrman by Gale Herrman | Sarah, Brent, Liam, Zoe & Hannah Wilson by Deborah Seehorn |
| My daughters and their Families by Gail Duncan | Community of love at St. Paul's by Mary & Andy Kintz | Our family Carol & Michael Collins by The Wilson family |
| Our children, Emmie, Logan, and Evelyn by Jon and Heather Gates | Our Family by Joyce & Howard Loughlin | |
| | Our Grandchildren, Andrew, Jack & Emma Cate, London, Madelyn & Olivia White, Miles and Mira | |



Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and in memory of:

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| My parents, James & Cathy Geldard by Alison Arnold | Father, Sidney F. Jack & Husband, Ernest J. Davenport by Kittie Davenport | G. Foley and Nancy Sherman, John F. Marshall II., Fritz Massaquoi, and Tennema Deline by Verity Kromah |
| Alfredo Belington and Pablo Fernando by Belington Family | by Natalie Dezorzi | David & Myra Bear by Frank & Anne Laney |
| James and Mary Davis by David and Brooke Bowersox | My husband, Noah, my Departed Family and Friends, by Gail Duncan | Frank and Fran Wagner by Frank and Anne Laney |
| Richard and Eloise Gray by David and Brooke Bowersox | Walt Fiore & Charleen Gallo (Walt's sister) by Jane Fiore | Georgia Whaley by Frank and Anne Laney |
| Bryan Wishon by David and Brooke Bowersox | Joshua Bowen & Harriett Bowen and Brock and Tom Fransen | Lemuel and Elizabeth Laney by Frank and Anne Laney |
| Bill and Anne Wishon by David and Brooke Bowersox | Robert Fransen by Tom and Brock Fransen | My parents, Charles & Elise Clark |
| Carrie Gilmore by David and Brooke Bowersox | Joseph Furno, Peter Becker, Jr., Bill Fierke and Margie Best by Becky Furno | Matt Magee and Bob Hoover by Barb, Katie, Emily & Julia Magee |
| Wes Wishon by David and Brooke Bowersox | Martha Waters by Georgie & Dana Gracie | DiAnne S. Monroe by Kip Monroe |
| Terry Bowersox by David and Brooke Bowersox | Willa Cowper by John & Mary Hemperly | Ellis, Eaker and Piemonte families by Mary Jane Piemonte |
| Rev. Lois Reardin by the Bradley family | Our Parents by John & Mary Hemperly | Our young son, Jeffrey Michael Reilly by Dick and Sheila Reilly |
| Loved Ones by Barry & Suzanne Brown | All loved ones by the Hirschy Family | John Vanover & Jerry Lawhorn by The Robinson Family |
| T. K. and Lorene Martin, Rupert and Sallie Buckley by Tim and Mary Buckley | Marie & Amos Cheatham and Dora & Joseph Cheatham, our Parents by Tim and Elaine Hunt | Hagaman & Roithmayr Family by Mike and Sherry Roithmayr |
| David, Jeanne and Susan Clement by Sallie P. Clement | Ashton Thomas McLaurin & Hannah Wilson by The Jernigan Family | Our loved ones by Deborah Seehorn |
| John and Virginia Pollock by Sallie P. Clement | Nancy, James and Erich Mayer by Cindy Kager | Sybil Smith by Gary Smith |
| Thomas Pollock and John Pollock by Sallie Clement | Alan Kent & Mary Alice Kent by Elizabeth Kent and Jim Budelman | HannahBell Swan by Kevin and Glenda Swann |
| John and Katherine Rega and Domenic and Maria Cestra by Cestra Family | Koonce/Corcoran Families by Raymonde Koonce | Our parents, Jackie & Ted Straub |
| Patrick Coleman by Diane Coleman, Rebecca and Ben Tursam | Jura Kromah by Verity Kromah | Mr. & Mrs. Paul Hood by Lisa Wilcox |
| Kevin Copperwheat by Jon and Barbara Copperwheat | Nancy J. Marshall, Mary Marshall, Wheaton S. Thomson, John F. and Beatrice Marshall by Verity Kromah | Jack Randall Smeltzer by Gary and Jenny Smith |
| Herbert Crosby and Edwina Culmer by Carol Crosby | | John Oliver Truitt |

Christmas Season 2024

A Christmas Message from the Senior Associate Rector:

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory... “
– John 1:14

The great scandal of the Christian faith is particularity. God enters human history at a particular point in time, among a particularly vulnerable people, and makes common cause with the poor, the meek, and the lowly. God reaches into the forgotten corners of human life, and proclaims God’s solidarity with our frailty and weakness.

Christ’s hope shines bright, even in the darkest night. Let us share that light with a world that sorely needs it.

On behalf of the clergy and staff of St. Paul’s, I wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Javier+

New to St. Paul’s? Visiting us for Christmas? 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 the third Sunday of the month at 10:15 a.m. to see more and meet others. Contact Mary Kintz, our Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org to learn more about our community!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS

Sunday Services on Dec. 29: 7:30 a.m., 10 a.m. only; regular schedule resumes Jan. 5

Children’s Chapel, Sunday School, Pre-EYC and Youth: all activities resume Jan. 5.

Coffee Hour: resumes Jan. 5.

Adult Formation: resumes Jan. 12.

Annual Bishop’s Visit and Confirmation: Feb. 23, 2025; youth confirmation classes begin Jan. 26.

Holiday Office Hours: The church office will be closed Dec. 24-27, and also on New Year’s Day. Regular office hours (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) will resume Jan. 6. Please call ahead before visiting the office during the holiday season, and for pastoral emergencies, please call the clergyperson on call at 919-454-4451. Please remember that donations postmarked through Dec. 31 will be credited to 2024 for tax purposes, regardless of the date received.

January Adult Formation Book Study on Zoom: Join us on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. on Zoom starting Jan. 7 for a discussion of “Elusive Grace” by Scott Black Johnston. Learn more on the St. Paul’s website and register by contacting Gerri Batchelor at gerrikairos@gmail.com.

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, Randall, Becky, Connor, Carter, and Henry.

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.

Please visit our website for more information about our community.



St. Paul's Website