

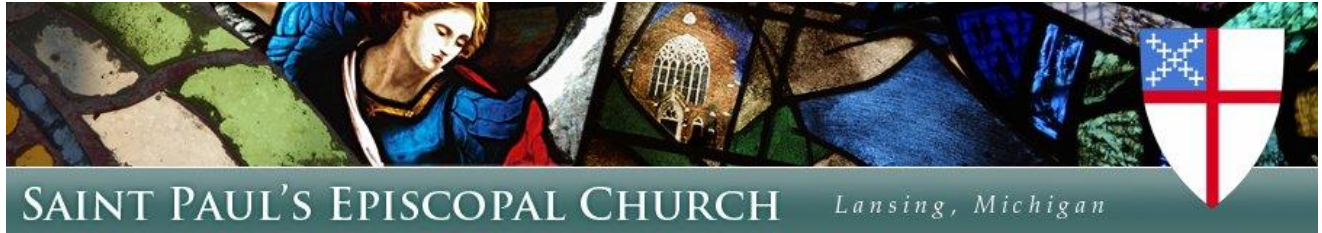
"Our Welcome"

In the light of God's unconditional love, we respect the dignity of every human being by welcoming and supporting all persons whatever their race, color, gender, age, sexual orientation, health status, marital status or stage of spiritual journeying. We invite you to explore, investigate, and grow in your faith and become a part of our shared journey with God.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD – DECEMBER 24, 2023
HOLY EUCHARIST - RITE II 7:00PM

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Office: 517-482-9454

218 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933
www.stpaulslansing.org



St. Paul's Staff: The Rev. Karen C. Lewis, Rector; The Rev. Canon Dr. W. Richard Hamlin, Priest Associate; The Very Rev. Dr. Donna McNeil, Associate for Liturgy and Pastoral Care; Ms. Stephanie Gewirtz, Minister of Music; Ms. Theresa Milne, Parish Administrator; Ms. Barbara Heany, Sunday School Director; Ms. Katie Alexander, Nursery Attendant; Mr. D'Kwon Guerrero, Sexton/Custodian; Mr. Conrad Moyer, A/V Technician.

St. Paul's Vestry: Martha Seaman McKee, Sr. Warden; Bob Merriman, Jr. Warden; Diane Clark; Larry Clark; Graham Crabtree; Leslie Hall; Susan Henderson; Steven Kandow; Maria Wawro; Amy Wortley; Jeff Irwin, Treasurer; Sally Boron, Secretary

Visitors and Guests: Please fill out a visitor card and give it to an usher or place it in the offering box. As you are leaving, we would like you to take a moment to sign one of the guest books located by the church doorways.

Opportunities for Worship - Sundays: 10:00am

Parish Office Hours Monday - Thursday: 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Closed on Fridays.

Phone: 517-482-9454 E-mail: office@stpaulslansing.org

Visit our website: www.stpaulslansing.org

For Parish activities and information please check the information table in the Merrifield Room.

Baptism or Marriage: If you would like more information please contact the Rector at 482-9454 or by email: rector@stpaulslansing.org.

Church School: Our church school for elementary through middle school ages begins at 9:45am. If you would like more information please speak to Barb Heany.

Nursery Care is available in the Nursery in the Music Wing near the Choir Room.

Parking in the Roosevelt Parking Ramp: The Roosevelt parking ramp behind St. Paul's is available for evening and weekend parking. The ramp will open at 6:00pm weekday evenings. On the weekend the ramp will open on Friday at 6:00pm and remain open until 11:00pm on Sunday. If the arms are down after 6:00pm, please press the red button on your left (labeled assistance) as you enter the parking ramp.

All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry into the sanctuary or into any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
DECEMBER 24, 2023 - 7:00PM

ORGAN

Adeste, fideles

David Schelat

CHOIR ANTHEM

Prepare the Way of the Lord

William Rowan

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Good Christian friends, rejoice

HYMN 107

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - jice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

O, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Hannah Bancroft, soloist

arr. Patrick Liebergen

I Wonder as I Wander
Jim Milne, soloist

John Jacob Niles

One Small Child David Meece arr. Lloyd Larson
Emma Clark & Larissa Gleason Clark, duet

CHOIR ANTHEM

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Franklin D. Ashdown

Gesu Bambino
Larry Clark, soloist

Pietro Yon

The Work of Christmas
Deborah McMartin-Finkel, soloist

Dan Forrest

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

Hark! The herald angels sing

HYMN 87

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

GREETINGS

The People stand as the Officiant says

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with carols of praise.

Let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

Officiant Rejoice! I bring good news for all people.

People **Unto us a child is born. Alleluia!**

Officiant Tonight the angels sing on earth.

People **Glory to God in the highest!**

The People stand for the singing of the Opening Hymn

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw - ing to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

THE COLLECT OF PURITY

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.**

GLORIA

HYMN S278

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -
might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the
Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - - - - - men.

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.

The People are invited to sit for the readings

THE FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 9:2-7

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 song 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.**

The people stand to sing.

Angels, from the realms of glory

HYMN 93

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

THE SECOND LESSON

TITUS 2:11-14

Reader A reading from Titus

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.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain
Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Reader 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!"

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

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Dr. Donna McNiel

On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing

THE NICENE CREED

**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 *The People stand, kneel or sit for the prayers*

On this night, we have heard how the world into which Jesus was born was ruled by a governor, emperor, and king. Yet this story reveals that you, O God, are the only true Sovereign – Almighty and Everlasting. We praise you for the peace you have promised. We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, who dwells among us full of grace and truth. Hear now our prayers that all people might find healing, comfort and joy.

We pray for public officials and rulers. Give them wisdom in decisions, a will for the common good, and the courage to work for peace among all nations. **Shine upon them and give them peace.**

We pray for all who work and watch this night: for those in hospitals and positions of public service; for those serving the United States and the Commonwealth of Nations here and around the globe; for those in airports, trains, and bus stations; for those who work in shelters, hotels, and other places of hospitality. **Shine upon them and give them peace.**

We pray for all who suffer this night: those who are sick and those on our parish prayer list and those who have requested our prayers; those we name either silently or aloud _____; for those who are cold, lonely or grieving; for people who are hungry and thirsty. **Shine upon them and give them peace.**

We pray for families and friends; for those who are with us and those far away; for those who are traveling; for those who especially need your guidance in this season and for those in our memories who now dwell with you. **Shine upon them and give them peace.**

We pray, O God, with the multitude of the heavenly host, that through Jesus Christ your glory will lighten every darkness; that your peace will fill all in all. We pray that those who live in the midst of war may live without fear and destruction; and that all your creatures may be restored and renewed. **Shine upon them and give them peace.**

We pray for those who have died and those who mourn or struggle to celebrate this season of hope. We pray God will grant them the sure and certain knowledge we will one day be joined together in eternal life. **Shine upon them and give them peace.**

The Officiant concludes the prayers by saying

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. As we celebrate his birth, and wait in hope for his coming again, receive our prayers and the prayers of our hearts through the power of the Holy Spirit, in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand. The Officiant says to the people

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People

And also with you.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor unto the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Away in a Manger

Bob Chilcott

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The People standing, the Officiant says

Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
 Officiant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
 Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right and our joy, Creator God, to give you thanks and praise. For in the beginning you created the heavens and the earth. Out of darkness and chaos, you brought light and order. You have given life to every living thing and made us in your image, male and female. Even when we turned away from you, loving darkness rather than light, you did not turn away from us. You sent prophets to show us the way. And so you draw us to the company where your angels gather around your eternal throne, singing their hymn of unending praise.

Officiant and People sing together

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

S125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Blessed 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 people stand or sit, as the Officiant continues

In the fullness of time, you sent your Son to be Immanuel, God with us. At his birth, the night sky lit up with heavenly host and a guiding star. Shepherds and magi found their way to you. Women and children, tax collectors and lepers continued to find their way to you. The darkness of Gethsemane, the cross, and the grave could not overcome you; for you are the light of the world, shining still.

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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.

The Officiant and People say together

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

The Officiant continues

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. In this feast, make us one with you and with each other. Enflame us with your Spirit, that we may be united in ministry in every place. Send us, in your marvelous light, into the world, ready to serve others and work for peace. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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

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.

The Officiant breaks the consecrated bread

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is
 sac - ri - ficed for us; There-fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE INVITATION

The gifts of God for the people of God. Holy Gifts for Holy People.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All God's people are cordially invited to God's table, including children. Gluten-free wafers are available: please indicate to the priest that you require this alternative. We will be offering wine from the common cup to those who wish to receive in this manner. The chalice bearer will thoroughly wipe the space from which you drank prior to offering the cup to the next communicant.

Another alternative to receiving the wine from the common cup is through intinction. The priest will place the wafer in your hand; the chalice bearer will pick up the wafer, dip it into the wine, and replace it on your palm. No one is allowed to intinct with their own hand/fingers. This safe guards all who use the common cup. If you wish to receive communion in only one kind (bread), know that you have received full communion.

Those who are not baptized or those who do not wish to receive communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest. The ushers will guide you. If you are unable to come forward and wish to receive communion in your pew, please let one of the ushers know.

After you have received communion and returned to your seat, you are invited to silently offer the following prayer or another of your choosing to God. Remember that others are still receiving communion and your quietness will assist in this most holy experience.

Gracious God, by this sacrament you make us one family in Christ your Son, one in the sharing of his body and blood, one in the communion of his Spirit. Help us grow in love for one another and come to the full maturity of the body of Christ. We ask this in his name. Amen.

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant and People say together:

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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT

HYMN 111

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

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.**

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

DISMISSAL

Officiant
People

Go into the night, glorifying and praising God for all you have seen and heard.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Remus Webb and Dan Reasoner, trumpet
 O Come All Ye Faithful and Angels We Have Heard on High – arr. Jeff Kressler

Assisting in this evening's service, December 24, 2023 7:30pm

Crucifer	Greg Wortley
SubDeacon	Amy Wortley
Lector	Jamal Dillman-Hasso
Prayers of the People	Margaret Schulte
Chalice Bearers	Amy Wortley, Greg Wortley
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Debbie Parks (chair), Katie Alexander, Carol Thomas
Ushers	Melissa Blood, Joe Lehning, Justin Alexander, David Parks, Debbie Parks, Michael Hart, Mark Rudd
Greeters	Carol Thomas

Musical selections licensed through Rite Song.

Assisting Monday, Christmas Day, December 25, 2023 10:00am

Crucifer	Barb Heany
Lector	Barb Heany
Prayers of the People	Barb Heany
Chalice Bearers	Barb Heany
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Bobbi Tisdale (chair), Marilyn Earley Steven Kandow, Maria Wawro
Ushers	John Hawkins

Assisting next Sunday, December 31, 2023

Crucifer	Debbie Parks
SubDeacon	Jack Baker
Lector	Debbie Parks
Prayers of the People	Sue Le Duc
Chalice Bearers	Jim Milne, Theresa Milne
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Melissa Blood (chair), Diane Clark, Marti Narezo
Ushers	Joe Lehning, Michael Hart, Mark Rudd
Vestry Person of the Day	Martha Seaman McKee
Recycling Team	Jane Bryce

Opportunities for Prayer
December 24, 2023

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Joanne, Mike, Pat, Ray, Melissa, Tom, Pam, Marion, Sebastian, Ron, Rose, Allan, Patrice, Hannah, and Kate. **Due to privacy concerns, we will now be posting first names only on our prayer list.*

We pray this week for the following St. Paul's members: Janet Alleman Trumbull and A.J., Hillary, Violet & Clover Walilko.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: Ele's Place, 1145 W Oakland Ave, Lansing MI 48915.

We pray for our downtown church community: Cathedral Church of St. Mary; Central United Methodist Church; Christ Community Church; and First Presbyterian Church.

We pray for our worshipping communities: St. John's, Detroit; and St. Paul the Apostle, Jimani, DR.

We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Episcopal Church in the Phillippines.

We pray for: Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael B. Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Bonnie A. Perry, our bishop; Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P. Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A. Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod; our retired bishop, Wendell Gibbs; Karen C. Lewis, our rector; Donna, our associate for liturgy and pastoral care; Dick Hamlin, our priest associate; our worship ministers, St. Paul's staff and our diocesan household.

**Announcements for the Week of
December 24, 2023 - December 31, 2023**

Flat St. Nicholas is Back! Grab your Flat St Nicholas in the Merrifield Room, decorate him and take him with you to interesting places. This is a great way to stay connected during the Christmas weeks ahead. Send pictures to bheany@gmail.com. Pictures will be posted on a board and displayed for all to see. Oh, the places he will go!

Mission & Outreach: We continue to collect canned vegetables and toilet paper for First Presbyterian's Pantry and gently used clothes for Fretail. All the generous contributions have been greatly appreciated. Let's continue to support them during the holidays. Also, Punks With Lunch could use blankets and bath towels. If you have some in your linen closet that are no longer used, please consider bringing them. You can place them in the shopping cart. Also, blankets and towels are on sale all over town. St. Paul's has supported Punks With Lunch for a few years now, working together to provide food and necessary items to our homeless community. Thank you!

Coffee Hour sign up: We need two family units per week to bring treats, serve & provide cleanup for coffee hour following the 10:00am services. There are signup sheets in the Merrifield Room. Sign up with a friend or extended family. If no one signs up, we will not have coffee hour.

Reminder: Please schedule all meetings with the office in advance. We want to assure you that there is a space for you to meet and that someone will be available to open the building. Please notify the office if you have a **cancellation** to ensure building and staff security.

Blessing Box: Sign up in the Merrifield Room to fill the Blessing Box for a week.

Recycle ink cartridges: Bring your used ink cartridges into the parish office for recycling and help reduce our paper costs. We get discounts on office supplies and paper through the Staples recycling program.

Bulletin: Please submit information by noon on Tuesday, in writing or by e-mail, to office@stpaulslansing.org to ensure accuracy.

Here at St. Paul's - We Recycle: We are re-vamping our recycling process. We have new recycling bins in the Hill Room. Please sign up in the Merrifield Room to take some of the recycling either to your home bin or to a recycling drop off center. See one of the Milnes or Borons for more information.

Since 2018 St. Paul's has been using compostable plates, cups, and cutlery for coffee hour and meals. The cups and cutlery we use are made of cornstarch! On those occasions when we can't use compostable materials, we have a separate collection bin for rinsed plastic to be recycled. Please feel free to use these supplies when you host coffee hour or any event with food. We are committed to reduce, reuse, and recycle at St. Paul's.

Please sign up to be a Greeter: One of the faith outreaches we have at St. Paul's is the Sunday morning greeters. We can extend our faith by welcoming our fellow parishioners and visitors each week. Remember that you are the first face they will see as they enter the church. A welcoming hand and face always lift our spirit, what a way to start a day and you play an important part in that.

- **Signup sheets are in the Merrifield Room** – Need two greeters at the back door.
- Be at the back door 20 minutes before the service.
- Greeters should remind parishioners to pick up their nametags and ask visitors to fill out the guest book located in the cloister outside the chapel and to join the parish after the service for coffee and fellowship in the Merrifield Room.

The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem: In response to the recent attack on Israeli border towns and communities, the Israel Defense Forces initiated a full-scale military assault on the besieged and densely populated Gaza Strip. The war has already killed hundreds of Palestinians and Israelis, and peace looks hopelessly distant. In response to the war and to severe shortages of medical aid, the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, run by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, issued an urgent call for donations. The hospital's director, Suhailia Tarazi, has said that "The situation is severely critical, and the consequences for people in Gaza are very bad, particularly in the health sector. ... Life in Gaza is paralyzed, with all institutions and private sectors closed, affecting the people's access to basic needs, particularly health." The Episcopal Church, through the Episcopal News Service, has requested that donations are sent to the Al-Ahli Hospital through the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, to allow the hospital to keep providing life-saving work to the people of the Gaza Strip. The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem is a registered 501(c)3 in the state of Connecticut, and donations to the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital made through their website are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. You can donate through this URL: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/neforfor/restriction/Ahli+Arab+Hospital++Gaza>
Please feel free to ask Karen+ if you would like more information.

Altar flower requests: There are openings for the upcoming Sundays for altar flower dedications. Flowers are always given to the glory of God, and then in honor of, or in thanksgiving for a person or occasion. Dedications and **\$120** payment must be received in the church office no later than the Monday before the date of the dedication. **More than one dedication can be made if you and a friend want to share the cost of the flowers. If we don't have \$120 (\$60 for the summer) per week for flowers, there will be no flowers.** Altar Flower forms available on the sign-up table, or you can email your dedication to office@stpaulslansing.org.

St. Paul's Christmas Season Services

December 25, Christmas Day: 10am – Worship & Holy Communion

December 31, New Years Eve: 10am – Worship & Holy Communion

January 7, Baptism of Jesus: 10am – Epiphany Lessons & Carols & Antecomunion

AdventWord

DECEMBER 3-25

2023

AdventWord is a free inspirational online Advent calendar featuring a daily prompt word selected from the Sunday Lectionary readings. Followers receive a daily meditation and image inspired by the day's word, and are invited to share their own personal reflections, art, poetry, or other creative expression.

As we await the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we invite you to find daily moments of reflection to help you stay connected to your faith, to others, and to God.

3 WIND	4 HIDDEN	5 PRESENCE	6 PEACE	7 GRACE	8 WATCH	9 AWAKE
10 GLORY	11 HERALD	12 VALLEY	13 TRUTH	14 PATIENCE	15 HASTEN	16 BEGIN
17 SPIRIT	18 REPAIR	19 GIVE	20 DREAM	21 LAUGHTER	22 QUENCH	23 PONDER
24 COVENANT	25 LIGHT	<p>Join our community of prayer this Advent season. Sign up for email updates and daily meditations at AdventWord.org</p>  <p><small>Scan with your smartphone camera to be taken to adventword.org</small></p>				



AdventWord is an offering of Forward Movement, a ministry of the Episcopal Church. Find more inspiration and opportunities for spiritual growth at forwardmovement.org.

<p>This Week at St. Paul's December 24, 2023 - December 31, 2023</p>

Sunday, 12/24:	10:00am 6:15pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Advent IV/Christmas Eve Advent IV Worship & Holy Communion Choir Rehearsal Pre-Service Music Christmas Eve Worship & Holy Communion
Monday 12/25:	10:00am	Christmas Day Donna McNiel Sabbatical Worship & Holy Communion Office Closed
Tuesday, 12/26:		Donna McNiel Sabbatical Office Closed
Wednesday, 12/27:		Donna McNiel Sabbatical Office Closed
Thursday, 12/28:		Donna McNiel Sabbatical Office Closed
Friday, 12/29:		Donna McNiel Sabbatical Office Closed
Saturday, 12/30:		Donna McNiel Sabbatical
Sunday, 12/31:	10:00am	Karen Lewis Away Donna McNiel Sabbatical Worship & Holy Communion