



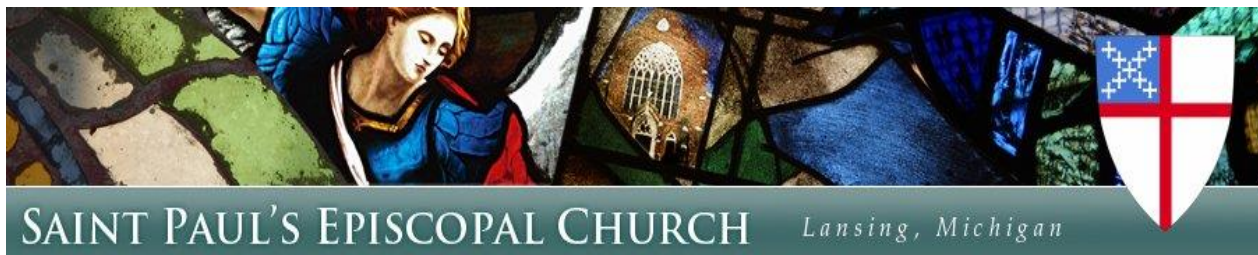
## **"Our Welcome"**

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.

**First Sunday of Advent - December 3, 2023**  
**Holy Eucharist 10:00am**

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

218 W. Ottawa St. Lansing, MI 48933  
[www.stpaulslansing.org](http://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 McNiell, 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; Peter Kressler; 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](mailto:office@stpaulslansing.org)

**Visit our website:** [www.stpaulslansing.org](http://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](mailto: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.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOLY COMMUNION  
DECEMBER 3, 2023

PRELUDE

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Wayne W. Wold

*The people gather in silence as they wait patiently with expectation for the coming of our Lord.*

INTROIT

*Wait for the Lord*

(Taizé)

Lento (♩ = 48)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*Officiant*

Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

*People*

**Go through the gates, build up the highway,**

*Officiant*

Clear it of stones, remove any obstacles.

*People*

**Prepare the way of the Lord.**

*Officiant*

Come, let us journey to the Bethlehem manger.

*People*

**Hear of God's promises, witness God's faithfulness.**

*Officiant*

Sing with Mary, rejoice with Elizabeth.

*People*

**Prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.**

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for our sal -  
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in dread - ful  
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion still his daz - zling  
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on thine e -

va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 ma - jes - ty; those who set at nought and sold him,  
 bo - dy bears, cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
 ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the power and glo - ry;

swell the tri - umph of his train: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 pierced, and nailed him to the tree, deep - ly wail - ing,  
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers; with what rap - ture,  
 claim the king - dom for thine own: Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.  
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: *St. Thomas*, melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. att. Vincent Francis Novello (1781-1861).

*The people standing, the Officiant says*

Officiant Blessed are you, holy and living One.  
 People **You come to your people and set them free.**

COLLECT FOR 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.**

*The people sing together*

KYRIE

S96

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord,  
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.  
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord,  
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.  
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

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

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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.**

*The people are invited to sit for the readings*

*Reader* A reading from the prophet 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.**

PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

- 1 Hear, O Shepard 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 LESSON

1 CORINTHIANS 1:3-9

*Reader* A reading from Paul’s first letter to the 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 HYMN

*Savior of the nations, come!*

HYMN 54

1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's  
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the  
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing  
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er

Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both  
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and  
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and  
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.  
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!  
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.  
 king - dom bc; grant that we its glo - rics see.

Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938). Svs. 3-4 Copyright © 1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616).

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MARK 13:24-37

*Then, all standing, the Gospel is read, first saying*

*Officiant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, “But 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.”

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

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Dr. Donna McNiel

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

At the beginning of this Advent season, let us offer our prayers to God, saying: Lord, have mercy.

That our gracious Savior may rouse us from sleep and make us attentive to the nearness of his presence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may discover God's word in every sound of this world, God's touch in every human embrace, and God's love in every gesture of self-sacrifice among us, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That divine energy and holy grace may bring our hearts to vigilance and make us see with uncovered eyes the Christ who suffers in his people's agonies, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That God's healing love may be among those who are suffering from loneliness, isolation, homelessness, hunger, oppression, war and violence, or any other illness; we pray especially for those in the Middle East and Ukraine, those who have asked our prayers and for those we now name either silently or aloud \_\_\_\_\_; we pray for those who have died and those who mourn, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That we may come to recognize in our holy congregation gathered for prayer here or online, that Jesus Christ is with us to make our songs of praise and pleading his own, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

That God's coming into the days and years of human history may be always new, always brimming with light to drive all darkness away, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

*The Officiant closes the prayers by saying*

Make ready our hearts for your coming, O Lord, and receive our prayers in the name of the one who comes, our gracious Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*The Officiant says*

Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept. Then the Officiant and people say together*

**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.**

*Officiant*        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 unto the Lord.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

arr. Evelyn R. Larter

1 Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 He comes with suc - cor speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,  
 4 Kings shall bow down be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;  
 5 O'er ev - ery foe vic - to - rious, he on his throne shall rest;

1 Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, his reign on earth be - gun!  
 2 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 3 and love, joy, hope, like flow - ers, spring in his path to birth;  
 4 all na - tions shall a - dore him, his praise all peo - ple sing;  
 5 from age to age more glo - rious, all bless - ing and all - blest:

1 He comes to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive free;  
 2 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to light,  
 3 be - fore him on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald, go;  
 4 to him shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows a - scend;  
 5 the tide of time shall nev - er his cov - e - nant re - move;

1 to take a - way trans - gres - sion, and rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 2 whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, were pre - cious in his sight.  
 3 and right - eous - ness in foun - tains from hill to val - ley flow.  
 4 his king - dom still in - creas - ing, a king - dom with - out end.  
 5 his Name shall stand for ev - er, his change - less Name of Love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854); para. of Psalm 72. Music: *Es flog ein kleins Waldvögelein*, German folk song; adapt. and harm. *A Student's Hymnal*, 1923, after Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941).

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*The people standing, the Officiant says*

*People*           The Lord be with you  
**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 a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*The people sing together*

### SANCTUS

S130

The musical score for the Sanctus is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "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 -". The score consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "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 music features a mix of chords and melodic lines, with some notes held over from one measure to the next.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, whom you sent in the fullness of time to be a light to the nations. You scatter the proud and have mercy on those who fear you from generation to generation. You put down the mighty from their thrones and exalt those of low degree. You fill the hungry with good things, and the rich you send away empty.

Your own Son came among us as a servant, to be Emmanuel, your presence with us. He humbled himself in obedience to your will and freely accepted death on a cross. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

*The Officiant and People say together*

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

*The Officiant continues*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **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 FRACTION ANTHEM

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.

## THE INVITATION

*Officiant*      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.*

COMMUNION ANTHEM

*O Taste and See*

Anthony Doherty

## COMMUNION HYMN

*Now the silence*

HYMN 333

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty  
hands up - lift - ed Now the kneel - ing Now the plea  
Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come Now the hear - ing  
Now the power Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing  
Now the Bo - dy Now the Blood Now the joy - ful  
cel - e - bra - tion Now the wed - ding Now the songs  
Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing Now the Spi - rit's  
vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - an - y  
Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (b. 1919). Music: *Now*, Carl Flentge Schalk (b. 1929). Words and Music: Copyright © 1969, by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*The 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.**

## ST. NICHOLAS' DAY BLESSING OF CANDY CANES

Good St. Nicholas, we honor you on this your holy feast day. We rejoice that you are the patron saint and the holy symbol of joy for many peoples of many lands.

Come, great-hearted saint, and be our patron and companion as we, once again, prepare our homes and hearts for the great feast of Christmas, the birth of the Eternal Blessing, Jesus Christ. May these sweets, these candy canes, be a sign of Advent joy for us. May these candy canes, shaped just like your Bishop's staff, be for us a sign of your benevolent care.



We rejoice that you are the holy bringer of gifts and that so many have been delighted through your great generosity. Help us to be as generous of heart. Wherever these candy canes are hung, on tree or wall or door, may they carry with them the bright blessing of God. May all who taste them experience the joy of God upon their tongues and in their hearts.

We ask God, now, to bless these your brightly striped sweets in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

#### ST. NICHOLAS LITANY

**C** St. Nicholas, holy patron of children, Bishop of the East,

**P** **be among us these next few weeks and grant us your holy blessing.**

**C** Help us in this busy, busy season not to miss the miracle of the coming of Emmanuel in the days of preparation, as well as on the feast itself.

**P** **Help us not to be blind to the gifts of getting ready.**

**C** Protect us from insincerity. May every greeting we send be signed with love, friendship, and prayer.

**P** **May our greetings, so written, be fun to open and treasures to keep.**

**C** Kind St. Nicholas, protect us from shopper's fatigue. Show us how to take delight in the marketplace, now transformed in beauty, lights and music.

**P** **Save us all from anxiety over what to give so that we may concentrate on *how* to give.**

**C** Stand by the stepladder as we decorate our homes and trees and lives. May our decorations not be mute but rather singing symbols, sacred signs of the evergreen coming of the Lord of Life.

**P** **Help us to remember that mistletoe, holly and all other ornaments of the season, were sacred signs to ancient believers.**

**C** But, most of all, jolly saint of toys and sweets, help us stay youthful, humorous, playful and dream-filled,

**P** **as we prepare together for the coming of Christ with Advent longing. St. Nicholas, pray for us. Amen.**

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### BLESSING

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

*The King shall come*

HYMN 73

1 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and  
 2 Not, as of old, a lit - tle child, to  
 3 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and  
 4 and let the end - less bliss be - gin, by  
 5 The King shall come when morn - ing dawns and

1 light tri - um - phant breaks; when beau - ty gilds the  
 2 bear, and fight, and die, but crowned with glo - ry  
 3 earth's dark night is past; O haste the ris - ing  
 4 wear - y saints fore - told, when right shall tri - umph  
 5 light and beau - ty brings: Hail, Christ the Lord! Thy

1 east - ern hills and life to joy a - wakes.  
 2 like the sun that lights the morn - ing sky.  
 3 of that morn, the day that e'er shall last;  
 4 o - ver wrong, and truth shall be ex - tolled.  
 5 peo - ple pray, come quick - ly, King of kings.

Words: Greek; tr. John Brownlie (1859-1925), alt. Music: *St. Stephen*, William Jones (1726-1800), alt.

DISMISSAL

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

Johann Gottfried Walther

**Assisting in today's service, December 3, 2023**

Crucifer	Marti Narezo
SubDeacon	Jack Baker
Lector	Jane Bryce
Prayers of the People	Nancy Rudd
Chalice Bearers	Leslie Hall, Greg Wortley
Counters	Katie Alexander, Greg Wortley
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Melissa Blood (chair), Diane Clark, Marti Narezo
Ushers	Melissa Blood, Justin Alexander, David Parks, Debbie Parks
Coffee Hour	Maria Wawro
Greeters	Drew Douglass, Carol Thomas
Sunday School Mentors	Isaac Francisco, Susan Henderson
Vestry Person of the Day	Leslie Hall

Musical selections licensed through Rite Song.

**Assisting next Sunday, December 10, 2023**

Crucifer	Debbie Parks
SubDeacon	Jamal Dillman-Hasso
Lector	Larry Clark
Prayers of the People	Jen Humphries
Chalice Bearers	Jen Humphries, Theresa Milne
Counters	Martha McKee, Margaret Schulte
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Sue Le Duc (chair), Jane Bryce, Nancy Merriman, Theresa Milne
Ushers	Joe Lehning, Michael Hart, Mark Rudd
Coffee Hour	Jack Baker, Sue Le Duc
Greeters	Joe Lehning
Sunday School Mentors	Carol Thomas, Gary Ashby
Vestry Person of the Day	Bob Merriman

**Opportunities for Prayer**  
**December 3, 2023**

**We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers:** Joanne, Mike, Pat, Ray, Melissa, Tom, Nancy, 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:** Cathryn Stachwick, and Jeanne Stout.

**We pray this week for the following community service agency:** Sleep in Heavenly Peace, 711 E Willoughby Rd, Lansing MI 48911.

**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 worshiping communities:** St. Michael's, Grosse Pointe Woods; Holy Family, Santo Domingo, DR; and St. Clare of Assisi, Ann Arbor.

**We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer:** Pray for The United Church of North India.

**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 3, 2023 – December 10, 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](mailto:bheany@gmail.com). Pictures will be posted on a board and displayed for all to see. Oh, the places he will go!

**Advent Study w/Canon Hamlin:** We will look at some of the symbols and traditions of the Christmas cycle: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The observances have developed over many centuries and continue to evolve. Some of what we take for granted has long been part of the religious and cultural observance of these seasons; some is surprisingly recent. The focus for our three sessions will be:

December 5 *Advent and Angels*

December 12 *Who was at the creche? And when?*

December 19 *Do you really want an old-fashioned Christmas?*

Be sure to sign-up in the Merrifield room. We need to know how many for dinner, but also how many handouts to prepare. Dinner (\$9) at 6pm & Class at 6:30pm.

**Noisy Offering for October-December:** The Noisy Offering recipient for the months of October-December will be going to support Episcopal Relief & Development for the Hawaii Fire Response in the wake of the wildfires that devastated hundreds of families on Maui. Please give generously as you are able.

**Mission & Outreach:** Thank you to the folks who helped with Christmas shopping for two Samaritas kids. Samaritas makes sure no refugee child goes without a Christmas gift.

Please remember to drop off used clothing for Fretail and toilet paper, canned vegetables and soup for the First Presbyterian Food Pantry. Together we can share our blessings and support our community. Thank you everyone for your generosity.

**Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas:** We will decorate the sanctuary on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> following the service. Lunch will be provided for those on the decorating crew. Please sign up.

**Eucharistic Visitor Training:** Eucharistic Visitors are licensed parishioners who take communion to those who cannot come to church and visit those who are sick. In Matthew 25:6 Jesus says when we visit those who are sick it is as if we are visiting him. One of our privileges in the Body of Christ is visiting one another when we need support. It is a simple but important ministry and only takes an hour or two a month. We will offer training for Eucharistic Visitors **today at 11:30am** for anyone who is interested. If you have questions, call or email Donna+ at [canterburysu@gmail.com](mailto:canterburysu@gmail.com) / 517-366-1342.

**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.

**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.

**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.

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

**Here at St. Paul's – We Recycle:** 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.

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

**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.

**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 signup table, or you can email your dedication to [office@stpaulslansing.org](mailto:office@stpaulslansing.org).

**Contributions Last Week:** For the week of November 26, 2023, St. Paul's received **\$8,727** in contributions as follows:

Pledge Income	<b>\$3,536</b>
NonPledge Income	<b>\$170</b>
PrePaid 2024 Pledge	<b>\$5,000</b>
Loose Offering	<b>\$21</b>

***St. Paul's Advent & Christmas Season Services***

*December 3, Advent I/St. Nicholas Sunday: 10am – Worship & Holy Communion*  
*December 10, Advent II: 10am – Worship & Holy Communion*  
*December 17, Advent III: 10am – Worship & Holy Communion*  
*December 24, Advent IV: 10am – Worship & Holy Communion*  
*December 24, Christmas Eve: 7:00pm – Christmas Music*  
*December 24, Christmas Eve: 7:30pm - Festal Christmas Eve Service*  
*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 & Antecommunion*

# 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><b>Join our community of prayer this Advent season. Sign up for email updates and daily meditations at <a href="https://AdventWord.org">AdventWord.org</a></b></p>					

Scan with your smartphone camera to be taken to [adventword.org](https://adventword.org)



AdventWord is an offering of Forward Movement, a ministry of the Episcopal Church. Find more inspiration and opportunities for spiritual growth at [forwardmovement.org](https://forwardmovement.org).



<p><b>This Week at St. Paul's</b>  <b>December 3, 2023 - December 10, 2023</b></p>
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Sunday, 12/3:		Advent I/St. Nicholas Sunday
		Noisy Offering
	9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary
	11:15am	Coffee Hour
	11:30am	Eucharistic Visitor Training w/Donna+
	2pm-6pm	Capital City Music Collective
Monday 12/4:	2:30pm	Staff Meeting
	5:30pm	Investment Committee Meeting - Van Atta Room
Tuesday, 12/5:	6:00pm	Advent Study w/Canon Hamlin: Dinner @ 6pm w/Class at 6:30pm
Wednesday, 12/6:	12:00pm	Noon Book Study (The Radium Girls) - Zoom
	7:00pm	Bible Study - Zoom
Thursday, 12/7:	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Justice League Meeting w/Sister Vee - Zoom
Friday, 12/8:		Office Closed
Saturday, 12/9:		
Sunday, 12/10:		Advent II
	9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary
	11:15am	Coffee Hour

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**CHRISTMAS FLOWER FUND**

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*This contribution is from:* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory of:* \_\_\_\_\_

**OR**

*In grateful Thanksgiving for:* \_\_\_\_\_



*Please make checks payable to St. Paul's Episcopal Church and write "Flower Fund" in the memo line. Checks and this form can be placed in the collection plate, mailed to the church office at 218 W. Ottawa, Lansing 48933, or placed in the Parish mailbox outside of the Parish office. (Deadline: Monday, December 18, 2023)*