

The Beginning of The Gospel of Christ

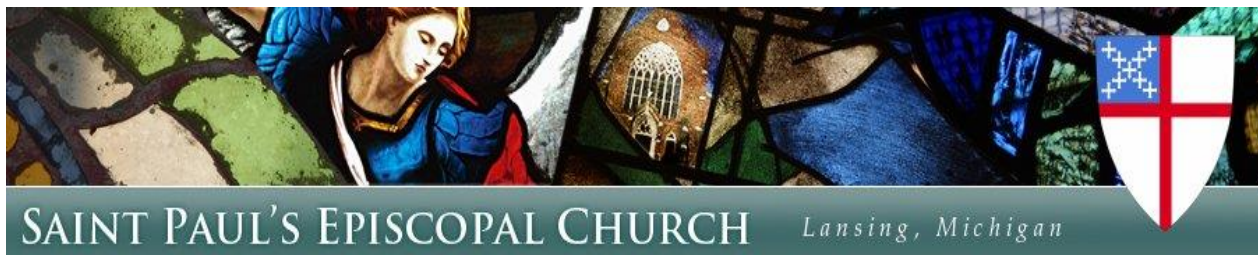
“Our Welcome”

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.

Second Sunday of Advent – December 10, 2023
Holy Eucharist 10:00am

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 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

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 10, 2023

PRELUDE

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

Robert Lau

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.

OPENING HYMN

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

HYMN 59

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing: "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
2 Wak-ened by the sol-lemn warn-ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
3 Lo! the Lamb, so long ex-pect-ed, comes with par-don down from heaven;
4 so when next he comes with glo-ry, and the world is wrapped in fear,
5 Hon-or, glo-ry, might, and bless-ing to the Fa-ther and the Son,

1 "Cast a-way the works of dark-ness, O ye child-ren of the day."
2 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis-pel-ling, shines up-on the morn-ing skies.
3 let us haste, with tears of sor-row, one and all to be for-given;
4 may he with his mer-cy shield us, and with words of love draw near.
5 with the ev-er-last-ing Spi-rit while un-end-ing a-ges run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1935).

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

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; 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

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord,*
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people*
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,*
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together,*
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth,*
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,*
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him,*
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

SECOND LESSON

2 PETER 3:8-15a

Reader A reading from the second letter of Peter

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness oncce more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

MARK 1:1-8

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.**

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

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

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

In joy at the nearness of the Christ, let us offer our prayers to God.

May the power of God's holy presence clear a path through the rubble of broken lives and hearts to make our world and all of us a new creation. For this let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

May our gracious God be always for us a shepherd to console and comfort us, to nourish all our deep hungers, and to make us live in peace forever. For this let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.

May we come to find in the desert of our lives the gift of forgiveness and the waters of a new Jordan that bring cleansing refreshment. For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the God of John the Baptist continue to raise up holy prophets in our midst who will tell the good news of saving rescue for all people. We pray especially for Michael our presiding bishop and Bonnie our bishop. For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the God who is our comfort hear the cries of all in need especially those who are hungry or homeless; those who are lonely or isolated; those who are forgotten or belittled, those who are refugees or immigrants; those battling illness and those who care for them; those on our parish prayer list and those we now name either silently or aloud _____ . For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the God who is our creator, grant rest to those who have died especially Nancy Sheldon and Richard Engle. For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

May the God who is our future in the gift of Jesus Christ hold us always in the embrace of faithful love and bring us to new heavens and a new earth. For this let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

The Officiant closes the prayers by saying

Recall us to our baptism, O Lord, and hear our cries for ourselves and for the whole world, for we pray in the name of the one who came, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

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 *There's a Voice in the Wilderness* arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Chris Wheeler, Oboe

OFFERTORY HYMN *Comfort, comfort ye my people* HYMN 67
The people stand to sing

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus
 2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert
 3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er

saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness
 far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance
 pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,

mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -
 since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing
 as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry

ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er,
 let the val - leys rise to meet him
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken

and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 and the hills bow down to greet him.
 that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*.

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. 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

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.

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 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.

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 *What Shall I Render to the Lord*

William Knapp

1 And now, O Fa - ther, mind - ful of the love that
 2 Look Fa - ther, look on his a - noint - ed face, and
 *3 And then for those, our dear - est and our best, by
 *4 And so we come; O draw us to thy feet, most

bought us, once for all, on Cal - vary's tree, and hav - ing with us
 on - ly look on us as found in him; look not on our mis -
 this pre - vail - ing pres - ence we ap - peal; O fold them clos - er
 pa - tient Sa - vior, who canst love us still! And by this food, so

him that pleads a - bove, we here pre - sent, we here spread
 us - ings of thy grace, our prayer so lan - guid, and our
 to thy mer - cy's breast! O do thine ut - most for their
 awe - some and so sweet, de - liv - er us from ev - ery

forth to thee, that on - ly of - fering per - fect in thine
 faith so dim: for lo! be - tween our sins and their re -
 soul's true weal! From taint - ing mis - chief keep them pure and
 touch of ill: in thine own ser - vice make us glad and

eyes, the one true, pure, im - mor - tal sac - ri - fice.
 ward, we set the pas - sion of thy Son our Lord.
 clear, and crown thy gifts with strength to per - se - vere.
 free, and grant us nev - er - more to part from thee.

Words: William Bright (1824-1901), alt. Music: *Unde et memores*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

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.

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

Blest be the King whose coming

HYMN 74

1 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
2 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
3 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of
4 Blest be the King whose com - ing is in the name of

God! For him let doors be o - pened, no hearts a - gainst him
God! By those who tru - ly lis - ten his voice is tru - ly
God! He on - ly to the hum - ble re - veals the face of
God! He of - fers to the bur - dened the rest and grace they

barred! Not robed in roy - al splen - dor, in
heard; pi - ty the proud and haugh - ty, who
God. All power is his, all glo - ry! All
need. Gen - tle is he and hum - ble! And

power and pomp, comes he; but clad as are the
 have not learned to heed the Christ who is the
 things are in his hand, all a - ges and all
 light his yoke shall be, for he would have us

poor - est, such his hu - mil - i - ty!
 Prom - ise, who has a - tone - ment made.
 peo - ples, till time it - self shall end!
 bear it so he can make us free!

Words: Federico J. Pagura (b. 1923); tr. Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000), alt. Copyright © 1974, by Hope Publishing company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Harmonization Copyright © 1984, Ronald Arnatt. Music: *Valet will ich dir geben*, melody Melchior Teschner (1584-1635) alt.; harm. and desc. Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930).

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Veni Emmanuel

Noel Rawsthorne

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
 and in memory and in celebration of the life of Nancy Sheldon
 by her family.*

Assisting in today's service, 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	Sue Le Duc (chair), Jane Bryce,
Members for the Week	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

Musical selections licensed through Rite Song.

Assisting next Sunday, December 17, 2023

Crucifer	Amy Wortley
SubDeacon	Greg Wortley
Lector	John Nevin
Prayers of the People	Amanda Ross
Chalice Bearers	Justin Alexander, Lyn Zynda
Counters	Larry Clark, Leslie Hall
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Bobbi Tisdale (chair), Marilyn Earley Steven Kandow, Maria Wawro
Ushers	John Nevin, Jack Baker, Jamal Dillman-Hasso, Bob Merriman, Laurie Nevin
Coffee Hour	John & Christi Hawkins, Mark & Nancy Rudd
Greeters	Melissa Blood
Sunday School Mentors	Maria Wawro, Melissa Blood
Vestry Person of the Day	Steven Kandow

**Opportunities for Prayer
December 10, 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: Gloria Sutton, and Sherri Sutton.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: Tri-County Office on Aging, 5303 S Cedar St, 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. Thomas', Trenton; St. Paul & St. Luke, San Isidro, DR; and Christ Church, Detroit.

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

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 10, 2023 - December 17, 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!

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 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 children. 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.

WE NEED YOUR TIME AND ENERGY THE MORNING OF FRIDAY DECEMBER 15TH. Many hands make light work as we gather at 10:00am on the 15th to decorate the Merrifield Room for the Bishop's Christmas Open House that same evening. If you can give us an hour of your time that will be of great help!!!

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

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.

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.

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 to ensure accuracy.

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.

Contributions Last Week: For the week of December 3, 2023, St. Paul's received **\$4,062** in contributions as follows:

Pledge Income	\$2,436
NonPledge Income	\$1,575
ERD Book Sale	\$25
Loose Offering	\$26

St. Paul's Advent & Christmas Season Services

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>Join our community of prayer this Advent season. Sign up for email updates and daily meditations at AdventWord.org</p>					

Scan with your smartphone camera to be taken to 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.

This Week at St. Paul's December 10, 2023 - December 17, 2023
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<p>Sunday, 12/10:</p> <p>9:15am</p> <p>9:45am</p> <p>10:00am</p> <p>11:15am</p>	<p>Advent II</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Sunday School</p> <p>Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p>
<p>Monday 12/11:</p> <p>10:30am</p> <p>6:30pm</p>	<p>Kollar tuning pianos</p> <p>Mission & Outreach Meeting - Zoom</p>
<p>Tuesday, 12/12:</p> <p>6:00pm</p>	<p>Advent Study w/Canon Hamlin: Dinner @ 6pm w/Class at 6:30pm</p>
<p>Wednesday, 12/13:</p> <p>12:00pm</p> <p>7:00pm</p>	<p>Noon Book Study (The Radium Girls) - Zoom</p> <p>Bible Study - Zoom</p>
<p>Thursday, 12/14:</p> <p>6pm-8:30pm</p>	<p>No Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>LINCS Christmas Party - Merrifield Room</p>
<p>Friday, 12/15:</p> <p>10:00am</p> <p>5:30pm-7:30pm</p>	<p>Office Closed</p> <p>Decorate Merrifield Room</p> <p>Bishop Perry's Christmas Open House - Merrifield</p>
<p>Saturday, 12/16:</p>	
<p>Sunday, 12/17:</p> <p>9:00am</p> <p>9:45am</p> <p>10:00am</p> <p>11:00am</p> <p>11:15am</p> <p>11:30am</p>	<p>Advent III</p> <p>Donna McNeil Away</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>Sunday School</p> <p>Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary</p> <p>Decorate the Sanctuary</p> <p>Coffee Hour</p> <p>Lunch for Decorating Crew</p>

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)