

3rd Sunday of Advent

Gaudete



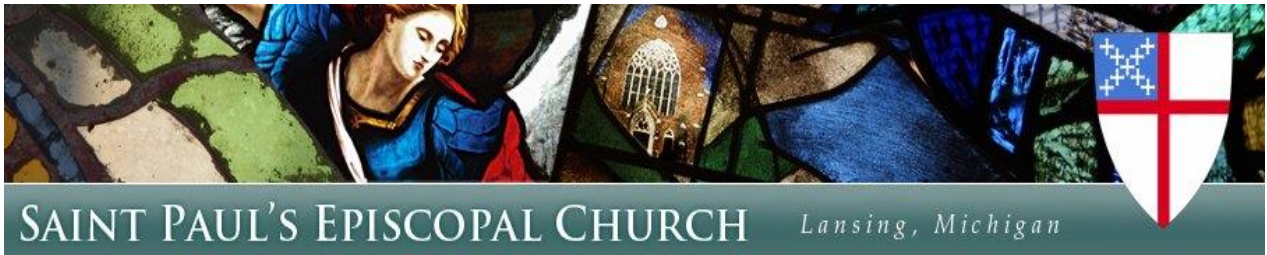
"Our Welcome"

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.

Third Sunday of Advent - December 17, 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 McNiel, 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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOLY COMMUNION

DECEMBER 17, 2023

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Michael Burkhardt

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.

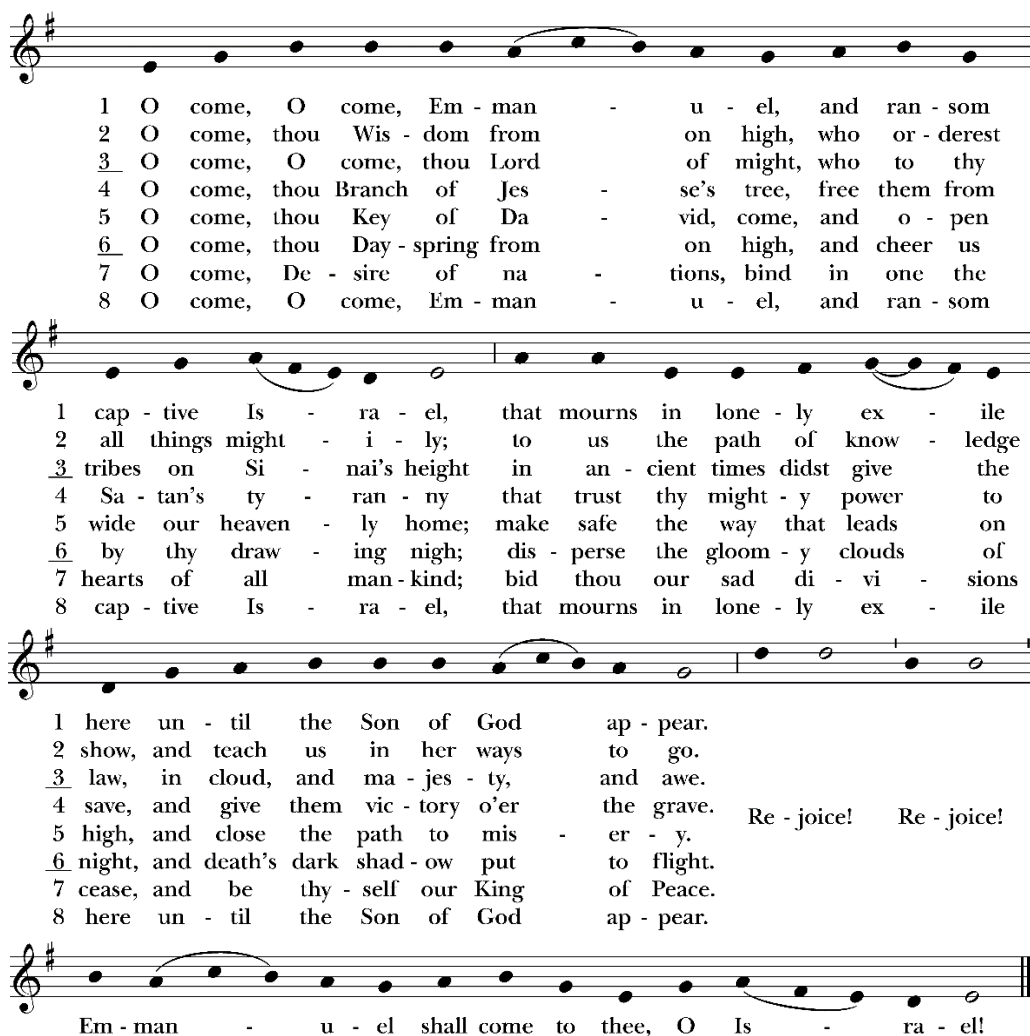
People

Prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

OPENING HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel

HYMN 56



1 O come, O come, Em-man - u - el, and ran - som
2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
8 O come, O come, Em-man - u - el, and ran - som

1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

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

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.
 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

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are invited to sit for the readings

FIRST LESSON

ISAIAH 61:1-4, 8-11

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion - to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

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

CANTICLE 15

438

1 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of the Lord!
 2 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his Name!
 3 Tell out, my soul, the great-ness of his might!
 4 Tell out, my soul, the glo-ries of his word!

Un - num - bered bless - ings give my spi - rit voice;
 Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
 Powers and do - min - ions lay their glo - ry by.
 Firm is his prom - ise, and his mer - cy sure.

ten - der to me the prom - ise of his word;
 his mer - cy sure, from age to age the same;
 Proud hearts and stub - born wills are put to flight,
 Tell out, my soul, the great - ness of the Lord

in God my Sa - vior shall my heart re - jice.
 his ho - ly Name— the Lord, the Might - y One.
 the hun - gry fed, the hum - ble lift - ed high.
 to chil - dren's chil - dren and for ev - er - more!

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (b. 1926); based on *The Song of Mary*. Copyright © 1962 by Hope Publishing Company Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Woodlands*, Walter Greatorex (1877-1949), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Reader A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

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.**

GRADUAL HYMN *O Day of peace that dimly shines* HYMN 597

Introduction



1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the



hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
 fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly



love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
 graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -



hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re -
 mics shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -



lease, till by God's grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's
 cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the

1 *Interlude*



prom - ised reign of peace.
 earth shall know the (Lord.)

Final Ending



Lord.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL. 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: *Jerusalem*, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848-1918) arr. Jane Wyatt (b. 1934). Copyright © 1916, 1944, 1977, Robertson Publications. Used by permission.

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

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

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

THE SERMON

The Rev. Karen C. Lewis

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

Holy God, you have spoken through your prophets and called us to make straight the way of the Lord: Visit us with your grace to cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations, as we pray: God has done great things for us, **and we are glad indeed.**

O God of peace, you have called your people to rejoice always and to pray without ceasing, giving thanks in all circumstances: Sanctify Michael our presiding bishop, Bonnie our Bishop, and all your Church members that our spirit and soul and body may be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has done great things for us, **and we are glad indeed.**

God of justice and mercy, you love justice and hate wrongdoing: Guide our leaders and all in authority that they may bring good news to the oppressed, bind up the brokenhearted, proclaim liberty to the captives, repair the ruined cities and cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all nations. God has done great things for us, **and we are glad indeed.**

God of Compassion, look upon the needs of the world: Proclaim the year of your favor, and clothe your children with the garments of salvation and the robe of righteousness. God has done great things for us, **and we are glad indeed.**

God of Grace, be among us in this community that we may be a people whom you have sanctified to testify to the light and to become oaks of righteousness. God has done great things for us, **and we are glad indeed.**

Receive our prayers for those who we pray in intercession especially those on our parish prayer list; the homeless and the hungry; the ill and the forgotten; victims of violence and war; and for all struggling with isolation, loneliness, or depression. God has done great things for us, **and we are glad indeed.**

Hear our gratitude as we offer our thanksgivings especially for our family and friends; for the St. Paul's community, for those who serve people in need, and for our men and women willing to serve in the armed forces. God has done great things for us, **and we are glad indeed.**

Comfort all who mourn, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit, as we remember before you those who have died. God has done great things for us, **and we are glad indeed.**

1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a —
 2 O ——— Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
 3 but the word of our God ——— en - du - reth, the ———

call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
 up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
 arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst — of

high - way, a high - way for our God! The —
 peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
 na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall

val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
 flowers of the field they — per - ish, like
 feed his ——— flock like a shep - herd, the

lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
 grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
 lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll

pla - ces where the Lord our — God — may go!
 na - tions shall — pass like a dream — a - way;
 lead them, and — bring them — safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988). Copyright © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people standing, the Officiant says

	The Lord be with you
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Officiant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Officiant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	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



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.

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 *Prelude on "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"* Charles Callahan

COMMUNION HYMN *Let all mortal flesh keep silence* HYMN 324

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with

trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
 on the way, as the Light of Light de -
 sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the

mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
 Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,

Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may va - nish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultric (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

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

People look East

HYMN 34VF

1 Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the
2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more
3 Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more
5 An - gels, an - nounce with shouts of mirth Christ who
crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
seed is plant - ed there: give up your strength the seed to
nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
light the bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
brings new life to earth. Set ev - ery peak and val - ley
a - ble, trim the hearth and set the ta - ble.
nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may flour - ish.
fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look
weath - er, bright as sun and moon to - geth - er.
hum - ming with the word, the Lord is com - ing.
East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965) © 1957 Harold Ober Associates, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
Music: *Besancon Carol*; harm. Gary Fitzgerald © Gary Fitzgerald. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

People Look East

arr. Lloyd Larson

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
By a gift from Sally Laurion.*

Assisting in today's service, December 17, 2023

Crucifer	Amy Wortley
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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

Musical selections licensed through Rite Song.

Assisting next Sunday, December 24, 2023 10:00am

Crucifer	Jim Milne
SubDeacon	Leslie Hall
Lector	Susan Kendall
Prayers of the People	Martha McKee
Chalice Bearers	Leslie Hall
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Debbie Parks (chair), Katie Alexander, Carol Thomas
Ushers	Larry Clark, Gary Ashby, Isaac Francisco, Steven Kandow, Hillary Walilko
Greeters	Carol Thomas
Vestry Person of the Day	Diane Clark

Assisting next Sunday, 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

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

Opportunities for Prayer December 17, 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: Herb Tanner & Stacey O’Toole, and Carol Thomas.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: Meals on Wheels, 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. Matthew’s & St. Joseph’s, Detroit; St. Bartholomew, San Cristobal, DR; and St. Mary the Virgin, Montillano, DR.

We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for The Anglican Church of Papua, New Guinea.

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 17, 2023 - December 24, 2023
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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 the last session will be:

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.

Decorate Sanctuary for Christmas: We will decorate the sanctuary following the service today! Lunch will be provided for those on the decorating crew.

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.

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: 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.

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 10, 2023, St. Paul's received **\$18,654** in contributions as follows:

Pledge Income	\$8,343
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NonPledge Income	\$2,850
Prepaid 2024 Pledge	\$7,000
Loose Offering	\$20
Noisy Offering	\$141
Memorial Restricted	\$300

St. Paul's Advent & Christmas Season Services

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.

<p>This Week at St. Paul's December 17, 2023 - December 24, 2023</p>

Sunday, 12/17:		Advent III Donna McNeil Away
	9:00am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:45am	Sunday School
	10:00am	Worship & Holy Communion
	11:00am	Decorate the Sanctuary
	11:15am	Coffee Hour
	11:30am	Lunch for Decorating Crew
Monday 12/18:	9:30am	Scott Smith tuning organ
	6:00pm	Vestry Dinner w/meeting @ 6:30pm - Hill Room
Tuesday, 12/19:	6:00pm	Advent Study w/Canon Hamlin: Dinner @ 6pm w/Class at 6:30pm
Wednesday, 12/20:	7:00pm	Bible Study - Zoom
Thursday, 12/21:	7:00pm	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, 12/22:		Office Closed
Saturday, 12/23:		Christmas Flower Delivery
Sunday, 12/24:		Advent IV/Christmas Eve
	9:15am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00am	Advent IV Worship & Holy Communion
	6:15pm	Choir Rehearsal
	7:00pm	Pre-Service Music
	7:30pm	Christmas Eve Worship & Holy Communion

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)

