



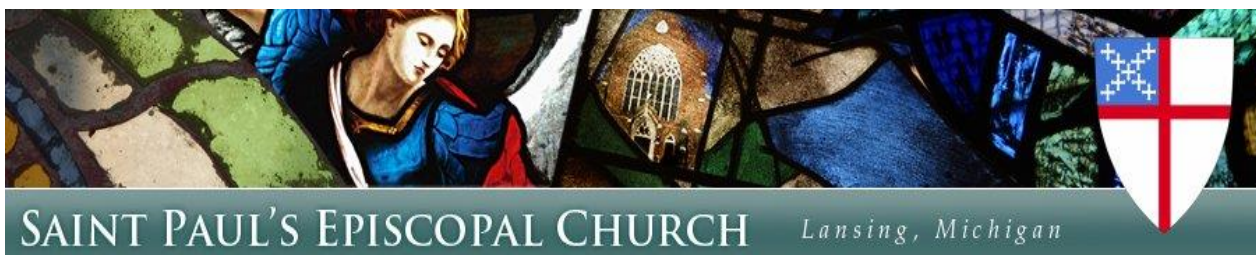
“Our Welcome”

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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 24, 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 McNeil, Associate for Liturgy and Pastoral Care; Ms. Stephanie Gewirtz, Minister of Music; Ms. Theresa Milne, Parish Administrator; Ms. Barbara Heany, Sunday School Director; Ms. Katie Alexander, Nursery Attendant; Mr. D'Kwon Guerrero, Sexton/Custodian; Mr. Conrad Moyer, A/V Technician.

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

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

Opportunities for Worship - Sundays: 10:00am

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

Closed on Fridays.

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

Visit our website: www.stpaulslansing.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 24, 2023

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Albin C. Whitworth

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

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 *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 be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

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

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 say together

KYRIE

S96

Officiant Lord have mercy.
People **Christ have mercy.**
Officiant Lord have mercy.

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

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people are invited to sit for the readings

FIRST LESSON

2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

Reader A reading from Samuel.

Now when (David) the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you." But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

- 1 Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing;*
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.
- 2 For I am persuaded that your love is established for ever;*
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.
- 3 "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;*
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your line for ever,*
and preserve your throne for all generations.'"
- 19 You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people:*
"I have set the crown upon a warrior
and have exalted one chosen out of the people.
- 20 I have found David my servant;*
with my holy oil have I anointed him.
- 21 My hand will hold him fast*
and my arm will make him strong.
- 22 No enemy shall deceive him,*
nor any wicked man bring him down.
- 23 I will crush his foes before him*
and strike down those who hate him.
- 24 My faithfulness and love shall be with him,*
and he shall be victorious through my Name.
- 25 I shall make his dominion extend*
from the Great Sea to the River.
- 26 He will say to me, "You are my Father,*
my God, and the rock of my salvation.

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 16:25-27

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say -

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

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

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

Mary, the mother of Christ, is a sign to the church of faithful obedience to the will of God. As we come to the commemoration of the birth of Christ, let us pray that we, like Mary, hear God's word and respond in obedient faith to the coming of Christ.

Let us pray for the church, especially Michael our presiding bishop, Bonnie our bishop, that every baptized member may manifest Christ in the world. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the leaders of government in every nation that they may have wisdom to choose what serves the common good. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for all who are in need, remembering all who are sick especially those on our parish prayer list and those we now name either silently or aloud _____; we also pray for the elderly, those who are alone, the immigrant and refugee, that we all may be strengthened by the presence of Christ as the sign of God's love. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those with whom we share our daily lives, our families, friends and neighbors, and those with whom we work and play, that we may all be strengthened and sustained by God's presence with us. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray in thanksgiving for those unexpected blessings that have graced our lives this week. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those who have died, that they may rest in peace. May we wait in hope for the promise of resurrection with them. O God, who is with us, **hear our prayer.**

The Officiant closes the prayers by saying

Hasten, O God, the coming of your kingdom. Come to us in Christ, that we who live by faith in this world may see our faith confirmed in the world to come, through our risen 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 *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* arr. Larry Shackley

OFFERTORY HYMN
The people stand to sing

Tell out my soul

HYMN 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 - joice.
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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The people standing, the Officiant says

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 say together

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

The Officiant breaks the consecrated bread

Officiant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrifice for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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 HYMN

Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness

HYMN 339

1 Deck thy - self, my soul, with glad - ness, leave the
2 Sun, who all my life dost bright - en; Light, who
3 Je - sus, Bread of Life, I pray thee, let me
gloom - y haunts of sad - ness, come in - to the day - light's
dost my soul en - light - en; Joy, the best that an - y
glad - ly here o - bey thee; nev - er to my hurt in -

splen - dor, there with joy thy prais - es ren - der
 know - eth; Fount, whence all my be - ing flow - eth;
 vit - ed, be thy love with love re - quit - ed;

un - to him whose grace un - bound - ed hath this
 at thy feet I cry, my Ma - ker, let me
 from this ban - quet let me mea - sure, Lord, how

won - drous ban - quet found - ed— high o'er all the heavens he
 be a fit par - ta - ker of this bless - ed food from
 vast and deep its trea - sure; through the gifts thou here dost

reign - eth, yet to dwell with thee he deign - eth.
 hea - ven, for our good, thy glo - ry, giv - en.
 give me, as thy guest in heaven re - ceive me.

Words: Johann Franck (1618-1677); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Schmücke dich*, melody Johann Crüger (1598-1662); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

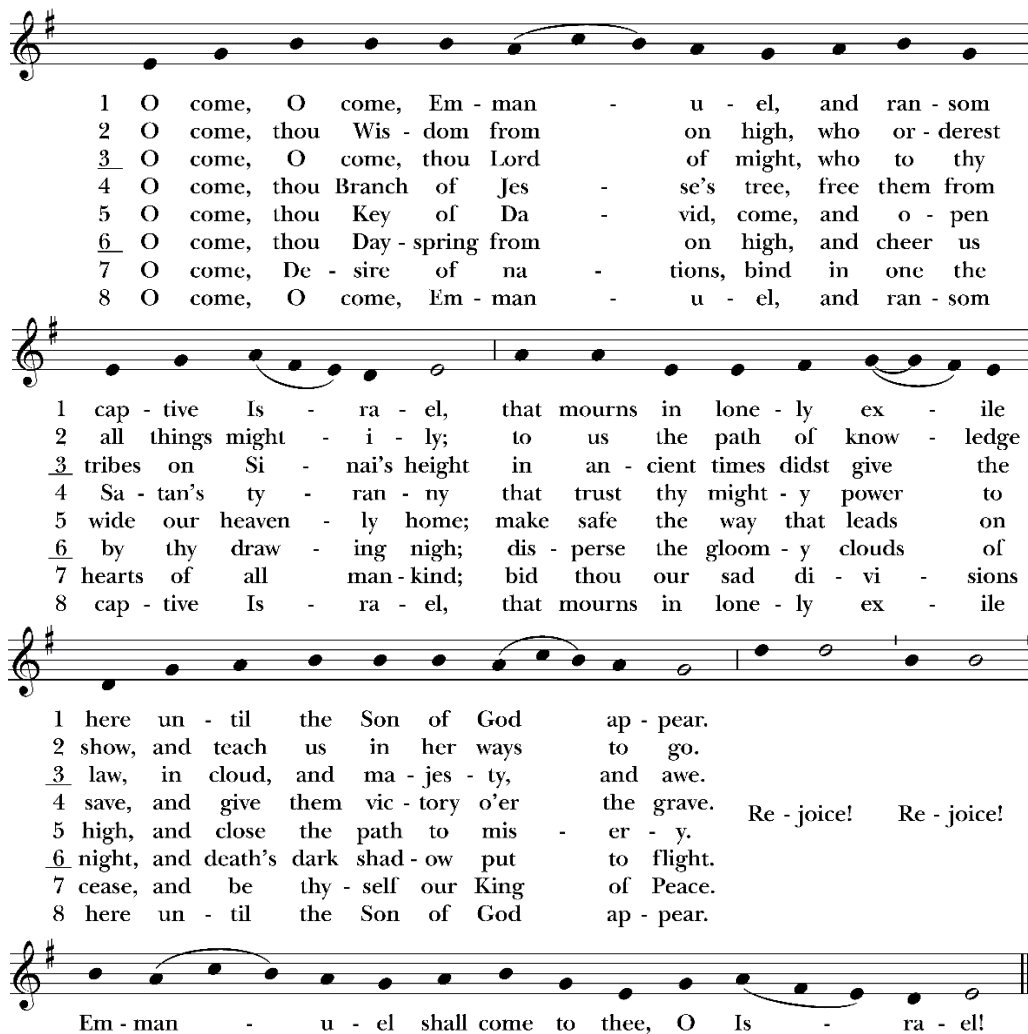
The Officiant and People say together:

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.**



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).

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel

Charles Callahan

Assisting in today's service, 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
Recycling Team	A.J & Hillary Walilko

Musical selections licensed through Rite Song.

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

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

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

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

Assisting next Sunday, December 31, 2023

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

<p>Opportunities for Prayer December 24, 2023</p>
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We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Joanne, Mike, Pat, Ray, Melissa, Tom, Pam, Marion, Sebastian, Ron, Rose, Allan, Patrice, Hannah, and Kate. **Due to privacy concerns, we will now be posting first names only on our prayer list.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/neforfor/restriction/Ahli+Arab+Hospital++Gaza>

Please feel free to ask Karen+ if you would like more information.

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

St. Paul's Advent & Christmas Season Services

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 & Antecomunion

AdventWord

DECEMBER 3-25

2023

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

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

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

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 24, 2023 - December 31, 2023</p>

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