

The Second Sunday of Advent

*Prepare the way of the Lord, make
straight his paths: all flesh shall see
the salvation of God. (Luke 3:4,6)*



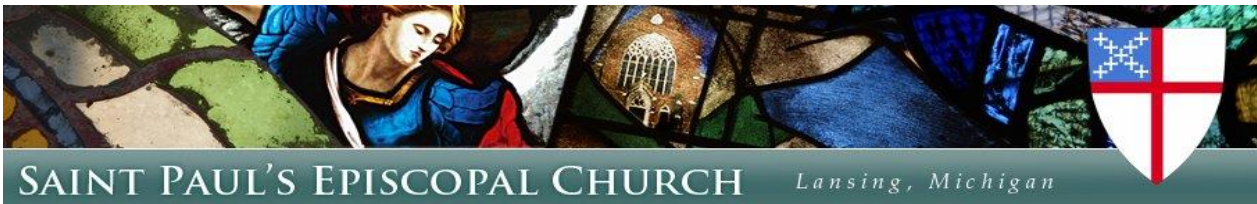
“Our Welcome”

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 8, 2024
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 Rev. Dr. Donna McNeil, Associate for Liturgy and Pastoral Care; The Very Rev. Gail Shafer, Priest Associate; 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: Steven Kandow, Sr. Warden; Jane Bryce, Jr. Warden; Larry Clark; Joshua Freeman; Leslie Hall; Bob Merriman; David Parks; Margaret Schulte; Bobbi Tisdale; AJ Walilko; 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.

The Nursery is open in the Music Wing near the Choir Room.

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.

Roosevelt Parking Ramp Hours of Access:

Monday-Thursday: 6:00pm – 9:00pm Gates/doors lock automatically at 9:01pm

Friday: Not Available Gates locked

Saturday & Sunday: 7:30am – 6:00pm Gates/doors lock automatically at 6:01pm

The ramp will be available on special occasions when requested by the churches in advance. Staff members (Karen, Stephanie, Theresa) will have access cards if your car is locked in the ramp after hours.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - HOLY COMMUNION
DECEMBER 8, 2024

PRELUDE

Veni Emmanuel

Philip Moore

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

INTROIT

Wait for the Lord

(Taizé)

Lento ($\text{♩} = 48$)

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

Officiant

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

People

Go through the gates, build up the highway,

Officiant

clear it of stones, remove any obstacles.

People

Prepare the way of the Lord.

Officiant

Come, let us journey to the Bethlehem manger.

People

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

Officiant

sing with Mary, rejoice with Elizabeth.

People

Prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

1 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 once 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 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, have mer - cy.

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

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)
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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

Reader A reading from Malachi

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight --- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sift as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
People Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE 16 THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH

1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el, who comes to set us free
2 With prom-ised mer-cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,
3 My child, as proph-et of the Lord, you will pre-prepare the way,

and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da-vid's tree.
the oath once sworn to A - bra-ham, from foes to save us all,
to tell God's peo-ple they are saved from sin's e - ter-nal sway.

So have the prophets long de-clared that with a might-y arm
that we might wor - ship with-out fear and of - fer lives of praise,
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease

God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.
in ho - li - ness and right-eousness to serve God all our days.
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians

I thank God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

Comfort, comfort, ye my people

HYMN 67

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*.

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 fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

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,

who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

**who 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

Wherever we are, in the wilderness, the countryside, or the city, God, you are there. That our hearts may be stirred up in thanksgiving for the life you have given us, let us pray.

For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us. Help us to protect and nurture your creation around us and ever proclaim its wonders. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For Sean our presiding bishop, Bonnie, our bishop, and the bishops of the Anglican church; for the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the church, the persons next to us in the pew, those in neighborhood churches, and those throughout the world. Let us give thanks for the web of friendship and trust that you give to those who are called the friends of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those in authority: Let us be thankful for our freedom to practice our faith. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations that they may make wise decisions especially for Joseph, our president, Donald, our president-elect and Gretchen our governor. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For this community in our joys and sorrows: Let us remember those who have gone before us, those who have sacrificed for us. Help us to look for what is below the obvious, and from this depth to reach out to others. Help us to know the joy that is mingled even with our utmost grief. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those at greatest risk among us: let us pray for those lonely, rejected, or oppressed; for the sick; for those living in areas of violence and war; for those on our parish prayer list and for those we now name either silently or aloud _____. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The Officiant closes the prayers by saying

Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place, and as you prepare the way, making every valley filled and every mountain brought low in blessing and adoration, until all may know the compassion of Christ Jesus, our Savior and Lord, in whose name we pray. **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

God of all mercy,
 we confess that we have sinned against you,
 opposing your will in our lives.
 We have denied your goodness in each other,
 in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
 We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
 the evil we have done,
 and the evil done on our behalf.
 Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
 through our Savior Jesus Christ,
 that we may abide in your love
 and serve only your will. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of 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

Prepare the Way of the Lord

William Rowan

OFFERTORY 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 Moultrie (1829-1885). Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906.

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.

How can we thank you, O God? For sun and moon and stars, for breath and life and all things good, for your steadfast promise and your faithful love, for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made new. With saints, with angels, and with the whole creation, we join the ancient and eternal 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.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications Inc

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living Word, to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to feed the hungry, to humble the mighty, and to announce the good news of your coming realm. With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles. He said to them, I will not eat this Passover again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

Then Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper, he took a cup, gave it to them, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. Drink this in remembrance of me. I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ's dying and rising, and praying: Come Lord Jesus!

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 – this bread, this cup, these people -- Christ’s body and blood, given in love for the world. Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church, and one with Christ our Lord. Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people, serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone. Keep us in the peace of Christ until you gather us at your table in glory. Even now, a voice is crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord!

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE 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.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications

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. Please do not instinct (dip) with their own hand/fingers. This safe guards all who use the common cup. If you wish to receive communion in only one kind (bread), know that you have received full communion.

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

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

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

COMMUNION ANTHEM

O Sacred and Holy Feast

Remondi ed./trans. Flynn

COMMUNION HYMN

For the bread which you have broken

HYMN 341

1 For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
2 By this pledge, Lord, that you love us, by your
3 As our bless - ed ones a - dore you, seat - ed
4 In your ser - vice, Lord, de - fend us; in our

wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
gift of peace re - stored, by your call to heaven a -
at our Fa - ther's board, may the Church still wait - ing
hearts keep watch and ward, in the world to which you

spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
send us let your king - dom come, O Lord.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

ST. NICHOLAS' DAY BLESSING OF CANDY CANES

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

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

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

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

ST. NICHOLAS LITANY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

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

CLOSING HYMN

Rejoice, rejoice, believers

HYMN 68

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;
3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

Words: Laurentius Laurenti (1660-1722); tr. Sarah B. Findlater (1823-1907), alt. Music: *Llangloffan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thonau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865.

DISMISSAL

Officiant
People

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God
And memory of Jim Clark
By Barbara Clark.*

Assisting in today's service

Crucifer	Debbie Parks
Subdeacon	Henrie Parks
Lector	Brad Deacon
Prayers of the People	Margaret Schulte
Chalice Bearers	Justin Alexander, Debbie Parks
Counters	Margaret Schulte, Leslie Hall
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Nancy Merriman (co-chair), Jane Bryce, Theresa Milne, Sue Le Duc
Ushers	Joe Lehning, Michael Hart, Mark Rudd
Coffee Hour	AJ & Hillary Walilko
Greeters	
Recycling Team	Bob Merriman
Sunday School Mentors	Barb Heany
Vestry Person of the Day	Jane Bryce

Assisting next Sunday, December 15, 2024

Crucifer	Amy Wortley
Subdeacon	Greg Wortley
Lector	Nancy Rudd
Prayers of the People	Steven Kandow
Chalice Bearers	Jamal Dillman-Hasso, Leslie Hall
Counters	Larry Clark, Martha McKee
Altar Guild Members for the Week	Bobbi Tisdale (chair), Marilyn Earley, Steven Kandow, Maria Wawro
Ushers	John Nevin, Jack Baker, Bob Merriman
Coffee Hour	
Greeters	
Recycling Team	
Sunday School Mentors	Barb Heany, Melissa Blood
Vestry Person of the Day	Steven Kandow

**Opportunities for Prayer
December 8, 2024**

We pray for those who have ongoing needs for healing prayers: Joanne, Mike, Melissa, Tom, Sarah, Heather, Sebastian, Peter, Natalie, Julie, Mark, Chris, Bill, Robin, Samantha, and Ian. **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: Debra Clawson and Graham & Amy Crabtree.

We pray this week for the following community service agency: The Firecracker Foundation, 2450 Delhi Commerce Dr Ste 9, Holt, MI 48842

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: Canterbury House, Ann Arbor; St. Ann's, Mendoza, DR.

We pray for those in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan.

We pray for: Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean Rowe, 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 McNiel, our associate for liturgy and pastoral care; Dick Hamlin and Gail Shafer, our priest associates; our worship ministers, St. Paul's staff and our diocesan household.

**Announcements for the Week of
December 8, 2024 - December 15, 2024**

Canterbury MSU is hosting dinner this semester! Would you like to feed our student leaders on a Thursday evening? We need a main dish we can reheat in a microwave, slow cooker, or toaster oven plus a salad or side, for 6 - 8 people. Meals can be dropped off at Canterbury (225 MAC) on Wednesday or Thursday afternoons. Contact the Rev. Donna McNiel at canterburymsu@gmail.com, for all the details, or go to the Sign Up link: <https://bit.ly/FeedCanterburyMSU>

Mission and Outreach: Samaritas gifts are due today. A big thank you to all those who will make six grateful children very happy this Christmas. The First Presbyterian Food Pantry needs toilet paper. Please bring in gently used clothes for Fretail.

Advent Series - Limping with God: Save Tuesday evenings of December 10 and 17th from 6:30 - 8:00pm. The session on the 10th will be on Zoom; the 17th will be in person. Please have a Bible with you for class (preferably not KJV). Learn little known facts in the Bible. We'll look at some of the stranger stories in the Hebrew Scriptures and discern why they are there and what might they mean for us. Sodom & Gomorrah - what was the real sin? Learn why Er and Onan were slain by the Lord. Sign up to receive the Zoom link.

Evening Meeting Times & Parking Ramp Hours: All evening meetings and classes should begin no earlier than 6:15pm and end by 8:45pm for access to the parking ramp. Regular parking ramp availability M-Th 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday & Sunday 7:30am-6:00pm.

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

Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED Certification: Our Red Cross certified instructors will be holding class December 14th in the Choir Room from 10am-3pm. This class is for anyone who wants to be certified/re-certified in adult and/or pediatric First Aid or CPR/AED. Please check the schedule and sign up in the Merrifield Room. Questions? Please contact John David Hawkins h012T@comcast.net.

The service of Compline is offered Wednesday evenings at 9 pm on Zoom. The service will be posted on the St. Paul's Facebook page after being recorded. Please feel free to either join the Zoom meeting, or the service posted on Facebook. The Zoom link will be listed in the weekly email.

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

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

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.

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.

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.** Altar Flower forms available on the signup table, or you can email your dedication to office@stpaulslansing.org.

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.

St. Paul's Recycling: 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. We are committed to reduce, reuse, and recycle at St. Paul's. See one of the Milnes or Borons for more information.

Contributions Last Week: For the week of December 1, 2024, St. Paul's received **\$6,627** in contributions as follows:

Pledge Income	\$3,700
Prepaid 2025 Pledge	\$2,200
Operating Income	\$315
Christmas Flowers	\$195
Specified	\$175
Loose Offering	\$42

<p>This Week at St. Paul's December 8, 2024 - December 15, 2024</p>
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- Sunday, 12/8:
 - St. Nicholas Sunday
 - 9:15am Choir Rehearsal
 - 9:45am Sunday School
 - 10:00am Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary
 - 11:15am Coffee Hour
 - 1pm-3pm Riverbend Voices Rehearsal
 - 3pm-6pm Riverbend Voices Concert & Reception

- Monday 12/9:
 - 6:15pm Sacred Ground Class w/Dinner - Merrifield Room
 - 6:30pm Mission & Outreach Meeting - VanAtta Room

- Tuesday, 12/10:
 - 6:15pm Advent Series - Limping with God - Zoom

- Wednesday, 12/11:
 - 12:00pm Noon Book Study - Zoom
 - 7:00pm Bible Study - Zoom

- Thursday, 12/12:
 - No Choir Rehearsal
 - 7:00pm Social Justice Meeting - Zoom

- Friday, 12/13:
 - Office Closed
 - 10am-Noon St. Paul's Quilting Group - Downstairs Classroom

- Saturday, 12/14:
 - 10am-3pm Red Cross First Aid Training - Choir Room

- Sunday, 12/15:
 - 9:15am Choir Rehearsal
 - 9:45am Sunday School
 - 10:00am Worship & Holy Communion - Sanctuary
 - 11:15am Coffee Hour
 - 11:15am Pack lunches for Punks with Lunch
 - 12:00pm Drumming Session - Sanctuary
 - 5pm-8pm LINGS Holiday Party - Merrifield Room

QR Code for giving. Scan the code with your phone to be taken to options for giving.



St. Paul's Christmas Season Services

December 8, Advent II/St. Nicholas Sunday: 10:00am – Worship/Holy Communion

December 15, Advent III: 10:00am – Worship/Holy Communion

December 22, Advent IV: 10:00am – 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: 10:00am – Worship & Holy Communion

December 29: 10:00am Baptism & Holy Communion

January 5, 2025, 10:00am – Epiphany Lessons & Carols & Antecommunion

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 16, 2024)