



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

**Third Sunday of Advent
December 11, 2022 • 10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II**

The service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer. The service is printed here in its entirety.

The Opening Hymn

Prepare the way, O Zion
Hymnal 65

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

First Reader: You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands.

The candle is lit.

Second Reader: Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. *Amen.*

Congregation Sings

Hymnal 56

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high, And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,

Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Children ages 4-10 are invited to follow the Children's Cross to attend the Children's Chapel, returning during the Peace.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

All may be seated.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,

the desert shall rejoice and blossom;

like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,

and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,

the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the Lord,

the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,

and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Psalm: 146:4-9

The psalm is sung by the choir.

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *

who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *

and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *

the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;

the Lord cares for the stranger; *

he sustains the orphan and widow,

but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *

your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.

Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson: James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

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

The Sequence Hymn

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
Hymnal 76

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

“Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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

The Sermon

Mark Johnson

A period of silence is kept.

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.*

The Prayers of the People — Form III

Intercessor Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
People *That we all may be one.*

Intercessor Grant that every member of the Church may truly and
humbly serve you;
People *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Intercessor We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
People *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and
Sacraments.*

Intercessor We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations
of the world;
People *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Intercessor Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
People *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Intercessor Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or
trouble, especially George, Ronnie, Wendy, Alice, Brink;
People *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Intercessor Give to the departed eternal rest;
People *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Intercessor We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
People *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Intercessor We pray for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially
Laney, Mark, Shannon, Michael, Charlie, Sophie, Sissie,
Lauren, Elisabeth, James, Melissa, and Polly.

Intercessor Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

The celebrant adds a concluding collect

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Minister and People

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 Absolution

Celebrant

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.*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Blessings and Thanksgivings

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

Joys Seven
Stephen Cleobury

The Presentation Hymn

Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes
Hymnal 71

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus

Hymnal S 125

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



Setting: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943)

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

People and Celebrant

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 Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Healing Intercessors are available in the chapel for prayer during communion.

Communion Anthem

Sarabande

Francis Poulenc
Guitarist Cole Hankins

The Communion Hymn

Watchman, tell us of the night
Hymnal 640

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.*

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn

Comfort, comfort ye my people
Hymnal 67

The Dismissal

Remember in your prayers:

A Prayer for Love: (From The Daughters of the King) Bless us with Love, O Merciful God; That we may love as you love. That we may show patience, tolerance, kindness, caring, and love to all. Bless us with your love.

We pray for those with timely concerns: Michael Brown, Alice Jakubiak, Ernie Williams, David Sandlin, Elisabeth Stubbs, Sharmona Moultrie, Bo Warren, Vanessa Smalls, Barbara Parsons, Debra Bull, George Robinson, Ronnie Peoples.

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Brink Howard, Wendy Llosa, William Partridge, David Bottoms, Greg Parsons, George Abbot-Maze, Melody Wegienka, Robin Carroll, Melanie Patton, Father Bruno, Ed Sergent.

We pray for the members of the Vestry: Renee, Mark, Philip, Frankey, Polly, Tony, Marianne, Virginia, Lauren and for the Rector and Staff: Hazel, Mason, Dawn, Cynthia, Elisabeth, Geoff, Cole, Nicole, Kimberly.

We pray for members of our armed services and their families: Phil Kearney, Kevin Bradley, Joe Clay, Tom Choate, Linda Boyce, Dariel Johnson, Sean McGraw, Steven Puckett, Bill Tudor, Jr., Scott Woodward, Luke White, Tommy White, Zach Simkins, Jacob Britt, Morgen Davis, Luke Eason, Michael Rafferty, David Norwood, Arron Essex, Adam Harrison, Sam Vermilyea, Charles Mathews, Cameron Everett, Lanier Sealy, Beau Massenburg, Ryan Whitfield, Stephen Malcom.

We give thanks for the lives of those celebrating birthdays this week: Laney Steed, Mark Huskison, Shannon Snyder, Michael Carroll, Charlie Beaucham, Sophie Smith, Sissie Jarrell, Lauren Ferguson, Elisabeth Copeland, James Jordan, Melissa Sadler, Polly Holladay.

We pray for those who have died. *Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.*

Service Participants

Vestry Person of the Week	Virginia Williams
Vergers	Daryl Jones & Jennifer Thomasson
Eucharistic Ministers	Bob Heaberlin, Heather Heaberlin, & Wendy LeVan
Acolytes	Victoria Eversoll (1st); Lily Mattera (2nd); Rhett Eversoll (Banner); Sydney Pape & Rowan Mattera (Torchbearers)
Reader	Nicole Waters
Healing Intercessors	Nicole Waters & Ernie Williams
Ushers	Virginia Williams, Danny Brown, Mike Colpoys, Taylor Josey, Mark LeVan, John Tucker

Parish Notices

Stewardship Campaign 2023: We are now several weeks into our annual Stewardship Campaign. As we quickly approach the Holiday season and the New Year, your vestry is hard at work planning the budgets necessary to support the ministries of St. Paul's. It is vital to the health of our parish that we receive enough pledges to ensure both the continuation of our current ministries as well as the launch of potential new ministries. Pledge cards are available in the narthex.

Adult Formation: *The Great Divorce* by C.S. Lewis is the latest book study for our adult formation class. Please join us at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall as we look at a classic with 21st-century eyes and ideas. We welcome all, and we have a wonderful time relating our lives and St. Paul's with the literature that we use as the background for our discussions. *The Great Divorce* is an allegorical story about a bus ride from hell to heaven, so there is a lot to unpack in a concise book.

Sunday School: Godly Play will be held in the Children's Wing during church services on Sundays when there is no children's liturgy. Godly Play sessions will no longer be offered at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. Instead, Jr. EYC programming for grades 5-8 will be offered. One adult volunteer is needed to sit in on each session. Contact Cynthia at cynthia@stpaulsnewnan.org if you want to volunteer or have any questions.

Christmas Pageant: Rehearsal day and times have changed. The children will rehearse on Sundays after the 10:30 a.m. service. The final dress rehearsal will be Friday, December 23rd at 10 a.m. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Dawn Harrison at 678.378.2097 or dawnie.harrison@gmail.com.

Wednesday Night Supper: Come and spend time with the St. Paul's family for Wednesday Night Supper! The cost is *free* for children under 3, \$3 for children 3-10, \$6 for children 11 and older, and adults. Families pay a maximum of \$20. A signup sheet is available on the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall, email admin@stpaulsnewnan.org, or register and pay via Realm. Please sign up before **Tuesdays at 12 p.m.** so that we can make sure to order enough food.

Angel Tree 2022: It's Angel Tree time again! Sign up to bring a gift (or two!) and help spread some Christmas cheer. Sign up for the gift you would like to provide and purchase the item. MAKE A TAG with the name and age of the person and the gift. (VERY IMPORTANT!) Return your gifts, UNWRAPPED, with the tag attached, BY DECEMBER 11, and make someone's Christmas wish come true! Signing up is easy! Just visit our virtual Angel Tree by scanning the QR code and select the person whose Christmas you would like to make a little brighter.



Ordination: All are invited as Mark Johnson will be ordained as a deacon on Saturday, December 17th at 2 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Philip. Additionally, a reception for Mark will be held in the Parish Hall of St. Paul's on Sunday, December 18th after the 10:30 a.m. service.

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Consider giving! The next St. Paul's American Red Cross Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2023.

Coffee Hour: Coffee hour will be available after the 10:30 a.m. service in the Parish Hall. For anyone who is interested in joining the Coffee Hour ministry please contact Nikki Henderson via email at Nikki.Henderson@cowetaschools.net for more information about how to get involved. Come for further fellowship with the St. Paul's family.

Prayer Requests: Prayer requests for the parish prayer list or the confidential Daughters of the King prayer list may be submitted online, via admin@stpaulsnewnan.org, or you may also contact Hazel+ directly.

Altar Flower Dedications: A lovely way to remember a loved one or celebrate an anniversary or birthday is to donate altar flowers for that special day. The cost of the arrangements is \$50 per Sunday. Sign up for a particular Sunday at the bulletin board outside the Parish Hall or email admin@stpaulsnewnan.org. Please remember to submit payment via the collection plate or Realm and complete the “Flowers for the Altar” form by Wednesday at 12 p.m. to ensure that the commemorating announcement is placed in the bulletin.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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CLERGY AND Staff

The Rev. Hazel Smith Glover, Rector; **Mason Copeland**, Organist and Choirmaster; **Dawn Harrison**, Music Associate; **Cynthia Meisinger**, Children and Youth Director; **Elisabeth Copeland**, Children's Ministry; **Geoff Mattera**, Communications Director; **Cole Hankins**, Multimedia Associate; **Nicole Edwards**, Parish Assistant; **Kimberly Stokes**, Financial Assistant.

VESTRY

Renee Powell, Senior Warden; **Mark LeVan**, Junior Warden; **Lauren Gallagher**, Outreach Liaison; **Philip Hand**, Stewardship Liaison; **Frankey Henderson**, Parish Life Liaison; **Virginia Williams**, Communications Liaison; **Polly Hopkins**, Health and Healing Liaison; **Marianne Lawhead**, Welcoming Liaison; **Tony King**, Compliance and Documentation Liaison.