



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023 • 10:30 AM
Holy Eucharist Rite II**

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

The Opening Voluntary

My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
arranged by Brook Boddie

The Processional Hymn

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

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

First Reader: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace.

The candle is lit.

Second Reader: Almighty God, you offer rest for our hearts, and peace for our souls. Give us grace to seek peace in our lives, peace in this community, and peace in the world. Through Jesus Christ, the prince of peace. *Amen.*

Congregation Sings

O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

The Liturgy of the Word

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The People say together

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 Trisagion (*Sung three times*)

Hymnal S 102

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Officiant Let us pray.

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.*

All may be seated.

The First Reading ~ Isaiah 40:1 - 11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a

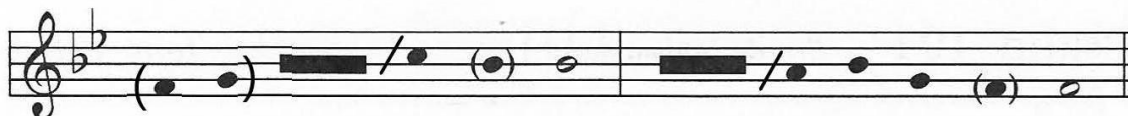
shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm ~ 85:1 - 2, 8 - 13

Sung responsively by the Choir and Congregation, beginning with the Choir.



CHOIR 1 *(You have)* been gracious to your land, / O LORD, *
you have restored the good / fortune of Jacob.

ALL 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of / your people *
and blotted / out all their sins.

CHOIR 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is say /ing, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people'
and to those who / turn their hearts to him.

ALL 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who / fear him, *
that his glory may / dwell in our land.

CHOIR 10 Mercy and truth have met to / gether; *
righteousness and peace have / kissed each other.

ALL 11 Truth shall spring up from / the earth, *
and righteousness shall look / down from heaven.

CHOIR 12 The LORD will indeed grant / prosperity, *
and our land will / yield its increase.

ALL 13 Righteousness shall go be / fore him, *
and peace shall be a / pathway for his feet.

The Second Reading ~ 2 Peter 3:8 - 15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

The Sequence Hymn

There's a voice in the wilderness crying
Hymnal 75

The Holy Gospel ~ Mark 1:1 - 8

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around

his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey

A period of silent prayer.

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 II

The People may add their own petitions during the periods of silence.

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; for our bishops, priests, and deacons for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble, especially Anthony and Gloria.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the nominating committee members, Philip, Lisa, Kasey, Brother, Katie, J.J., and Bill, that they may be guided by your Holy Spirit. I ask for prayers for those who will be confirmed today, especially Chris, Haley, Mike, Lynn, and Scott. I ask your thanksgiving for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Mark, Shannon, Sophie, and Sissie.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed, especially Marsha. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored, especially St. Paul, the Apostle. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Prayer In Times of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*
{BCP page 824}

Celebrant

Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Celebrant and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all our 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

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Announcements

The Blessings and Thanksgivings

The Offertory Sentence

The Presentation and Blessing of Commitment Cards

Now thank we all our God
Hymnal 397 v 1

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

E'en So, Lord Jesus Quickly Come
Paul Manz

The Presentation Hymn

Now thank we all our God
Hymnal 397 v 2,3

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 124

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

Second Sunday of Advent Rite Two 8

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.

The Great Amen

S 143



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 161

Holy Communion is offered via the common cup for sipping or intinction (dipping the wafer into the wine). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. A mobility impaired individual can receive communion at your seat by raising your hand.

Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion Anthem

Comfort Ye

Natalie Sleeth

Sung by the St. Cecilia Choir

The Communion Hymn

Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless

Hymnal 343

The Post Communion Prayer

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.

Prayer for those Not Receiving the Blessed Sacrament

[Adapted from Saint Augustine's Prayer Book. For those not present in the Nave.]

Blessed Jesus, in union with the faithful of every place and people and nation, I join in offering the sacrifice of my praise and thanksgiving to you. I believe that you are truly present in the Bread that has been blessed, broken and given. Since I cannot now receive this holy sacrament, I pray that you will come spiritually into my heart. Abide with me, that I may embrace you entirely, and submit myself to your love and mercy. Let me never be separated from you, that in my waking and in my sleeping I may know the comfort of your presence. I ask this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

The Blessing

The Closing Hymn

Comfort, comfort ye my people
Hymnal 67

The Dismissal

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

The Closing Voluntary

Sleepers Awake
Johann Sebastian Bach

Remember in your prayers:

A Prayer for Vision (From The Daughters of the King): Grant Us, Lord God, the vision of your Kingdom, forgiveness and new life, and the stirring of your Spirit: so that we may share your vision, proclaim your love and change the world. In the Name of Christ. Amen.

We pray for those with timely concerns: Roger Hines, Elisabeth Stubbs, Gary Henault, Max Thomas, Ronnie Peoples, Carol Self, Shirley Cotter, Shaleta Fugua, Beverly Miller, Theo Mann, Colleen Furlong, Bo Warren, Joan LeVan, Annie McDorman, Patricia Ravenell, Tommy Gibbs, Anthony Marino, Gloria Crook.

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Greg Parsons, Annie Bulford, Kelsey Crow, Anne Murphy, Jaron Smith, Glenn L. Eaton, Al Williams, David Waldron, Larry Sams, Rev. Hope Knobler, Jim Myrick, Candy Waldron, Ashton Hughes, Lanie Mae Henderson, Lamar Toole, Elizabeth Briscoe, William ‘Parker’ Johnson, Christian Llosa.

We pray for the members of the Vestry: Marianne, Mark, Frankey, Marge, Mary Frances, Polly, Tony, Roy, Virginia and for the Staff: Canon John, Nicole, Rhett, Dawn, Geoff, Cole, Nicole, Kimberly.

We pray for members of the Rector Nominating Committee: Philip Hand, Lisa Beerman, Kasey Bulford, Brother Massenburg, Katie McBride-Newman, J.J. Thomasson, and Bill Tudor.

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, Victoria Eversoll, Trey Bland.

We give thanks for the lives of those celebrating birthdays this week: Mark Huskison, Shannon Snyder, Sophie Smith, and Sissie Jarrell.

We pray for those who have died, especially Marsha Friedman. 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	Dwight Ellison & Daryl Jones
Eucharistic Ministers	Wendy Llosa & Carolyn Masters
Acolytes	Caroline Hawes (1st); Mary Scott Fabrizi (2nd); Jack Bulford (Banner); Wade & Matthew Hand (Torchbearers)
Reader(s)	Ashley & David Twiggs, Marianne Lawhead, & Sydney Pape
Prayer Intercessors	Sherry Cook & Anne Graner
Ushers	Bob Heaberlin, Stephen Camp, Rick Candler, David Carver, Heather Heaberlin, Sarah Huxford, Jeff Lawhead, Scott Seiler, & J.J. Thomasson
Altar Guild	Amanda Hand, Louise Howard, & Carolyn Masters

Parish Notices

Nominating Committee Listening Session: At 9:30 am and 11:45 am today in the Parish Hall, Conference Room 2 Bill Tudor and Lisa Beerman, will lead a group session to hear from you. You will have the opportunity to let us know the qualities you desire in our next rector; describe your understanding of the mission and ministry of St. Paul's; where you hope to see St. Paul's in the future; and anything else you would like to share.

Confirmation: Confirmation will be held at The Cathedral of St. Philip today, Sunday, December 10th at 4 pm. Join us as five of our own are confirmed.

Christmas Ornaments: Looking for a special ornament for your tree or a unique gift this Christmas? Get your St. Paul's ornament designed by local artist [Sadie Young of the Inspired Dragonfly](#) and support the seminary fund for our seminarian, Nicole Walters. Ornaments will be available on Sunday mornings or by ordering from Nicole, seminarian@stpaulsnewnan.org, via cash, check, or venmo. Ornaments are \$15 (buy 4, get the 5th free) and 100% of the funds go to Nicole's tuition.

Gingerbread House: Our annual gingerbread house decorating event will be held on December 13th during Wednesday Night Supper. Please bring your own house and any other decorations you may want to use. It is also good to construct your house prior to Wednesday so you will have plenty of time to decorate.

2024 Stewardship Campaign: There are 2024 Stewardship Campaign brochures and response cards available in the Narthex. To make sure that we receive your pledge and contributions, please drop off your pledge and contributions in the offering plate or drop off at Nicole's office. There is the QR code to go directly to the pledge campaign page in Realm.



Upcoming Holiday Schedule: We have finalized the schedule of Christmas services. Please pick up a schedule along with details on making a Flower and/or Music Donation in the Narthex. You can use the QR code for donations and to provide your dedication message.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

576 Roscoe Road, Newnan, GA 30263 • Phone: (770) 253-4264 • www.stpaulsnewnan.org

CLERGY AND Staff

Rev. Canon C. John Thompson-Quartey, Interim Rector; **Nicole Walters**, Seminarian; **Rhett Barnwell**, Organist/Choirmaster; **Dawn Harrison**, Music Associate; **Geoff Mattera**, Communications Director; **Cole Hankins**, Multimedia Associate; **Nicole Edwards**, Parish Administrator; **Kimberly Stokes**, Financial Administrator.

VESTRY

Marianne Lawhead, Senior Warden; **Mark LeVan**, Junior Warden; **Marge Bass**, Outreach; **Frankey Henderson**, Parish Life; **Mary Frances Honea**, Health & Healing; **Polly Hopkins**, Formation; **Tony King**, Worship; **Roy Reynolds**, Communications; **Virginia Williams**, Stewardship.