



# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

*Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons*

**Third Sunday of Advent  
December 17, 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**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
Gregorian Chant

**The Processional Hymn**

*Come, thou long expected Jesus*  
Hymnal 66

**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*

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.

**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.

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 Reading ~ Isaiah 61:1 - 4, 8 - 11**

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring

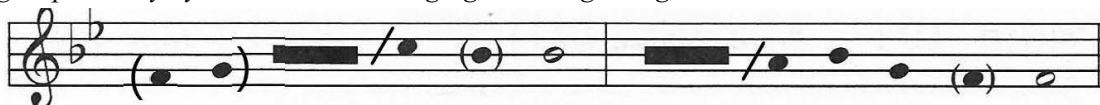
up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        Thanks be to God.

### **The Canticle 15 ~ The Song of Mary *Magnificat***

*Sung responsively by the Choir and Congregation, beginning with the Choir:*



**CHOIR** *(My soul)* proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my / Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his / lowly servant.

**ALL**        From this day all generations will call me / bles-sed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,' and / holy is his Name.

**CHOIR** He has mercy on those who / fear him \*  
in every / generation.

**ALL**        He has shown the strength of / his arm, \*  
he has scattered the / proud in their conceit.

**CHOIR** He has cast down the mighty from / their thrones, \*  
and has lifted / up the lowly.

**ALL**        He has filled the hungry with / good things, \*  
and the rich he has / sent away empty.

**CHOIR** He has come to the help of his servant / Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his / promise of mercy,

**CHOIR** The promise he made to our / fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his / children forever.

**ALL**        Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy / Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning,' is now, and will be for / ever.' Amen.

## **The Second Reading ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 24**

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        *Thanks be to God.*

## **The Sequence Hymn**

*Prepare the way, O Zion*  
Hymnal 65

## **The Holy Gospel ~ John 1:6 - 8, 19 - 28**

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

*People*        *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

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

*Celebrant*    The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*        *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **The Sermon**

Lanie Mae Henderson

*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 Courtney.

*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 your thanksgiving for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially James, David, Scott, Pat, and Ben.

*Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed. 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 Holy Communion**

### **The Offertory Anthem**

*Rejoice in the Lord Always*  
Anon

### **The Presentation Hymn**

*Savior of the nations, come*  
Hymnal 54

### **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 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**

*Creator of the Stars of Night*  
Gregorian Chant, Mode 4

### **The Communion Hymn**

*Wait for the Lord*  
Taizé Chant

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near,  
Wait for the Lord, keep watch, take heart.

### **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**

*Watchman, tell us of the night*  
Hymnal 640

### **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**

*Postlude on "Savior of the Nations, Come"*  
James Engel

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### ***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: Ronnie People, Roger Hines, Elisabeth Stubbs, Bo Warren, Annie McDorman, Patricia Ravenell, Tommy Gibbs, Anthony Marino, Gloria Crook, Ernie Williams, Courtney McCulley.

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Greg Parsons, Annie Bulford, Kelsey Crow, Anne Murphy, Glenn L. Eaton, David Waldron, Larry Sams, 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: James Jordan, David Borders, Scott Cummins, Pat Farmer, and Ben Marchman.

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

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### *Service Participants*

<b>Vestry Person of the Week</b>	Polly Hopkins
<b>Vergers</b>	Frankey Henderson & Daryl Jones
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	Michele Mattera & Elizabeth Pape
<b>Acolytes</b>	Jude Henderson (1st); Lanie Mae Henderson (2nd); Mary Scott Fabrizi (Banner); Pearl Borders & Sydney Pape (Torchbearers)
<b>Reader(s)</b>	Scott Seiler, Ashley Johnson, Peyton Lawson, and Jane Murdock
<b>Prayer Intercessors</b>	Mary Frances Honea & Frank West
<b>Ushers</b>	Hadley Heindel, Brian Lewis, David Martin, Rusty Martin, Tammy Martin, Roy Reynolds, & Cathy Sandlin
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Renee Powell

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### *Parish Notices*

**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](mailto:seminarian@stpaulsnewnan.org), via cash, check, or venmo. If you want to use Venmo, scan the QR code. Ornaments are \$15 (buy 4, get the 5th free) and 100% of the funds go to Nicole's tuition at Candler School of Theology thanks to a donation from the Inspired Dragonfly.



**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.



**Blood Drive:** The quarterly American Red Cross Blood Drive will be Monday, January 8th. You can schedule an appointment by using the QR code. Questions regarding the blood drive can be directed to Virginia Williams, [vb\\_williams@yahoo.com](mailto:vb_williams@yahoo.com).



**The Daughters of the King:** Information pamphlets are available on the bulletin board outside of the parish hall for anyone interested in learning more about The Daughters of the King. We welcome any prospective members!

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**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

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

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