

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

*The First Sunday after Christmas*  
*December 27, 2020 9:00 a.m.*  
*Holy Eucharist, Rite II*



*Good morning! This bulletin accompanies our service on the Zoom platform. To link to the service go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/647333282?pwd=WmtlR3ppamVET1dhNHAxU0JlVZUZmQT09> or call 1-646-558-8656 (Meeting ID:647 333 282; passcode 173902). Everything you need to participate is incorporated here. We encourage you to follow, say the responses, and allow yourself to be pulled closer to God.*

## **Merry Christmas!**

*We are delighted you are joining us for worship today.*

*This year we have two Sundays to celebrate the Christmas season—to consider the special meaning of God's incarnation for us in these troubling times.*

*As we gather, you are invited to center yourself and prepare for worship.*

## **First, enjoy three deep breaths**

- The first one to help you fully arrive in your body,*
- The second one to clear your mind so you may be present to yourself and others,*
- The third one to open your heart and welcome the Holy Spirit to engage you*

## **Second, select one of these three entries into worship**

*Notice whichever one you feel drawn to... then do what you're invited to do with it*

*Are you hopeful today?*

- Pray a simple prayer of thanksgiving for the beacon of hope drawing you forward.*

*Are you looking for light today?*

- Pray for the light of Christ to illumine you especially this morning, and also to illumine the world.*

*Are you in need of joy this morning?*

- Pray that God would show you the simple, profound joys that surround you now.*

## **Third, be still until worship begins**

*Empty your hands,*

*Close your eyes,*

*Breathe deeply and slowly,*

*Empty your mind.*

*Let sounds pass by you.*

*Find interest only in silent waiting upon God.*

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

*The Celebrant says the 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.**

*All say the Gloria*

**Glorify to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

**Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Old Testament Reading**

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3

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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 147:13-21**

- 13** **Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \***  
**praise your God, O Zion;**
- 14** **For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \***  
**he has blessed your children within you.**
- 15** **He has established peace on your borders; \***  
**he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**
- 16** **He sends out his command to the earth, \***  
**and his word runs very swiftly.**

- 17 **He gives snow like wool; \***  
**he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**
- 18 **He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \***  
**who can stand against his cold?**
- 19 **He sends forth his word and melts them; \***  
**he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**
- 20 **He declares his word to Jacob, \***  
**his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**
- 21 **He has not done so to any other nation; \***  
**to them he has not revealed his judgments.**  
**Hallelujah!**

**The Epistle Reading**

Galatians 3:23-25, 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**The Holy Gospel**

John 1:1-18

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

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*Gospeller* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**The Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Jane Tillman

*All stand and say the Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People – Form II**

*In the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Doug, our own Bishop; for Sam, our Rector; for Jane, our Priest Associate; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for good will 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, those struggling under financial strain, immigrants, refugees, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. *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 departed [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who have commended themselves to our prayers, especially \_\_\_\_\_. *Silence*

I ask your thanksgiving for \_\_\_\_\_. *Silence*

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. *Silence, after which the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## Confession and Absolution

*Priest* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence, then all pray*

**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 Celebrant offers the Absolution*

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.**

## Announcements

*The Celebrant prepares the table for Holy Communion.*

## 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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant*

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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 Celebrant and the People say the Sanctus*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The Celebrant continues*

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 before he died for us, 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, 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. **AMEN**

*Celebrant*

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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept, after which the Celebrant will say*

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

**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 Celebrant then offers the* **Blessing**

## **Sending Forth**

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

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## **Service Schedule**

**Sundays, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist - online via Zoom**

**Wednesdays, 8:30 a.m. Morning Prayers - online via Zoom**

*For more information on connecting to worship, please visit our website: [www.stpaulsstockbridge.com](http://www.stpaulsstockbridge.com)*

**Rector:** The Rev. Samuel J. Smith, [father.sam.stockbridge@gmail.com](mailto:father.sam.stockbridge@gmail.com)

*Father Sam's office hours are by appointment.*

*Please call the rectory: 298-7001.*

**Priest Associate:** The Rev. Dr. Jane Tillman

**Verger:** Darryl Lafferty

**Office Administrator:** Gretchen Fairfield, [stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com)

*In this time of the pandemic Gretchen is not usually working in person in the office.*

*Call the church office or email and she will get back to you promptly.*

## **Vestry**

**Sr. Warden:** Matt Fillio, 822-3759

**Jr. Warden:** Jorja Marsden, 298-3945

Sebastian Bonner, *Clerk*; John Davies, *Treasurer*; Diane Dillon; Diana French; Christopher Johnson; Duncan Pollock; Tom Skakel; Carl Sprague

**St. Paul's Children's Center:** Lisa Kane, Director, 298-4639

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