

**St. Paul's
Episcopal Church**
The Second Sunday after Christmas
January 3, 2021 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist, Rite II



This bulletin accompanies our service on the Zoom platform. To link to the service go to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/647333282?pwd=WmtlR3ppamVET1dhNHAxU0JVZUZmQT09>

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.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84:1-8

- 1** How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2** The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3** Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4** Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5** Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6** They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7** LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8** Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

The Epistle Reading

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

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

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

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand

what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Sam Smith

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

Rector: The Rev. Samuel J. Smith, rector@stpaulsstockbridge.org

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, office@stpaulsstockbridge.org

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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