**St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Stockbridge, Massachusetts**

**November 27, 2022 First Sunday of Advent**

**COVID Precautions**

*Out of an abundance of caution, and because of our affection and care for one another, we strongly encourage everyone to wear a mask while moving about inside the church.*

If you are visiting St. Paul’s today, please sign one of our guest registers (at each entrance). We’re glad you’re worshipping with us today and hope you will return! Restrooms are available in the Parish House and at the Red Lion Inn. This service may be live-streamed.

**Please welcome David Smith as our organist today.** David is Artistic Director of Concerts in the Village and Conductor of Broad Street Chorale and Orchestra in Kinderhook, New York. He holds degrees from Harvard in English Literature and Musicology, as well as graduate degrees from Yale in music theory. David is a frequent performer on piano, harpsichord, and organ. David will be with us again on December 11 and 18, as well as the 10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

**Worship Teams** (If you exchange shifts with someone, please notify the Church Office by Wednesday morning at [*stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com*](mailto:stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com))

**Sunday, November 27 (8 & 10 a.m.) Sunday, December 4 (8 & 10 a.m.)**

Celebrant The Rev. Libby Wade Celebrant The Rev. Jane Tillman

Preacher The Rev. Jane Tillman Preacher The Rev. Libby Wade

Reader/Intercessor (8 a.m.) Torey Winn Reader/Intercessor (8 a.m.) Rob Maloney

Reader/Intercessor (10 a.m.) Jean Rousseau Reader/Intercessor (10 a.m.) TBD

Usher/Greeter (10 a.m.) Jean Rousseau Usher/Greeter (10 a.m.) Natalie Boyce

Lemonade Host Carl Sprague Lemonade Host Ginny Willcox

**Isaiah 2:1-5**

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.’ For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

**Psalm 122**

**1 I was glad when they said to me, \*  
"Let us go to the house of the Lord."**

**2 Now our feet are standing \*  
within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

**3 Jerusalem is built as a city \*  
that is at unity with itself;**

**4 To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, \*  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the Lord.**

**5 For there are the thrones of judgment, \*  
the thrones of the house of David.**

**6 Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: \*  
"May they prosper who love you.**

**7 Peace be within your walls \*  
and quietness within your towers.**

**8 For my brethren and companions' sake, \*  
I pray for your prosperity.**

**9 Because of the house of the Lord our God, \*  
I will seek to do you good."**

**Romans 13:11-14**

You know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**Matthew 24:36-44**

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

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**Stewardship Season -- More Than Enough**

Thank you to all who have returned their pledge cards for 2023! If your card hasn’t been turned in, please do so as soon as possible, either placing the card in the offering plate or mailing it to the parish office. Extra pledge cards are available on the table at the back of the church. Together we can make a difference; and working together, what we have will be more than enough.

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**Advent Bible Study – Images from Isaiah – BEGINS THIS WEEK**

**Tuesdays 7-8 p.m. on Zoom, November 29, December 6, 13, 20.**

If you are intrigued by the “swords into ploughshares” reading from Isaiah today or the image of the sculpture based on Isaiah 2:5 on the cover of today’s worship leaflet, then join Libby Wade and folks from the 3 South County Episcopal/Lutheran churches as we study this and other wonderfully evocative Isaiah passages from our Advent Sunday lectionary. The Zoom link is in the E-pistle and (hopefully) on the St. Paul’s website. Invite friends to join us.

**Stockbridge Main Street at Christmas is Back This Year!**

On **Sunday, December 4,** from **~12:30-2:00 p.m.**, **music groups from Monument** Mountain Regional High School will be performing in **St. Paul’s** worship space. Come and enjoy the Chorus, Jazz Ensemble, and Orchestra in the warmth of the church, and then enjoy the festivities outside for this traditional Stockbridge festival.

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**Prayers for the Home Advent Wreath**

One of the best-known symbols of the Season of Advent is the Advent Wreath, a circle of greenery with four purple or blue candles (sometimes one of the candles is pink) and often with a white “Christ” candle in the center of the wreath. One candle is lit on the first week of Advent and another candle is lit on each succeeding week until all four are burning. Then the Christ Candle is lit on Christmas Eve. The Advent Wreath comes to us by way of Germany and Scandinavia. It tells a dramatic story of the dark and waiting world and the dawning light that grows brighter as the weeks pass until its brilliance merges at last with the star over Bethlehem.

**First Week – Hope**

The Word of Isaiah: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, ‘God is with us.’” Matthew 1:23

O God of Isaiah, grant us, in our holy waiting, eyes that recognize the signs of your unending grace—communities of faith, good will and peace, and of Mary and her Son. Grant us, too, mouths that proclaim, “Emmanuel—God is with us, indeed!” Amen.

**Second Week – Prepare**

The Word of John: I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, “Make straight the way of the Lord.” John 1:23

O God of John, in this season of holy preparation, begin your road work in us. Raise the valleys of our guilt. Lower the mountains of our pride. Prepare in us a royal highway, straight and level, leading to the Babe at Bethlehem and beyond. Amen.

**Third Week – Believe**

The Word of Mary: Then Mary said, “Here I am, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Luke 1:38

O God of Mary, something special began to grow within your handmaid that day. It grew and blossomed, thrived and withstood. That thing was trust—faith to be shaped by your gracious will. Bless us with such faithful abandonment to your will, O Emmanuel. Amen.

**Fourth Week – Rejoice**

The Word to Joseph: “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 1:20

O God of Joseph, we, like Jesus’ earthly father, Joseph, began as spectators, drawn by your grace into the miracle of your birth. May we be overcome, as Joseph was, with the responsibility and joy of being included in Jesus’ family. Amen.

**Christmas Eve – Incarnation**

(Hymn 91). “Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light, and usher in the morning; O shepherds, greet that glorious sight, our Lord a crib adorning. This child, this little helpless boy, shall be our confidence and joy, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.”

**Upcoming Events**

+ **Every Wednesday** at 8:30 a.m. – **Morning Prayer on Zoom** (link is on our website and in the *E-pistle* each week).

**+ Sundays and Christmas Eve Worship Schedule (see below)**

+ **Advent Bible Study, Tuesdays 7-8 p.m. on Zoom, November 29, December 6, 13, 20.**  The Zoom link is in the E-pistle and will be on the St. Paul’s website. Invite friends to join us.

**+ Stockbridge Main Street Christmas,** Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4. Concert by MMRHS at St. Paul’s from 12:30-2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 4.

**+ Vestry Meeting, Thursday, December 8, 5:30 p.m.,** Parish House

+ St. Paul’s team serves at the **Lee Food Pantry** on **Saturday, December 10.** Your contributions of non-perishable food and personal care items may be dropped off at the church near the southwest door of St. Paul’s at any time.

**+ Sunday, December 11, 9:00 a.m. Holy Baptism of Anders Tierney** and a time to honor our 2022 Food Pantry and Gideon’s Garden Volunteers.

+ **Holiday Concert “Resonet In Laudibus – Resounding Joyful Praise”** at St. Paul’s on **Saturday, December 10, 6:00 p.m.** Renaissance and Baroque Holiday Music for Crescendo Chorus and Brass. This concert will include an outdoor light show by artist Joe Wheaton and a pop-up hot beverage and food event outside the Red Lion Inn. Tickets for the indoor concert are available at [www.crescendomusic.org](http://www.crescendomusic.org). To claim a complimentary ticket on a first come, first served basis, e-mail [crescendo@crescendomusic.org](mailto:crescendo@crescendomusic.org) before December 2, state your request and mention St. Paul’s. You’ll get a confirmation and your tickets will be held at the door.

+ **Oakes & Smith Concert** at St. Paul’s on **Saturday, December 17**, **7:00 p.m.**

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**Sunday Service Schedule for Advent and Christmas Season**

**December 4 -- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 and**

**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2, with music**

**December 11 – ONE SERVICE ONLY at 9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with Holy Baptism, with music**

**December 18 – 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 1 and**

**10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite 2, with music**

**December 25 – ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist, Rite 2**

**January 1 -- ONE SERVICE ONLY at 10:00 a.m.—Lessons and Carols**

**Christmas Eve Services**

**Saturday, December 24 – 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, with music**

**Saturday, December 24 – 10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist, with music**

**St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Stockbridge, Massachusetts**

29 Main Street / P.O. Box 704, Stockbridge, MA 01262 413-298-4913

www.stpaulsstockbridge.org stpaulsstockbridge@gmail.com



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