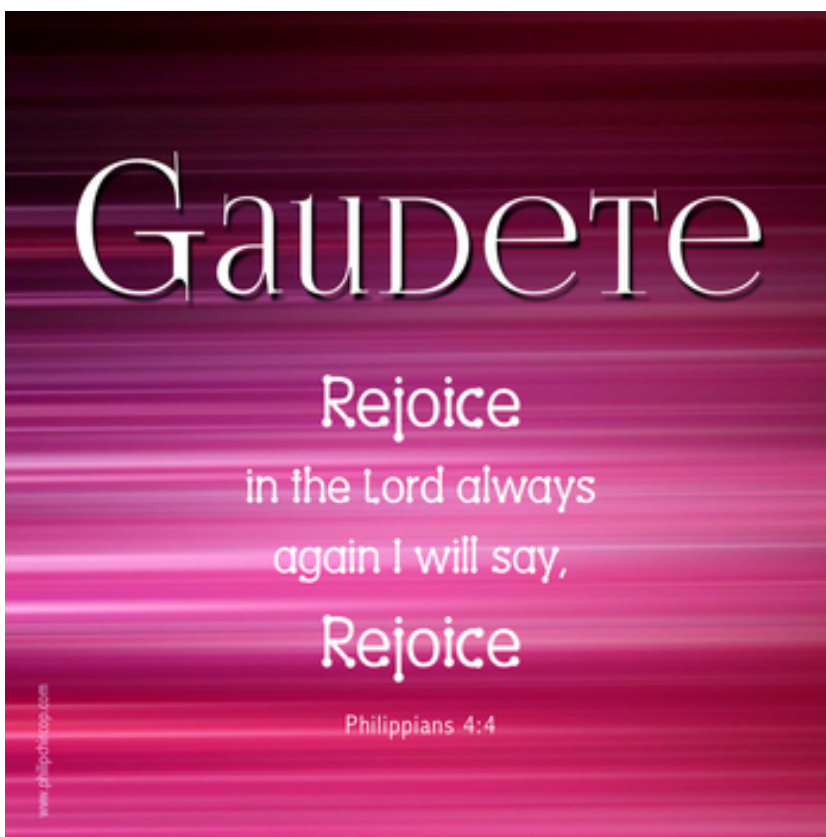


# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

In the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina



## The Third Sunday of Advent December 13, 2020

*To Know Christ and to make Christ known...*

*St. Paul's invites all people to the Christian Way of unity with God and neighbor  
through a welcoming environment of worship and ministry*

*Please enter the church in silence so that all may have quiet time to prepare hearts  
and minds for worship.*

*Celebrant* Our King and Savior now draws near:

*People* Come let us adore him.

*Celebrant* 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 Lighting of the Bethlehem Candle**

(Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the City of David, to be registered there because Joseph was from the house and lineage of David. While they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child.)

As the candle is lit:

*Leader* Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.

*People* Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

*Leader* You, O Bethlehem, who are one of the little clans of Judah,

*People* from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days. (Micah 5:2)

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant and People*

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.

*Celebrant*

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 Trisagion**

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One, have mercy upon us.

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant*            The Lord be with you.

*People*                And also with you.

*Celebrant*            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.

*The people may be seated.*

### **A Reading from 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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks Be to God.

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

#### **Luke 1:46-55**

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.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

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

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

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

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

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

The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

### A Reading from 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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks Be to God

### Hymn to Announce the Gospel

*Watchman, tell us of the night*

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom - ise  
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high - er yet that star a -  
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn - ing seems to

The musical score consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The music is in a 4/4 time signature and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three verses of text corresponding to the three parts of the hymn.

(continued next page)

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry -  
 scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its  
 dawn. Trav - eler, dark - ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray  
 course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone  
 are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or that hope fore - tell? Trav-eler, yes; it  
 gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav-eler, a - ges  
 hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav-eler, lo! the

brings the day, prom - ised day of Is - ra - el.  
 are its own; see, it bursts o'er all the earth.  
 Prince of Peace, lo! the Son of God is come!

*Two groups may sing antiphonally, alternating by sentences.*

## The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to John (1:6-8,19-28)

*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

The Rev'd Adam Pierce, Assistant Rector

### 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 VI**

BCP 392–393

*Leader and People pray responsively*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;  
*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;  
*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;  
*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;  
*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; and Rob, our Bishop; and for all bishops and Ray, our interim rector; Adam, our assistant rector; Richard, our priest associate; and other ministers;  
*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

### **Prayer for the Election of St. Paul's next Rector**

Heavenly Father, source of all knowledge, you know the needs of your church in every place. Look graciously upon the people of St. Paul's and grant our search committee and Vestry the wisdom and discernment to call, with open hearts and minds, a faithful pastor who will feed us, your flock, and equip us for our ministries.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Hear us, Lord;

*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own thanksgivings*

We will exalt you, O God our King;  
*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.  
*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;  
*Who put their trust in you.*

*Silence may be kept.*

## The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
*People* And also with you.

**Anthem**              *The Tree Of Life My Soul Hath Seen*              Daniel Pinkham

## The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving    Eucharistic Prayer B              BCP, pp. 367–369

*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.

*The Celebrant continues*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. (A proper preface is said here.) 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:

*Celebrant and People*

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.

*Then the Celebrant continues*

BCP 368-369

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 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

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**The Lord's Prayer**

BCP 364

**The Breaking of the Bread**    *A period of silence is kept.*

**Fraction Anthem**

(Setting by William Bradley Roberts)

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast.

**Agnus Dei**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.  
Grant us peace.

**Communion of the People**

**Prayer For Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come into your glorious kingdom and unending peace. *Amen.*

## Communion Hymn

*Prepare the way, O Zion*



- 1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
- 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
- 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



*Refrain*  
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

The gifts of God for the People of God.

### Sending Forth Of The Eucharistic Visitors

*Celebrant and People*

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, for we all share one bread, one cup.

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*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.

*The Celebrant pronounces a blessing to which the congregation responds, "AMEN."*

## Dismissal

*The Deacon dismisses the people*

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

*People*

Thanks be to God.

**Voluntary**

*Fugue (Concerto in D minor)*

Vivaldi-Bach

## *Prayer List*

### *In our parish*

DANIEL ANDERSEN	JERE LEWIS
ROBERT ANDERSEN	WILLIAM MURPHY
DALE CURRAN	BARBARA O'ROURKE
ALIX DORR	TAMMY POLLOCK
FR. JOHN CAWTHORNE	JIM SUMMEY
DAVID HEATH	JOANN SUMMEY
ANNE LAUDATI	RALPH TILDEN
RICHARD LAUDATI	MACK UMPHLETT

### *People Requesting Prayer*

ANN AND RODNEY  
JESSICA BEAVER  
SHARON BERRY  
ROBIN KEENE  
REV'D MICHAEL SINGER  
ARCHIE SKIRVING  
TRACY CALHOUN SORRENTI  
RYAN STANFIELD  
CORLEEN THOMPSON  
BENNETT WHITFIELD

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Bulletin and E-news submissions:

Please see the forms on our website

at the bottom of this page: <https://spechurch.com/e-news/>

(Deadline Mondays 5:00 p.m.)

The Rt. Rev'd Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Rev'd Raymond Hanna, Interim Rector

The Rev'd Adam Pierce, Assistant Rector

The Rev'd Richard Banks, Priest Associate

Ronnie D. Wise, Director of Music and Organist

Richard Rhoads, Assistant Director of Music and Organist

Diane Matz-Kane, Finance Assistant

**St. Paul's Vestry 2020**

Keith Calder

Joe Farri

Ruth Gates

Angela Green

Steve Haughey

Joan Rosko Miller

Sally Pope

Teresa Singer

Rhonda Stroud

Meaghan Thomas

Jan Vick

Treasurer: Judy Wilson

Clerk: Merry Ann Wright