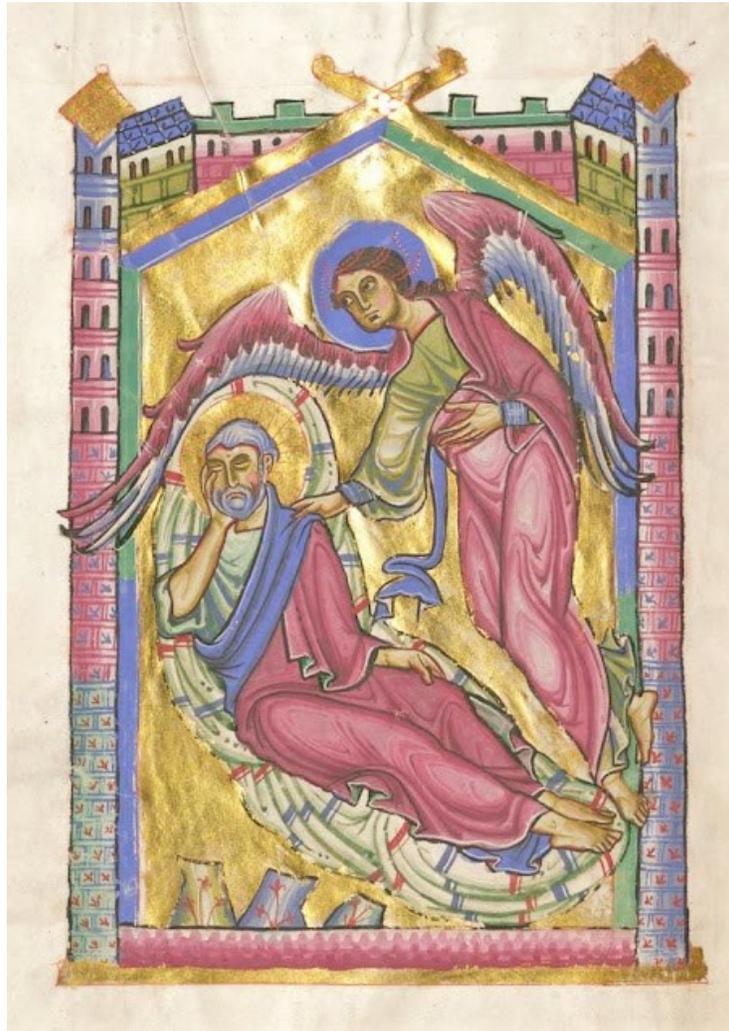


# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON  
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA



## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 18, 2022

8:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

10:30 A.M. CHORAL EUCHARIST

*OPEN DOORS. OPEN HEARTS. OPEN HANDS.*

*WE WILL WELCOME ALL TO LIVE GOD'S MISSION,*

*TEACH CHRIST'S LOVE AND TRANSFORM OUR COMMUNITY BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.*

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# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, celebrating 164 years of service and worship in Wilmington.

## 8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

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*Please silence all electronic devices before the liturgy begins.*

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### SERVICE PARTICIPANTS at 8:00 AM

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<b>Celebrant and Preacher</b> The Reverend Caleb J. Lee	<b>Altar Server/Lector</b> Louise Joyner	<b>Greeter/Usher</b> Tom Gerow
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# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, celebrating 164 years of service and worship in Wilmington.

## 10:30 AM CHORAL EUCHARIST RITE II ACCORDING TO THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER

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*The hymns can be found in the blue 1982 Hymnal. Other hymns will be marked accordingly.  
Please silence all electronic devices before the liturgy begins.*

**Voluntary** *Savior of the Nations, Come* Wayne L. Wold

**Introit** *Arise, the Kingdom Is At Hand* Christopher Tye

Arise, the kingdom is at hand, the King is drawing nigh; O come with joy, thou faithful band, to meet the Lord most high! Look up, ye souls weighed down with care the Sov'reign is not far; look up, faint hearts, from your despair, behold the Morning Star!

**Processional Hymn 59** *Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding* Merton

### THE WORD OF GOD

#### The Acclamation and Response

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**People:** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.  
**Celebrant:** Restore us, O Lord God of Hosts;  
**People:** Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.  
**Celebrant:** Will you not give us life again,  
**People:** That your people may rejoice in you?  
**Celebrant:** Show us your mercy, O Lord.  
**People:** And grant us your salvation.  
**Celebrant:** Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!  
**People:** Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.

#### The Liturgy of the Advent Wreath

*Each Sunday of Advent a new candle is lit with prayer, until all four are lit on the Sunday before Christmas. A fifth candle, always white, is placed in the center of the wreath for Christmas. This Christ candle is lit until the Epiphany, when the wreath is put away.*

**Reader:** Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

**All:** Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.

**Reader:** The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end! (Luke 1:30-33)

**Reader:** We light this candle to remind us of Mary, who was willing, first of all people, to let the light of the Lord shine through her and bring the Savior to the world. Because of her faithfulness and love, Jesus, the Messiah, was born to us.

[The fourth candle is lit.](#)

**Reader:** Let us pray.  
Father, you called Mary to be mother of your Son, so that the world could be saved and brought to new birth. Help us also bring the light of Christ to birth wherever there is darkness and despair, and to work for the coming of your kingdom.

**All:** Amen.

### Advent Refrain

*Wait for the Lord (sung three times)*

Taizé

The musical score is for a piano accompaniment of the Advent Refrain. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system begins with a measure rest marked with a '5' above the staff.

### The Collect of the Day

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**Celebrant:** Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Please be seated.*

### The First Reading: Isaiah 7: 10-16

**Reader:** A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 80: 1-7, 16-18

*Qui regis Israel*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;  
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,  
stir up your strength and come to help us.

- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angered  
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;  
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand,  
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you;  
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;  
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

### The Second Reading: Romans 1: 1-7

**Reader:** A Reading from Paul's letter to the Romans

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*Please stand.*

### Gradual Hymn

*St. Joseph, great protector*

Lllangloffan (68)

1 St. Joseph, great protector  
of Jesus Christ our Lord,  
O holy man of justice,  
We sing with one accord,  
Extolling you with praises  
for virtue strong and bold,  
For faith which still amazes  
Each time the story's told.

2 St. Joseph, you were gifted  
To be Our Lady's spouse;  
In daily joy you raised up  
The Christ-child in your house!  
When you were given warning  
of troubled days ahead,  
You yielded not to mourning,  
But trusted God instead.

3 St. Joseph through your labor  
In simple honest care,  
Your love of God and neighbor  
Is great beyond compare!  
O holy Spouse of Mary,  
Protector of our Lord,  
Help us our cross to carry,  
And share your great reward!

-Owen Alstott

### The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 1: 18-25

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

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he

had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

**Gospeller:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **The Sermon**

**The Reverend Caleb J. Lee**

*Please stand.*

## **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

**Celebrant:** King of kings, yet born of Mary, you come to dwell among us in great humility, you reveal the great love of God towards us and that we are called to be his own people. Come now among us and give us your peace as we pray, “Immanuel, God, you are with us.”

**Intercessor:** In the church that looks for you, among the people who proclaim you, with all who seek to serve you, among all who dedicate their lives to you, with all who proclaim you, now with us as we worship you, with the church, and the church throughout the world. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for Trinity in Chocowinity. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Anglican Church of Korea,  
Immanuel,

**People:** *God, you are with us.*

**Intercessor:** With the nations striving towards the light, with the seekers for freedom and justice, among those who enrich and extend our lives, with all who bring peace on earth, with the peoples lost in darkness, with the nations caught up in war,  
Immanuel,

**People:** *God, you are with us.*

**Intercessor:** In our homes as we prepare for your coming, in our relationships and in our loving, in our sharing and in our caring, in our actions and our interactions, now, within our community,  
Immanuel,

**People:** *God, you are with us.*

**Intercessor:** With the outcasts and the poor, with the unemployed and the homeless, among the scorned and rejected, with the refugees and the stateless, with the persecuted and those who suffer injustice,  
Immanuel,

**People:** *God, you are with us.*

**Intercessor:** With all who are in pain, sorrow, or sickness (*the intercessor reads aloud the names of those in our parish that need our prayers*), with all those who fear the future, with those whose life on earth is coming to an end,  
Immanuel,

**People:** *God, you are with us.*

**Intercessor:** With the whole church on earth, with our loved ones at rest, with the saints in glory,  
Immanuel,

**People:** *God, you are with us.*

## The Advent Collect *(said together)*

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## The Confession of Sin

BCP 360

**Celebrant:** Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Minister 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.

*The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.*

## The Peace

**Celebrant:** The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** And also with you.

## Announcements

### Offertory Anthem

*And the Glory of the Lord (from Messiah)*

G.F. Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

*Members of the congregation will present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord. If you would like to give electronically, please turn to page 12 for the QR code.*

### Advent Presentation Hymn

Puer Nobis

The image shows a musical score for the Advent Presentation Hymn 'Puer Nobis'. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass clef staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are: 'Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.' The score is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and moving lines.

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

BCP 367

**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 God 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:

## Sanctus and Benedictus

*Holy, holy, holy*

Picardy

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly — Lord, Lord God of power and — might,  
7 heav'n — and earth are — full, full of your glo - - - ry. Ho -  
13 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - - - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
19 est. Bless - ed is he who comes, who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
26 san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - - - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

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,

**All:** 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, reconcile all things in Christ and make them new 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

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.*

### Fraction Anthem

*Be known to us, our promised Lord*

Conditor alme siderum  
Text by CJL +

Be known to us, our promised Lord,  
in broken bread and wine outpoured.  
May we receive you thankfully,  
and keep the feast eternally.

**Celebrant:** The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### Invitation to Communion

### Agnus Dei

*O Lamb of God*

Adrian Batten

O Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Grant us thy peace.

### The Communion of the People

*Communion stations are available at the altar rail and in the baptistry. To receive the consecrated Bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed. When receiving the Wine, please assist the chalice as it is offered; or, having consumed the Bread, you may return to your seat. We believe Christ fully present in either element. If you prefer not to receive the Sacrament, you may ask for a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please speak to a priest when you come forward for Communion.*

### Communion Anthem

*Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary*

Charles Wood

Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary! For so when he did meet thee, spake mighty Gabriel, and thus we greet thee. Come weal, come woe, our hymn shall never vary. Hail! Blessed Virgin Mary! Ave, ave Maria! To gladden priest and people, the angelus shall ring from ev'ry steeple, to sound his Virgin birth, alleluia! Ave, ave Maria! Archangels chant Osana, and holy, holy, holy, before the infant born of thee, thou lowly, Aye maiden child of Joachim and Anna; archangels chant Osana.

*The congregation is invited to sing the communion hymns*

Communion Hymn 82

*Of the Father's love begotten*

Divinum mysterium

Communion Hymn 66

*Come thou long-expected Jesus*

Stuttgart

*Please stand.*

*If Eucharistic Visitors are being sent forth today to take the Sacrament to people at home, the following prayer is said after Communion.*

**Prayer for Eucharistic Visitors**

**Priest:** In the name of God, 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.

**People:** We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

**The Post Communion Prayer** *(said together)*

**BCP 365**

*The people stand or kneel.*

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 Blessing**

**Processional Hymn 56** (vs. 1-4)

*O come, O come, Emmanuel*

Veni, veni, Emmanuel  
Descant by Larry Cook

**The Dismissal**

**Deacon:** Let us go forth in the name of Christ who is to come.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Voluntary**

*In Dulci Jubilo*

Wilbur Held

**SERVICE PARTICIPANTS AT 10:30AM**

**Celebrant**  
The Reverend Michael Singer  
**Preacher**  
The Reverend Caleb J. Lee  
**Deacon**  
The Reverend Kay Swindell  
**Vergers**  
Jeffrey Hughes  
**Crucifer**  
Cabe Lee  
Hazel Lee  
**Torchbearers**  
Mary Jeffreys Nipper  
Bennett Sanders-Park  
**Gospel Book Bearer**  
Ruth Gates

**Altar Server**  
Cheryl Wagoner  
**Eucharistic Ministers**  
Cheryl Wagoner  
Zoë Frederiksen  
Chip Carter  
**Lectors**  
Louise Joyner  
Sue Sramek  
**Intercessor**  
Lynda Miller  
**Greeters**  
Cynthia Smallwood  
Jeanne Criscuolo  
**Advent Wreath Leaders**  
The Lee Family

**Ushers**  
Al Cannon  
Tori Cannon  
Rob Nipper  
Jeffrey Sackrison  
Bill Waterfield  
**Flower Guild**  
Brian Sanders-Park  
Louise Joyner  
**Altar Guild**  
Cheryl Wagoner  
Margaret Haughey  
Barbara Banks  
Barbara Bucci

**In Our Parish**

Earl Craig	Tammy Pollock
Fr. John Cawthorne	Dale Curran
Judy Farri	JoAnn Summey
Joe Farri	Barbara O'Rourke
Alice Calder	Katherine Ramsey
Merry Ann Wright	Diane Trubia
Larry Wright	Susan Carter
Tom Freeling	Barbara Bucci
Norman LaSalle	Elaine Francis
Karen Smith	

**People Requesting Prayer**

Tracy Calhoun Sorrenti	Susan Richards Frederick
Tammy Tilghman	Mary Barto
Richard O'Rourke	Susan Petry
Major Jennifer Jantzi	Melodee Fraser
Carroll Joines	Alex Apostolou
Linda Harris	Rosalie Fonda
Lynne Vanstory	Ellie Gibson
David Hayes	Kristen Keen
Gracie Sage	Mary Barnhill

**About the Prayer List**

Included in our prayers are the names of those for whom prayer has been requested by a parishioner or family member. Names are listed for one month. The reason for being listed is kept confidential. If you would like to add yourself or someone else to the prayer list please reach out to Fr. Caleb Lee or make a prayer request online at our website, [www.spechurch.com](http://www.spechurch.com).

**Hospitalization or Pastoral Issues**

Please notify us if you or a family member is hospitalized and/or in need of a pastoral call or visit. Please speak with Fr. Caleb or call the church office at 910-762-4578.

**Sharing Holy Communion**

If illness prevents you or a loved one from joining us for regularly scheduled services, Fr. Caleb or a Lay Eucharistic Minister can share Holy Communion either in your home or at a health care facility. Please speak to Fr. Caleb or contact the church office at 910-762-4578.

**VANCO ONLINE GIVING****Today, Sunday, December 18**  
**The Fourth Sunday in Advent****8:00 am** Holy Eucharist with*Breakfast to follow in the parish hall***9:15am - 12pm** Nursery open**9:30am** Adult Faith Formation (*parish hall*)**9:30am** Children's Sunday School (*upstairs in children's wing*)**9:30am** EYC (*library*)**10:30am** Choral Eucharist*Reception to follow in the parish hall***5:30pm** Christmas Lessons and Carols**Monday, December 19****Tuesday, December 20****7:30am** \*Early-Bird Book Group**9:00am** Morning Prayer**Wednesday, December 21****12:10pm** Midday Eucharist*Light lunch to follow in the parish hall***7:00pm** Adult Choir Practice**Thursday, December 22****9:00am** GNP and St. Fiacre Garden Guild Work Day**9:00am** Morning Prayer**11:00am** The Rector's Bible Study is in recess until Jan. 5**Friday, December 23****8:00am** Mensgroup**10:30am** Rehearsal Children's Presentation of the Nativity**Saturday, December 24****5:00pm** Pre-service Music**5:30pm** Children's Presentation of The Nativity with Holy Eucharist*We will have nursery coverage on Christmas Eve during the 5:30 service only.***8:00pm** Pre-service Music**8:30pm** The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Choral Eucharist**Next Sunday, December 25****The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ***Faith formation classes will resume on Sunday, Jan. 8***10:00am** The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord

Festal Eucharist

*\*No nursery coverage*

\*Join the Early Bird Book Group as we begin a new book, "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston, Tuesdays, 7:30am via Zoom. Contact Julie Martin ([itsjuliemartin@gmail.com](mailto:itsjuliemartin@gmail.com)) for details.

**ADULT EDUCATION: SUNDAY MORNING ADVENT SERIES**

**PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR THE INCARNATION: EXPLORING JESUS' NATIVITY IN THE GOSPELS**

A Different Kind of Birth Story | The Gospel according to St. John with *The Reverend Caleb J. Lee*



**THE CHOIR OF ST. PAUL'S**  
**CHRISTMAS LESSONS  
& CAROLS**  
Sunday, Dec. 18, 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
16 N. 16th St., Wilmington, NC | [spechurch.com](http://spechurch.com)

\*The nursery will be available during Christmas Lessons and Carols.

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**ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S**

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**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, ST. THOMAS**

12:10pm Holy Eucharist

*with a light lunch to follow in the parish hall*

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

5:00pm Pre-service music begins

5:30pm A Children's Presentation of the Nativity with Holy Eucharist

8:00pm Pre-service music begins

8:30pm The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Choral Eucharist

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00am The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Festal Eucharist

*There will be no breakfast or reception*

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, HOLY INNOCENTS**

12:10pm Holy Eucharist

*Lunch will not be served*

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS**

8:00am Holy Eucharist

*There will be no breakfast following*

10:30am Choral Eucharist

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, HOLY EUCHARIST**

12:10pm Holy Eucharist

*with a light lunch to follow in the parish hall*

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY**

12:10pm Holy Eucharist

\*The office will be closed starting Saturday, December 24 through Sunday, January 1.



### 2022 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND MUSIC

You are invited to honor or remember loved ones with the gift of flowers and music for our Christmas services. Forms can be found in the front or back of the church. You can email to [admin@spechurch.com](mailto:admin@spechurch.com) or drop off at the church office.

**The deadline has been extended to Wednesday, December 21.**

You can also donate Christmas flowers and music using the Vanco service accessed by the QR code on page 12.



## Children's Presentation of the Nativity

**CHRISTMAS EVE  
5:30 PM SERVICE**

### Children's Presentation of the Nativity REHEARSAL

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23  
10:30-11:30AM**

CONTACT MEAGHAN THOMAS AT [SPECKIDS@SPECHURCH.COM](mailto:SPECKIDS@SPECHURCH.COM) WITH QUESTIONS!



### THE SOURCE GIFT SHOP ~ YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING DESTINATION

The holidays are upon us with a season of gifts for you and your loved ones. The Source Gift Shop at St. Paul's is your holiday shopping destination. Come shop our clothing, jewelry, candles, games and household items. When you purchase gifts for yourself and your loved ones 100% of the proceeds benefits our: youth group mission travel activities, St. Paul's Choir and other church charities. Come shop with us, on Sundays following the 10:30am service, and help spread St. Paul's ministries into the world. Questions? See Peg Brunton.

Gift cards are now available at The Source. The perfect gift in a tiny envelope!





December 16, 2022

Dear St. Paul's Family,

It is our pleasure to wish you a very Merry Christmas. We are grateful for you, our beloved St. Paul's community. Your abundant faith in God's blessings and your generous support of the 2023 Annual Stewardship Campaign are incredible. As of December 12, we have received 135 pledges amounting to over \$548,000, an increase of over \$80,000 from the same time last year. Thank you for believing in the mission and ministries of St. Paul's.

Whether Christmas finds you at home or traveling to be with family or friends, we ask God's blessing upon you and yours. May all of us welcome, delight, and rejoice in the wondrous love and luminous presence of the Christ Child.

In faith and thanksgiving,

Your Stewardship Team

Join us for the  
**Sacred Ground Dialogue Series!**

Beginning February 2, 2023 *(most sessions via Zoom)*

**The Reverend Caleb J. Lee will be joining us!**

**What is "Sacred Ground?"** Sacred Ground is a film-and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. The series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories.

**Why should I join?** Sacred Ground is part of Becoming Beloved Community, The Episcopal Church's long-term commitment to racial healing, reconciliation, and justice in our personal lives, our ministries, and our society. This series is especially designed to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of today - all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.

**What is the program schedule?** There are 11, two-hour sessions which will be held Thursday evenings, every other week beginning February 2, 2023. Most sessions will be via Zoom, with several to be held at the church.

**How do I get started?** Reach out to either Ruth Gates at [starfire47@hotmail.com](mailto:starfire47@hotmail.com), Ellen Weig at [ecweig@gmail.com](mailto:ecweig@gmail.com), or Phillip Weiss at [phillipweiss@me.com](mailto:phillipweiss@me.com).

**There will be an info table in the parish hall on Sunday, December 18.**

## ST. PAUL'S WELCOMES YOU

### **We are glad you are with us today.**

If you are new to St. Paul's, please fill out a guest card and place it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter or an usher. Here are some quick facts that may be helpful.

**Welcome:** All are welcome to receive communion. If you prefer not to receive, you can remain seated, or come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing. If you are allergic to wheat products, gluten-free communion bread is available. Please let your request be known to the priest as you approach the altar rail.

**Help:** Please see any of our ushers for assistance when you enter the worship area.

**Handicapped Parking:** Our facility is handicapped accessible with multiple handicapped parking spaces available in the lot off Market Street and the lot off Princess Street. Handicap ramps serve both parking lots.

**Live-Streamed:** Our service is live-streamed on YouTube on Sundays at 10:30 am Please subscribe to St. Paul's on YouTube to view live-streamed services and concerts.

**Masks:** All may, none must, some should.

**Worship:** St. Paul's follows the services outlined in the Book of Common Prayer 1979. The services include Old and New Testament readings, a reading from the Gospel, a sermon and traditional communion.

**Children:** All children are welcome and encouraged to attend any of our services.

**Worship Kits:** Bags and boxes are located in the back of the church for different ages to use in the pew, including our children's worship bulletin, *The Sunday Paper*. Please return when church is over.

**Nursery:** The nursery is open most Sundays from 9:15 am to Noon upstairs in the Children's wing. The nursery is for infants to age 5.

**Sunday School:** Most Sundays from 9:30-10:15 am upstairs in the Children's Wing for ages 4-11.

**Episcopal Youth Community (EYC):** Most Sundays from 9:30-10:15 am in the library for 6th grade and older.



## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

16 North Sixteenth Street | Wilmington, NC 28401 | Office: 910-762-4578

Visit us online: [www.spechurch.com](http://www.spechurch.com)

Bulletin & E-news submissions: [admin@spechurch.com](mailto:admin@spechurch.com) (Deadline Mondays, 5:00 pm)

The Right Reverend Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee, Rector

The Reverend Catherine Powell, Priest Associate

The Reverend Michael Singer, Pastoral Associate

Ronnie D. Wise, Director of Music and Organist

The Reverend Dr. William J. Weisser, Assistant Organist

Diane Matz-Kane, Financial Secretary

April Cook, Parish Administrator

Meaghan Thomas, Children, Youth, and Families Coordinator

## St. Paul's Vestry

Bill Anlyan, **Rector's (Sr.) Warden**

Chip Carter, **People's (Jr.) Warden**

Brian Buss | Layne Dupree | Ashley Eason | Matt Langley | Steve Martin

Anne O'Dell | Sally Pope | Tom Sramek | Rhonda Stroud | Meaghan Thomas

Denise Sheehan, **Clerk**

Judy Wilson, **Treasurer**

Cover art: Annunciation to Joseph from the *Book of Pericopes of Saint Erentrud*. Austrian (Salzburg), c. 1050. Munich, Bayerisches Staatsbibliothek. MS Clm 15903, Image 16

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