

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA



THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 4, 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.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, celebrating 163 years of service and worship in Wilmington.

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

Please silence all electronic devices before the liturgy begins.

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS at 8:00 AM

Celebrant	Preacher	Altar Server/Lector	Greeter/Usher
The Reverend Michael Singer	The Reverend Caleb J. Lee	David Tousignant	Mona Clites

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, celebrating 163 years of service and worship in Wilmington.

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

*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.*

An Update on the Organ

Our main pipe organ continues to be out of commission for the time being. We are moving toward a solution. In the interim, we will use our gallery organ to accompany the many beautiful voices in our choir and congregation.

Advent is a season of waiting. Thank you for your patience.

Voluntary *Den die Hirten lobten sebre* Helmut Walcha

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 65 *Prepare the way, O Zion* Bereden väg för Herran

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: At that time John the Baptist came to the desert of Judea and started preaching. "Turn away from your sins," he said, "because the kingdom of heaven is near!" John was the man the prophet Isaiah was talking about when he said, "Someone is shouting in the desert, 'Prepare a road for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel!'" (Matthew 3:3-3)

We light this candle to remind us of the last of the prophets, John the Baptist, who called all people to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. He asked us all to search our own hearts, and rid ourselves of the dark things that keep us from God and from each other.

The second candle is lit.

Reader: Let us pray.
Father, you sent us John the Baptist to prepare the way for the Messiah. Help us to prepare our hearts for Christ to be born in them, and to prepare our world for Christ to come and restore the kingdom.

All: Amen.

Advent Refrain

Wait for the Lord (sung three times)

Taizé

The musical score is for the Advent Refrain 'Wait for the Lord', composed by Taizé. It is written in G major (one sharp) and common time (C). The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system contains the lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second system, starting with a measure rest of 5, contains the lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated.

The First Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-10

Reader: A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its

hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19

Deus, iudicium

- 1 Give the King your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the King's Son;
- 2 That he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;
- 3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the little hills bring righteousness.
- 4 He shall defend the needy among the people;
he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.
- 5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
- 6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.
- 7 In his time shall the righteous flourish;
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
- 18 Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel,
who alone does wondrous deeds!
- 19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever!
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.
Amen. Amen.

The Second Reading: Romans 15: 4-13

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

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gradual Hymn 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 3: 1-12

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

Please stand.

The Apostles Creed *(Please stand)*

Picardy

1 We believe in God the Father,
God almighty, by whose plan
Earth and heaven sprang to being
All created things began.
We believe in Christ the Savior,
Son of God in human frame.

2 Virgin-born, the child of Mary
Upon whom the Spirit came.
Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
Like a lamb to slaughter led,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
He descended to the dead.

3 We believe in Jesus risen,
Heaven’s king to rule and reign,
To the Father’s side ascended
Till as judge he comes again.
We believe in God the Spirit;
In one Church, below, above.

4 Saints of God in one communion,
One in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Savior, Lord and friend
We shall rise with him in glory
To the life that knows no end.

The Prayers of the People

Celebrant: O promised Lord, in your peace and in your presence, awaken us to your coming as we pray, O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us.

Intercessor: Lord of righteousness, you yearn for the salvation of your people. Forgive your church as it wastes its gifts and misuses its resources. Increase in us deeper relationships and greater sensitivity. Give us a zeal for your gospel and to proclaim your love. Let our lives be good examples to others. We pray for the church to which we belong, that it may be open to you. We pray for the work of the whole church, that it may proclaim you. O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power

People: *and come among us.*

Intercessor: We pray for world rulers, states people and politicians that they may discover the road that leads to peace, that they may accept the peace you offer them, that captives may be freed, the oppressed find relief, the weary find rest, the hungry find sustenance and the homeless shelter. We pray for all relief organizations and for all who seek to bring in your kingdom. O Lord, raise up, we pray your power

People: *and come among us.*

Intercessor: That our hearts may be open to your coming in others, to see you in our loved ones, to see you in our neighbors and in our friends; that we may welcome you in the stranger and the needy; that we may serve you in the service of others; O Lord, raise up, we pray your power

People: *and come among us.*

Intercessor: That the ill and housebound may behold traces of your glory; that the despairing and depressed may find new hope; that the lonely and the neglected may know your love; that those who walk in darkness may know your light; that all in weakness may find strength in you; *(the intercessor reads aloud the names of those in our parish that need our prayers)*. O Lord, raise up, we pray your power

People: *and come among us.*

Intercessor: That the departed may rejoice in eternal life; that they may be numbered with your saints in glory. O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power

People: *and come among 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 for ever. 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.

Offertory Anthem

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Marty Wheeler Burnette

(Text found on page 66 of the Hymnal)

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.

Presentation Hymn

Doxology

Puer Nobis

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

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 S-129

Holy, holy, holy

Robert Powell

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 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 it thankfully,
and feast with you 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

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence
(Text found on page 324 of the Hymnal)

Donald Busarow

The congregation is invited to sing the communion hymns

Communion Hymn 67

Comfort, comfort, ye my people

Psalm 42

Communion Hymn 365

Come thou almighty King

Moscow

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 75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascension

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Voluntary

St. Anthony Chorale

Johannes Brahms

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS AT 10:30AM

Celebrant

The Reverend Catherine Powell

Preacher

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

Gospeller

The Reverend Michael Singer

Verger

Leon Tillery

Crucifer

Caleb Lee

Hazel Lee

Gospel Book Bearer

Dot Erway

Altar Server

Ruth Gates

Eucharistic Ministers

Ruth Gates

Larry Hartman

Carolyn Demorest

Lectors

Cynthia Smallwood

Sally Pope

Intercessor

Teresa Singer

Ushers

Bill Waterfield

Paula Waterfield

Dianne Stansbury

Shannon Rowe

Dick Rowe

Greeters

Jeanne Criscuolo

Luvette Hickey

Flower Guild

Beth Richards

Marie Ashworth

Altar Guild

Dot Erway

Carolyn Demorest

Lynda Miller

Advent Wreath Leaders

Bill Richards

Beth Richards

Leigh Anne Dennis



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 are located in the front and back of the church and can be emailed to admin@spechurch.com or dropped off at the church office.

The deadline is Wednesday, December 14.

You can also donate Christmas flowers and music using the Vanco service on our website at <https://spechurch.com/online-giving/>

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
Karen DeJarld	Elaine Francis
Norman LaSalle	Linda Morgan
Karen Smith	Lynda Miller

People Requesting Prayer

Tracy Calhoun Sorrenti	Rick Taylor
Tammy Tilghman	Joe Cerquiera
Richard O'Rourke	Lynne Vanstory
Major Jennifer Jantzi	Dr. Everette Cameron
James Graham	James
Stacy Neal	Lena & Ryan
Bryce Harrelson	Shirley Joseph
Michael Justice	Patricia Noble
Gina Lewis	Susan Richards Frederick
Carol Findlay	Sandy Veale
Gracie Sage	Dennis Traina
Sherry Herman	Kristen Keen
Greyson Chapman	Rebecca Eagen
Kathy Keagy	Mary Barto
Tom Gonzalez	Lindsay Peterson
Barbara Holland	Susan Petry
Carroll Joines	Melodee Fraser
Thomas Ramey Watson	Alex Apostolou
Tonya Justice	Rosalie Fonda

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. 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.

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.



Today, Sunday, December 4

The Second 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*)

10:30am Choral Eucharist
Reception to follow in the parish hall

11:30am Tour of St. Paul's

Monday, December 5

Tuesday, December 6

7:30am *Early-Bird Book Group

9:00am Morning Prayer

6:00pm Wilmington Boys Choir Rehearsal + Dinner

Wednesday, December 7

12:10pm Midday Eucharist
Light lunch to follow in the parish hall

6:00pm Membership Ministry team meeting

7:00pm Adult Choir Practice

Thursday, December 8

9:00am GNP

11:00am **Rector's Bible Study

7:30pm Handel's 'Messiah'

Friday, December 9

8:00am Mensgroup

7:30pm Handel's 'Messiah'

Saturday, December 10

1:00pm William Murphy Funeral

Next Sunday, December 11

The Third Sunday of 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

10:30am Choral Eucharist
Reception to follow in the parish hall

5:00pm Christmas Caroling with Wilmington Boys Choir

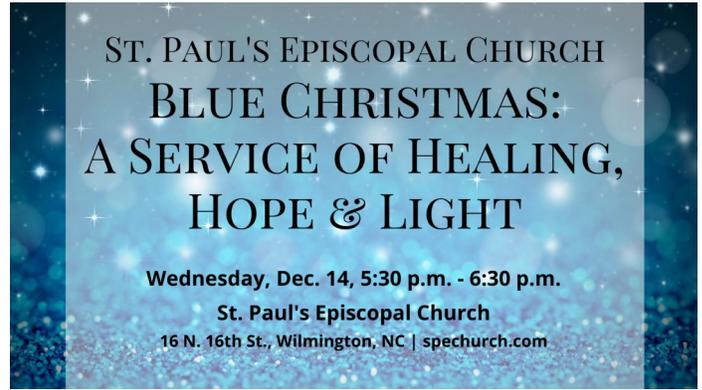
*Join the Early Bird Book Group as we begin a new book, "Their Eyes Were Watching God" by Zora Neale Hurston, Tuesdays, 7:30am via Zoom. Contact Julie Martin (itsjuliemartin@gmail.com) for details.

**Join Fr. Lee in the Parish Hall for a look at the upcoming readings from our Sunday lectionary. Bring your lunch, your perspective, and your Bible.

COMING UP AT ST. PAUL'S



Handel's
Messiah
Choir of St. Paul's
with the NC Baroque Orchestra and soloists
Thursday, Dec. 8 or Friday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 16 N. 16th St., Wilmington, NC
Tickets: \$15 Available via Eventbrite



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
**BLUE CHRISTMAS:
A SERVICE OF HEALING,
HOPE & LIGHT**
Wednesday, Dec. 14, 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
16 N. 16th St., Wilmington, NC | spechurch.com

MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

HOUSING NEEDED

We're looking for housing for members of the NC Baroque Orchestra for Wednesday, December 7 - Friday, December 9. No transportation or meals are needed. Just a room. If you can house someone or if you'd like more information, contact Ronnie Wise at music@spechurch.com.

CANCELLED: MIDDAY ORGAN RECITAL SERIES

Last week, we discovered that our main pipe organ needs a new motor. We are working to find one, but it will take some time. In the interim, we are looking into temporary solutions, but we have decided to cancel our Three Fridays in Advent Organ Recital Series. For our worship services, we will continue to use our antiphonal gallery organ which was installed in 1999 and designed to complement our main organ.

WBC CHRISTMAS CAROLING

The Wilmington Boys Choir invites you to gather at St. Paul's for an afternoon of Christmas caroling in the neighborhood on Sunday, December 11 at 5pm.

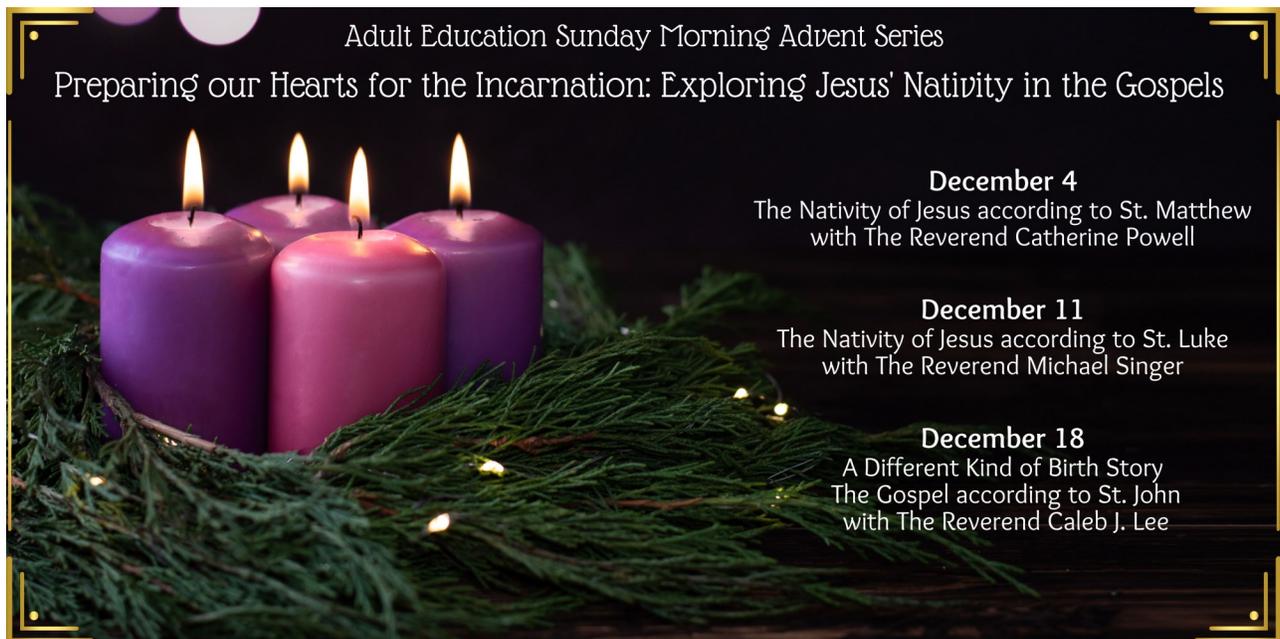
WBC HOLIDAY POPS DINNER & CONCERT

A concert by the Wilmington Boys Choir featuring Christmas Carols and Holiday favorites on Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30pm. Dinner included. Tickets available at the door or online at Eventbrite.

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

The Choir of St. Paul's presents Christmas Lessons and Carols, a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 18 from 5:30-6:30pm.

ADVENT SERIES STARTING TODAY



Adult Education Sunday Morning Advent Series
Preparing our Hearts for the Incarnation: Exploring Jesus' Nativity in the Gospels

December 4
The Nativity of Jesus according to St. Matthew
with The Reverend Catherine Powell

December 11
The Nativity of Jesus according to St. Luke
with The Reverend Michael Singer

December 18
A Different Kind of Birth Story
The Gospel according to St. John
with The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

ST. PAUL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEMBERSHIP MINISTRY TEAM MEETING

Are you looking for a way to get more involved at St. Paul's? Would you like to meet new people and help grow our church? The Membership Ministry is seeking new faces to join our team! We will be meeting Wednesday, December 7 from 6-7pm in the library at St. Paul's. Email Meaghan Thomas at meaghanmthomas@gmail.com or call/text 910-232-4707.

ANGEL TREE

Thank you St. Paul's for your generosity in adopting all angels and stockings for students and seniors! There are a few more angels from Snipes that have gone up on the tree since last Sunday, so if you haven't had a chance to sponsor a student for Christmas, there is still time. Please sign up on the sheet next to the tree if you are taking an angel to shop for.

The last day to bring gifts to church is Friday 12/9. They will be blessed on Sunday 12/11 and delivered to school and the senior center on 12/12. We still need one or two volunteers to help organize and transport gifts for students, so please e-mail or call Cecelia Peers if you can help. cecelia.peers@gmail.com or 910-685-3161.

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 net 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.

CREATIVE CARD MINISTRY

Calling all card makers and paper crafters. St. Paul's invites you to join other parishioners for camaraderie and card making for our Card Ministry. The ministry is intended to create cards to uplift a troubled heart, bring a smile to someone's face or to celebrate a joyful occasion. There is always someone in our world who would appreciate a little TLC. This ministry is for anyone interested in learning how to make basic handmade greeting cards. No prior experience or specific skills are necessary. Just a desire to try your creative energies at creating something that is sure to be a blessing to others. Contact Jan Trivett if you have any questions or would like to participate at 910-622-8489 or jltrivett@gmail.com. Invite a friend to join you in this ministry!



ANNUAL PLEDGE CAMPAIGN UPDATE FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM

As the Annual Pledge Campaign begins to wind down, we wish to express our deep appreciation to everyone who has pledged their support to St. Paul's mission and ministries for 2023. As of November 28, we have received 121 pledges totaling nearly \$475,000, which is an increase of 2 pledges and an amazing \$47,000 compared with the same period last year. Thank you for your enthusiastic response to this year's campaign.

If you have not yet made a pledge, we invite you to join your Stewardship Team and all those who have pledged their support to St. Paul's by returning your pledge form as soon as possible. Our goal is to exceed last year's total of \$506,000, so we still have some work to do. Your pledge can and will make a difference as we work to shine our light and share God's love inside and outside our church walls.

If you need a new pledge form, please print one (<https://spechurch.com/annual-pledge-giving/>) and mail it or place it in the collection plate. You may also submit your pledge online using the same link or send an email to Judy Wilson (treasurer@spechurch.com) with the total pledge amount and the details of your payment plan (weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc.). If you have any questions, please contact Karen Day at (917) 913-3609 or karencday@aol.com.

Advent and Christmas at St. Paul's

December 4, The Second Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:30am Christian Formation for All Ages

Adult Formation - The Christmas Story according to St. Matthew

10:30am Choral Eucharist

Thursday, December 8 and Friday, December 9

7:30pm Handel's 'Messiah' with the choir of St. Paul's and the N.C. Baroque Orchestra and soloists

Tickets \$15 at Eventbrite

December 11, The Third Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:30am Christian Formation for All Ages

Adult Formation - The Christmas Story according to St. Luke

10:30am Choral Eucharist

Wednesday, December 14

12:10pm Holy Eucharist

5:30pm Blue Christmas: A Service of Healing, Hope & Light

December 18, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00am Holy Eucharist

9:30am Christian Formation for All Ages

Adult Formation - The Christmas Story according to St. John

10:30am Choral Eucharist

5:30pm A Festival of Lessons and Carols

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

Wednesday, December 28, Holy Innocents

12:10pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 1, The Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

8:00am Holy Eucharist

10:30am Choral Eucharist

Friday, January 6, The Feast of the Epiphany

12:10pm Holy Eucharist

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

Bulletin & E-news submissions: 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**

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