

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA



THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 22, 2024

8:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST

10:30 AM 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 166 years of service and worship in Wilmington.

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

Our worship service can be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Please silence all electronic devices before the liturgy begins.

THE WORD OF GOD

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| People: <i>Have mercy upon us.</i> | |
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THE HOLY COMMUNION

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS at 8:00 AM

Celebrant & Preacher
The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

Altar Server & Lector
Herb Gant

Greeter & Usher
Tom Gerow

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, celebrating 166 years of service and worship in Wilmington.

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

Our worship service can be found in the red Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Hymns can be found in the blue Hymnal. Please silence all electronic devices before the liturgy begins.

Voluntary *Es ist ein Ros entsprungen* Johannes Brahms
Processional Hymn (*Bulletin Page 11*) *When the King shall come again* Tempus Adest Floridum

THE WORD OF GOD

The Acclamation and Response

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: *And blessed be God's 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.*

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

5 Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

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: Micah 5:2-5a

Reader: A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah.

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm: 80: 1-7**Qui Regis Israel**

Plainsong

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
 shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
 stir up your strength and come to help us.
 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
 O LORD God of hosts, *
 how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
 you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
 and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Second Reading: Hebrews 10: 5-10

Reader: A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Please stand.

Gradual Hymn 438

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord

Woodlands

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 1: 39-55.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

Please be seated

The Nicene Creed *Please stand.*

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 *(Adapted from Intercessions for the Christian People)*

Celebrant: Rejoicing with Mary that the word comes among us, let us offer to God our prayers, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor: May we find in Mary, the servant of the Lord, the model of our heart's willing surrender to God's call. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: May we discover in true spiritual virginity the richness of what God alone can do to make Christ come alive in Mary, in us, and in all the world. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: May the God of mystery who dwells in unapproachable light draw us more and more deeply into the path of divine wisdom beyond all human expectation. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: May our assembly of disciples be a birthplace for the shaping of Christ by God's power, so that we may give birth to Christ in our community for the good of the world. In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for Chaplains of the Armed Forces. In our Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Episcopal Church in the Philippines. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: May our deepest hearts find strength in the gift of the blessed hope that what God has begun to do in our world and in all our persons by Christ's saving work will be brought to its fullness by our Savior. For this let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: May we remember before God all who are in any need and who cry for the presence of God, especially *(the intercessor prays the name of those in our parish who need our prayers)*. For these let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Intercessor: May God's everlasting light, born of Mary, shine on all those whom we love but see no longer, especially Baker Williams. For these let us pray to the Lord.

People: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

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 and Absolution

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.*

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 9 for the QR code.

Offertory Anthem

Bogoroditse Devo

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Bogoróditse Dyévo, ráduisya,
Blagodátnaya Mariye, Gospód s Tobóyu.
Blagoslovyéna Ty v zhenákh,
i blagoslovyén plod chryéva tvoyevó,
yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshikh.

Rejoice, virgin mother of God,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.
(English Translation)

Presentation Hymn

Veni Emmanuel Doxology

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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.*

The Celebrant continues.

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. The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer and finally leads the congregation into The Lord's Prayer with the following words.

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

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 feast with you eternally.

Invitation to Communion

Agnus Dei S-158

O Lamb of God

Healey Willan

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

The Communion of the People

Communion stations are available at the altar rail and underneath the pulpit. 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

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The tree of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.
His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly have I bought:
I missed of all: but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.
I'm weary with my former toil. Here I will sit and rest awhile:
under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the apple tree.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

The congregation is invited to sing the communion hymns

Communion Hymn 53

Once he came in blessing

Gottes Sohn ist kommen

Communion Hymn 81

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Es ist ein Ros

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

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

JS Bach

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS AT 10:30AM

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Celebrant The Reverend A. Michael Singer</p> <p>Preacher The Reverend Caleb J. Lee</p> <p>Gospeller The Reverend Kay Swindell</p> <p>Verger Leon Tillery</p> <p>Crucifers Cabe Lee Hazel Lee</p> <p>Torchbearers Charlie Nipper Izzy Lee</p> <p>Gospel Book Bearer Laila Coleman Olsen</p> | <p>Altar Server Cabe Lee</p> <p>Eucharistic Ministers Dot Erway Sue Sramek Mary Jeffreys Nipper</p> <p>Lectors Allen Lee Cynthia Smallwood</p> <p>Intercessor Missy Kennedy</p> <p>Greeters Áimee Salinas Trish Arnold</p> | <p>Flower Guild David Frederiksen</p> <p>Altar Guild Dot Erway Carolyn Demorest Lynda Miller</p> <p>Advent Wreath Leaders Ashlyn Park Isaac Kuykendall</p> <p>Ushers Al Cannon Tori Cannon Kathryn Hedgepeth Royster Hedgepeth Don Bobo</p> |
|--|---|---|

ST. PAUL'S PRAYER LIST

VANCO ONLINE GIVING

In Our Parish

| | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| Earl Craig | Renée Patrick |
| Alice Calder | Carroll Joines |
| Eileen Searle | Janet Dillon |
| Lloyd Olsen+ | Bill Garmon |
| Tammy Pollock | Mitchell Garrell |
| Dale Curran | Bob Crafts |
| Lyle Sullivan | Katherine Ramsey |
| JoAnn Summey | Richard & Barbara |
| John Efthemis | O'Rourke |
| Mack Umphlett | Sib Vlahos |
| Ashley Eason | Bill Waterfield |



People Requesting Prayer

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Tracy Sorrenti | Kristy Marshall |
| Rebecca Tousignant | David Olsen |
| Faye Briggs | Alida Babcock |
| Doug Crafts | Lynn Sunde |
| Aaron Harward | Elise Harney |
| Lisa Wilson | Charlie Fetter |
| Anderson Cannon | Mike Mays |
| Michelle Long | Ben Ellington |

The Departed

Baker Williams

TONIGHT

5:30pm Christmas Lessons and Carols

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

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

8:00pm Pre-service music begins

8:30pm Choral Eucharist

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

No Sunday School/EYC

8:00am Holy Eucharist (*There will be no breakfast.*)

9:15am-12pm Nursery open (*upstairs in the Children's wing*)

10:30am Choral Eucharist (*There will be no reception*)

The Church Office will be open by appointment only Christmas Eve through New Years Day.



**The Dedication and Blessing of the Madonna and Child
in the
Historic Baptistry and Lady Chapel
In loving memory of
Florence and Steven Toth
by Wade Toth**

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. *And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee;

Blessed art thou among women,

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. *Be it done unto me according to thy word.*

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. *And dwelt among us.*

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we set apart this Madonna and Child given by Wade Toth to your praise and glory and in memory of his parents, Florence and Steven Toth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

I dedicate and bless this offering in the Name of the Father + and of the Son+ and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



1 When the King shall come a - gain, all his power re - veal - ing,
 2 In the des - ert, trees take root, fresh from God's cre - a - tion;
 3 Strength - en fee - ble hands and knees; faint - ing hearts, be cheer - ful!
 4 There God's high - way shall be seen where no roar - ing li - on,

1 splen - dor shall an - nounce his reign, life and joy and heal - ing;
 2 plants and flowers and sweet - est fruit join the cel - e - bra - tion;
 3 God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fear - ful.
 4 noth - ing e - vil or un - clean, walks the road to Zi - on;

1 earth no long - er in de - cay, hope no more frus - tra - ted,
 2 riv - ers spring up from the earth, bar - ren lands a - dorn - ing,
 3 Deaf ears, hear the sil - ent tongues sing a - way their weep - ing,
 4 ran - somed peo - ple home - ward bound all your prais - es voic - ing,

1 this is God's re - demp - tion day long - ing - ly a - wait - ed.
 2 Val - leys, this is your new birth; moun - tains, greet the morn - ing!
 3 blind eyes, see the life - less ones walk - ing, run - ning, leap - ing!
 4 see your Lord with glo - ry crowned, share in his re - joic - ing!

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.

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

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): EYC meets Sunday from 9:30-10:15 am in the conference room for 6th grade and older.



16 N. 16th Street, Wilmington, NC 28401 | (910) 762-4578 | www.spechurch.com

Admin Office Hours: Mon-Thur 9 am-4 pm, Fri 9 am-1 pm

Finance Office Hours: Mon, Wed-Thurs 9 am-4 pm

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 A. Michael Singer, Pastoral Associate

Brendan Conner, Organist and Director of Music

Diane Matz-Kane, Finance Assistant

Meaghan Thomas, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Isaac McDowell, Associate for Youth and Parish Life

St. Paul's 2024 Vestry

Anne O'Dell, Rector's Warden

Steve Haughey, People's Warden

Tori Cannon, Clerk

Scott Sheble, Treasurer

Steve Bucci | Ashley Eason | Barbara Ellington-Banks | Carol Field

Lisa Sanders-Park | Denise Sheehan | David Tousignant | Phillip Weiss

Cover art: Prussian. Madonna and Child, hand carved from a single piece of wood and painted by a Prussian monk in the family line of Wade Toth, a parishioner of St. Paul's, and passed down from generation to generation in his family. Gifted to St. Paul's in 2016.

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