

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA



**CHRISTMAS EVE
HOLY EUCHARIST
WITH**

A CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

5:30 pm

OPEN DOORS. OPEN HEARTS. OPEN HANDS.



A CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM THE RECTOR



December 2025

Beloved of St. Paul's,

Have you ever wondered why the poinsettia is so popular at Christmas?

The tradition originates in Mexico, where according to legend, a young girl of humble means named Pepita was enroute to Christmas Eve services and concerned that she had nothing to give the baby Jesus on his birthday. Seeing her concern, her cousin Pedro consoled Pepita. "Don't worry," he said, "I am sure the smallest gift will make the baby Jesus happy." Pepita found some weeds on the side of the busy village road. She tied them together with a piece of string and waited for her chance to lay the makeshift bouquet at the manger. At the offering, she bypassed the ushers, approached the Nativity scene underneath the altar, and laid the bouquet at Jesus' manger. A little embarrassed by her meager gift, Pepita, with her head down, quickly returned to her seat. Hearing gasps, she looked up and noticed that her little bouquet of weeds had been transformed into a beautiful poinsettia. From that day forward, the people of Mexico called poinsettias "Flowers of the Holy Night," for the shape of the leaves recalls the Star of Bethlehem, and the red color symbolizes Christ's sacrifice, the giving up of himself for the sake of others.

This story echoes the last verse of *In the bleak midwinter*.

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can, I give him. Give my heart.*

The legend of the poinsettia reminds us that it is not the size or the extravagance of the gift that warms the heart of God. Any gift, given in love, is beautiful and has the capacity to transform. We know this from the story of our Savior's birth. Christ did not come to us in great power or glory. Christ came to us in vulnerability. He came to us in a manger, born of a lowly handmaiden. And yet, from that meager beginning, God has so richly blessed and transformed the world. From that meager beginning, we have been given the gifts of forgiveness and eternal life, and that is so much more valuable than silver or gold.

This year, may we marvel at the poinsettias with the legend in mind. May we remember the gift that is Jesus Christ, and know that our own gifts, given in love, are beautiful and have the capacity to transform lives and the world around us.

Merry Christmas!

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, celebrating 167 years of service and worship in Wilmington.

Prelude

Ave Maria
Noels 1, 2, and 3 from Six Noels op. 32
Greensleeves
Joy to the World and Ding Dong Merrily on High
Es ist ein Ros

Franz Schubert
Marcel Tournier
arr. Yolanda Kondonassis
arr. Claire Swanson
Johannes Brahms

A CHILDREN'S PRESENTATION OF THE NATIVITY

Please remain seated.

The congregation sings the first verse of "Blest be the King whose coming" as the children adorn the scene with palms.

Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
For him let doors be opened, no hearts against him barred!
Not robed in royal splendour, in power and pomp comes he:
but clad as are the poorest - such his humility.

The Narrator begins with the presentation of Bethlehem.

Narrator: This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The children will show us how to go. The little town we seek sits in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years the houses have gathered there on the hilltop like a family breaking bread. "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread." In the center of the village is a small inn. On this night it is overflowing with people seeking sleep and a place to eat. Behind the inn is a dark stable. A gray donkey chews his barley and broken straw while a weary cow leans and rests after the day's plowing in the valley. A sheep nearby is nearly asleep. All is still and quiet in the little town.

The children now bring forward the animals as the congregation sings verse one of the hymn "O Little Town of Bethlehem."

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

The Narrator continues with the presentation of Mary and Joseph.

Narrator: As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road. Look, there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to come to this city where King David was born, so long ago. They have come, like so many others, because the Roman emperor wants to count each one, so he can take their money as a tax. But it is late, and Mary is so weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.

The children now bring forward Mary and Joseph as the congregation sings verse one of the hymn "Once in Royal David's City."

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

The Narrator continues with the presentation of the Baby Jesus.

Narrator: Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly, from the stable, comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed box that his father has filled with straw.

The children now bring forward the baby Jesus as all the congregation sings verse one of the hymn "Away in a Manger."

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The Narrator continues with The Presentation of the Angels and Shepherds.

Narrator: In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter: the faces of angels. The fearful shepherds then hear music in the sky, and a voice says clearly, “Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you good news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the City of David a Savior is born! He is Christ, the Lord.” Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people, everywhere.” The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find Nativity itself in the center of all that love.

The children now bring forward the angels as they lead the shepherds. The congregation sings verse two of the hymn “Angels from the Realms of Glory.”

**Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.**

The Narrator continues with The Presentation of the Three Kings.

Narrator: Three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert, perhaps from as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry three kings, the wise ones, the Magi. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King its shining shows them.

The children now bring forward the three kings as the congregation sings verse one of the hymn “We Three Kings.”

**We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

Refrain:

**O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!**

Narrator: The kings’ journey ends in a new kind of king. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall to their knees and give him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense and bitter myrrh, brought so far with so much love. So now we all come, following the star, to find God with us. We come, as people have come all through the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God’s gift to us. So let us come and bring our own thanks and praise as we enter into the mystery of Christmas.

Please stand.



As the narrator concludes the story, we bring our own gifts of adoration and praise as we stand and sing, "O come all ye faithful!"

Processional Hymn 83

O come all ye faithful (v. 1-3, 6)

Adeste fideles

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels

Refrain

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

2 God from God, Light from Light eternal
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only begotten son of the Father;
Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens
of heav'n above;
glory to God in the highest:

Refrain

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus to thee be glory givn;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.*

Celebrant: The glory of the Lord has been revealed:

People: *And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.*

The Lighting of the Christ Candle

Reader: We light this candle to remind us of the great light that comes at last with the birth of Jesus, the Word of God made human for us. As we welcome him in the poor stable in Bethlehem, we offer ourselves to bring his transforming love to birth in all dark places, and to serve him in all our brothers and sisters.

The Christ candle is lit.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

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

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,

2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1:1-14

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Homily

Please be seated.

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

The Apostles' Creed *(sung together)*

Regent Square (93)

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.

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.

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.

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: As we join the shepherds and celebrate with joy the birth of Jesus Christ, let us offer prayers to God who shines the light of Christ on all creation; saying: Glory and praise to you, O living God.

Intercessor: By the birth of Jesus Christ to the Virgin Mary, we pray,
People: *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

Intercessor: For all bishops and clergy, all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God, we pray,
People: *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

Intercessor: For all believers who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God, we pray,
People: *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

Intercessor: For the leaders of the nations and all in authority, and for peace and justice, we pray,
People: *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

Intercessor: For travelers, for the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for those in prison, and for the dying and the dead, we pray,
People: *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

Intercessor: Remembering the Blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Joseph, blessed Nicholas, all the saints, and all those we remember through flowers and music this night (*page 14*), let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ, we pray,
People: *Glory and praise to you, O living God.*

Celebrant: Source of light and gladness, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May the Rising Sun of Christ spread across the world and brighten all humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
People: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace

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

Welcome & Announcements

*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 13 for the QR code.*

Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem: Angels are singing, their sound fills the air.
Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah; but only a mother and baby lie there.

*'Ave Maria, ave Maria': Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.
'Ave Maria, ave Maria, Maiden, and mother of Jesus our King'.*

Where are his courtiers, and who are his people? Why does he bear neither sceptre nor crown?
Shepherds his courtiers, the poor for his people, with peace as his sceptre and love for his crown.

Refrain

What though your treasures are not gold or incense? Lay them before him with hearts full of love.
Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother who bore us a Saviour by grace from above.

Refrain

Presentation Hymn

Christmas Doxology

Gloria (96) arr. Nigel Potts

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him crea - tures here be - low:

5 praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host: Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

9 Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

15 Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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-128

Holy, holy, holy Lord

William Mathias

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues.

The Celebrant continues.

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

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

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

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

Hymnal S-154

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

O Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us, and grant to us your peace.

Communion of the People

Communion stations are available at the altar rail and under 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 Meditation

Lo, How a Rose/Of the Father's Love

Claire Swanson

Communion Choir Carol

Ding dong, merrily on high

Charles Wood

Ding dong, merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing; ding dong, verily the sky
is riv'n with angel singing. Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen, and io, io, io,
by priest and people sung. Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Pray ye dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers; may ye beautifully rhyme
your evetime song, ye singers. Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!

Communion Hymn 115

What child is this?

Greensleeves

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. **Refrain**

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him. **Refrain**

Communion Hymn 101

Away in a manger

Cradle Song

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Post Communion Prayer *(said together)*

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 church is darkened and the people, standing or kneeling, share candlelight with one another while singing 'Silent Night.'

Hymn 111

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Christmas Blessing

Processional Hymn 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

3 Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
Light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King.*

The Dismissal

Deacon:
People:
Voluntary

Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of the newborn Christ.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

In Dulci Jubilo

Johann Sebastian Bach

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Celebrant & Preacher
The Reverend Caleb J. Lee

Gospeller
The Reverend Deacon Kay Swindell

Assisting
The Reverend Judy Breny

Verger
Leon Tillery

Thurifer
Nathan Gaylord

Crucifers
Hazel Lee
Izzy Lee

Torchbearers
Jack Aylesworth
Turner Tait

Altar Server
Hazel Lee

Eucharistic Ministers
Jeffrey Hughes
Sue Sramek
Cabe Lee

Gospel Book Bearer
Kate Anlyan

Flower Guild
All Members

Altar Guild
All members

Lector
Allen Lee

Intercessor
Herb Gant

Christ Candle
Jack Aylesworth

Ushers
Bill Petry
Pete Hoff
Don Bobo

Musicians
Dr. Brendan Conner, Director of Music and Organist
The Choir of St. Paul's
Adam Moxley-White, Trumpet
Christina Brier, Harp

VANCO ONLINE GIVING





Christmas Flowers and Music

In Memory of
Barbara & John Day
by Karen Day

by Lyle Sullivan
by Kathleen & Patrick
Finn
by Ben Mastracola

In Memory of
Capt. Henry Ray Rivenbark
Robert Turner Rivenbark
by Em Rivenbark

In Memory of
Alex Hartman &
Carl Davenport
by Larry & Deb Hartman

In Honor of
The Flower Guild
by The Reverend & Mrs.
A. Michael Singer

In Memory of
Nancy Bobo
In Honor of
My Parish Family
by Don Bobo

In Memory of
Eb Jordan
Kate and Jim Fox
Scott Murray
By Jay and Ruth Jordan

In Memory of
Neil & Pat Sorrenti
Ed & Nellie Selweski
Larry Sorrenti, Jim Sorrenti
by Patrick & Teresa Sorrenti

In Memory of
Rev. J. Felix Arnold &
Francis Arnold Parker
Robert & Maggie Embert
by Claude Arnold

In Thanksgiving
for our Family
LeeAnn & Chip Blalock

In Honor of
Our Grandchildren
By Brad & Beth Van Amberg

In Memory of
Lou Criscuolo
by Jeanne Criscuolo

In Memory of
Lee Ryan
by Lucy LaSalle

In Memory of
Merry Ann & Larry Wright
by Ron & Lynda Miller

In Memory of
Victori Stewart &
Maurici Gilmartin
Dorothy & William Hughes
by Jeanne & Jay Stewart

In Memory of
Arthur Fruechtenicht
In Thanksgiving for
Sara Frances & Algernon Butler
by Al & Jenna Butler and
Sara Fruechtenicht

In Memory of
Clayton Waterfield
by Paula and Bill Waterfield

In Honor of
Cheryl Wagoner & Kathryn Hedgepeth
by Suzanne Joyce

In Loving Memory of
Robert Crafts
by Merillie, Jason and Jen

In Memory of
Our Families
by Frank & Marcia Wolf

In Memory of
YiaYia & Papou, Miss Kate &
Big Jim, Tom, Trevor
by Sara & Matt Anlyan

In Memory of
Our Parents, John & Joanne Wilson
by Michael & Shelley Jonik

by Robert & Peg Brunton
by David & Marilyn
Tousignant

by Claude Arnold
In Memory of
Annie Winslow, Moses Benjamin, &
Elijah Ellington; Florence, Paul, Carol,
James & Evan Banks
by Barbara Banks

by Leon Tillery
by Martha & Andrew
Silberman

by Lynn Casper
by Michael & Mary Flinn

In Thanksgiving for
Family & Friends
by Randolph & Cynthia
Smallwood

In Memory of
Capt. Ralph Schlichter, USN-Ret.
by Susannah & Owen Aylesworth

In Memory of
My beloved brother,
Lupas Constantine
by Eleonora Gafton

In Memory of
Alice R. Calder
by Keith Calder

by William & Susan Bowers

In Memory of
Algernon & Josephine Butler,
Eva Butler Daniel, James & Gertrude
Deibert, Nancy Deibert Williams
by Susan Butler

In Memory of
C.D. Tounsley, Jr
In Honor of
Zona & Ray Lewis, Tiff, Heather,
Logan & Cullen Tounsley
by Zona Tounsley

by Mary Bridges

In Thanksgiving for
The Choir
by the Olsens

In Memory of
Mark Tedesco
By Carla Ortiz

In Memory of
Cherished Friends Who Left Us in 2025
By Royster & Kathryn Hedgepeth

In Memory of
Richard Rhodes
In Thanksgiving for
Laura, Em, Daniel, Lara,
Charley, & Henry
by Rhonda Stroud

In Thanksgiving for
The St. Paul's Clergy & Staff
by William & Sarah Holt
Gwathmey

In Memory of
George, Emma Lee, Jim & Mona
In Thanksgiving for
Our Children & Grandchildren
by Dick & Jewel Rowe

CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAUL'S

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

8:00pm: Choral Prelude

8:30pm: Choral Eucharistic

Thursday, December 25, Christmas Day

10:00am Holy Eucharist with Carols

Sunday, December 28, The First Sunday after Christmas

No Sunday School/EYC

8:00am Holy Eucharist *(there will be no Koffee Klatch following)*

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

10:30am Choral Eucharist *(no reception to follow today)*

Wednesday, December 31, The Feast of the Holy Name

12:10pm Holy Eucharist *(lunch will not be served)*

Sunday, January 4, The Feast of the Epiphany

No Sunday School/EYC

8:00am Holy Eucharist *(breakfast to follow)*

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

9:30am Formation for all ages

10:30am Choral Eucharist *(reception to follow)*

*The church office will be open by **appointment only** from Monday, December 29, 2025-January 2, 2026.*

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

New Office Address - 1624 Princess Street

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

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

Clergy and Staff

The Right Reverend Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Reverend Caleb J. Lee, Rector

The Reverend James H. Green, Associate Priest

Dr. Brendan Conner, Organist and Director of Music

Lynne Rooks, Finance Manager

Jeanne Fitzpatrick, Church Administrator

Meaghan Thomas, Children's Ministry Coordinator

Isaac McDowell, Associate for Youth and Parish Life

Christian Bridges, Sunday Sexton

St. Paul's 2025 Vestry

Carol Field, Rector's Warden

Steve Haughey, People's Warden

Anne O'Dell, Clerk

Scott Sheble, Treasurer

Barbara Ellington Banks | Steve Bucci | Tori Cannon | Karen Day | Mait DuBois

Cecelia Peers | Denise Sheehan | David Tousignant | Frank Wolf

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