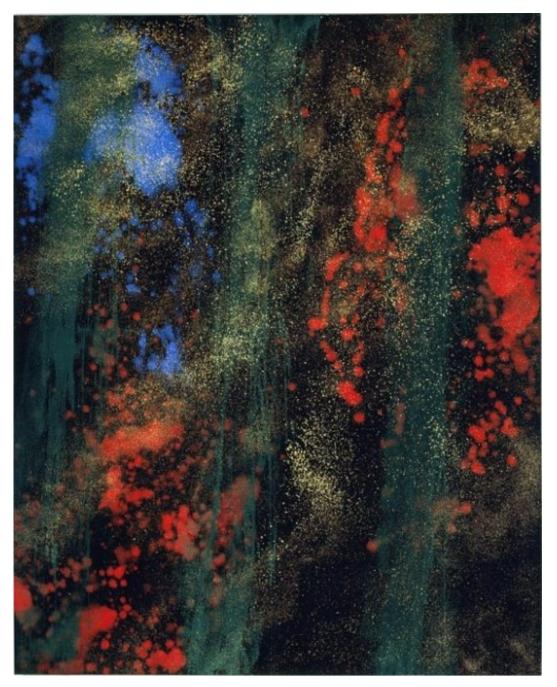
St. Paul's Episcopal Church

IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA



THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 28, 2025

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Choral Eucharist

OPEN DOORS. OPEN HEARTS. OPEN HANDS.

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.

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). 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.

THE WORD OF GOD

The Acclamation and Response	Page 3
The Collect for Purity	Page 3
The Gloria	BCP 356
The Collect of the Day	Page 3
The Lessons	
The First Reading	Page 4
Psalm 147:13-21	BCP 805
The Second Reading	Page 4
The Holy Gospel	Page 5
The Sermon	The Reverend James H. Green
The Nicene Creed	BCP 358
The Prayers of the People	Page 5
The Confession of Sin and Absolution	BCP 360
The Peace	Page 6
THE HOLY COMMUNION	
Offertory Sentence	
The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)	Page 7
The Lord's Prayer	BCP 364
The Breaking of the Bread	Page 8
The Communion of the People	Page 8
The Post Communion Prayer	Page 9

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS AT 8:00 AM

Celebrant and Preacher The Reverend James H. Green

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Altar Server
David Tousignant
Lector
Spencer Weig

Greeter/Usher
Tom Gerow

Page 9

Page 9

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.

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

Voluntary In dulci jubilo Dietrich Buxtehude

Processional Hymn 109 The first Nowell The First Nowell

THE WORD OF GOD

The Acclamation and Response

BCP 355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **People:** And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Celebrant: The Word was made flesh

People: And dwelt among us.

Celebrant: The light shines in the darkness, **People:** And the darkness did not overcome it.

The Collect for Purity (said together)

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The Gloria All glory be to God on high Winchester Old

1. All glory be to God on high And on earth peace proclaim; We praise, we bless, we worship you,

We glorify your name.

2. Almighty Father, heavenly King, We give you thanks and praise; Lord Christ, only begotten Son, Your wondrous name we raise. 3. Son of the Father, Lamb of God, You take our sins away, Have mercy, you that bore our sins, And hear us when we pray.

You only are the Lord.

4. Lord Christ, you sit at God's right hand, Let mercy be outpoured; You only are the holy one,

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Reading: Isaiah 61: 10-62:3

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

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147: 13-21 Laudate Dominum George Black

The cantor sings refrain. All repeat refrain. Cantor sings verses. All sing refrain after each verse.



- 1. Worship your God, O Jerusalem; praise the Holy One, O Zion, Who has strengthened the bars of your gates; and blessed your children within you. *Refrain*
- 2. You have established peace on our borders; and satisfied us with your finest wheat. You send out your command to the earth, and your word runs very swiftly. *Refrain*
- 3. You give new snow like wool; you scatter hoarfrost like ashes. You scatter your hail like bread crumbs; who can stand against your cold? *Refrain*
- 4. You send forth your word and melt them; you blow with your wind, and the waters flow. You declare your word to Jacob, your statutes and judgments to Israel. You have not done so to any other nation; to them you have not revealed your judgments. Hallelujah! *Refrain*

The Epistle Reading: Galatians 3: 23-25; 4: 4-7

Reader: A Reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1: 1-18.

Glory to you, Lord Christ. People:

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 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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord. People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend James H. Green

Hymn to Joy (376)

The Apostles' Creed (sung together)

Please stand.

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. Virgin-born, the child of Mary Upon whom the Spirit came.

2 Christ, who on the cross forsaken, 3 We believe in God the Spirit; Like a lamb to slaughter led, Suffered under Pontius Pilate, He descended to the dead. We believe in Jesus risen, Heaven's king to rule and reign, To the Father's side ascended Till as judge he comes again.

In one Church, below, above. 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: Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvelous

light saying Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: help us to know you, to worship and to serve you. In

our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we give thanks and pray for the new year ahead. In the Anglican

Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Anglican Church in Canada. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Wonderful counselor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the

mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in

your kingdom of justice and righteousness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children,

bless our families, and renew our communities. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Prince of peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give your gift of

wholeness and peace to all who suffer. We pray especially for (the intercessor names those on the parish

prayer list). Are there others? (Silence) Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Sun of Righteousness, who is risen with healing in your wings. Comfort and console all who

mourn and give to the departed eternal rest. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit, hear our prayer, receive our praises, and fill

our lives. Amen.

The Confession of Sin and Absolution

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.

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory Anthem

A stable lamp is lighted

Text can found in the Blue Hymnal 104

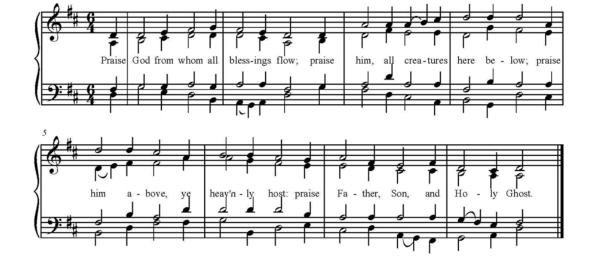
Members of the congregation will present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord. If you would like to give electronically, please turn to page 10 for the QR code.

Presentation Hymn (please stand)

Christmas Doxology

Puer Nobis

David Hurd



The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

The Lord be with you. Celebrant:

People: And also with you. Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. People:

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise. People:

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-125

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Proulx

BCP 367



The Celebrant continues

Celebrant

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.

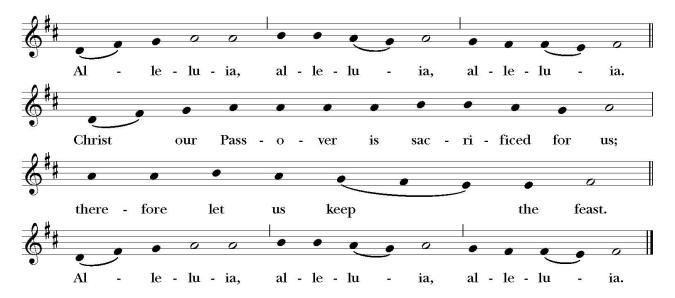
BCP 364 The Lord's Prayer

7

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

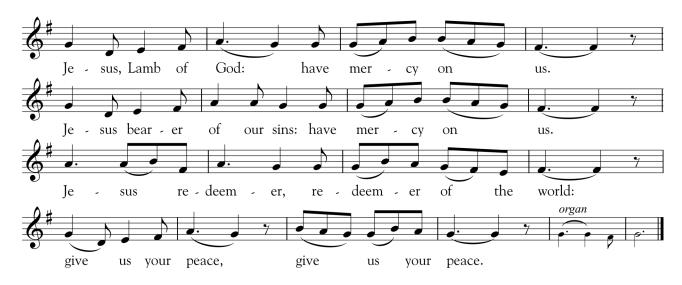
Fraction Anthem S-154 David Hurd



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

Agnus Dei S-164

Franz Schubert



The 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 Anthem

Good Christian friends, rejoice Text can found in the Blue Hymnal 107 In dulci jubilo

Communion Hymn 632 Communion Hymn 99

O Christ, the Word Incarnate Go tell it on the mountain

Munich Go Tell it on the Mountain

Please stand.

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 100

Joy to the world!

Antioch

The Dismissal

Celebrant:

Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of the newborn Christ.

People:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Voluntary

In Thee is Gladness

J.S. Bach

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS AT 10:30AM

Celebrant & Preacher

The Reverend James H. Green

Gospeller

The Reverend Deacon Kay Swindell

Verger

Leon Tillery

Eucharistic Ministers

Scott Sheble Larry Hartman Carolyn Demorest

Altar Server

Jeffrey Hughes

Crucifers

Jeffrey Hughes Charlie Nipper

Torchbearers

Kate Anlyan Eve Frederiksen

Gospel Book Bearer

Amelia Thomas

Lectors

Sue Sramek Lisa Sanders-Park

Intercessor

Missy Kennedy

Greeters

Jessica Shiplett Cullen Shiplett

Ushers

Dianne Stansbury Trish Arnold Kathryn Hedgepeth Royster Hedgepeth Al Cannon

Flower Guild

All Members

Altar Guild

Leon Tillery Gail Gallaher Amber Austin Pam Garmon

Music

Dr. Brendan Conner The Choir of St. Paul's

ST. PAUL'S PRAYER LIST

In Our Parish

Carroll Joines Earl Craig Catherine Thompson Allan Janet Dillon Eileen Searle Bill Garmon Lloyd Olsen+ Katherine Ramsey Tammy Pollack Barbara O'Rourke Richard Banks+ Iim Edwards JoAnn Summey Jeffrey Sackrison John Efthemis Jane Carey Brandon Adkins Mack Umphlett Ashley Eason Ronald Miller Renée Patrick Gladys & Bob Remillard Maryelle Jones Sara Fruechtenicht Ron Miller Tom Matthews Retha Deaton Candace Halecki Beth Richards Don Curran

People Requesting Prayer

Kirk Convers Lisa Wilson Mary Lou Homestead Elise Harney Tracy Sorrenti Shannon Whitney Neil Ruan Sara, friends & family Lee Tillery Tom Post Richard Mulliner Cummings Mebane Amira E. Neil Bucci Christopher Faulkner Barbara Moss Johnson Tilghman Diana Williams Mark MacLean Michelle Jonathan Peter Jackson Howard Randy Watts

About the Prayer List

Isaac McDowell

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. All parish prayer requests are listed on the prayer list for one month. The complete list of those in need of our prayer are remembered weekly at our 12:10 pm Wednesday Eucharist with Healing Prayers. 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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S

Today, Sunday, December 28 The First Sunday after Christmas

8:00am Holy Eucharist (Breakfast will resume Sunday, Jan. 4)

9:15am - 12pm Nursery open

9:30am No Faith Formation today

10:30am Choral Eucharist (Receptions will resume on January 4)

Monday, December 29

No events scheduled

Tuesday, December 30

No events scheduled

Wednesday, December 31

The Feast of the Holy Name (transferred)

12:10pm Midday Eucharist (No lunch to follow)

Thursday, January 1

No events scheduled

Friday, January 2

8:00am Mensgroup

Next Sunday, January 4

The Feast of the Epiphany (transferred)

8:00am Holy Eucharist

(Koffee Klatch 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)

9:30am Coffee and Conversations (downstairs)

10:30am Choral Eucharist

(Reception to follow in the Parish Hall)

The church office is open by "appointment only" December 29, 2025-January 2, 2026.

Holiday Schedule! Please Note!

There will be no Koffee Klatch or Reception following services on **December 28.**There will be no post Eucharist lunch served on **December 31st.**

VANCO ONLINE GIVING



COMING UP AT ST. PAUL'S

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 25, 2026 9:00 am in the Sanctuary Open to all Parish members

NOMINEES ANNOUNCED FOR SERVICE ON THE VESTRY

In preparation for **St. Paul's Annual Meeting on Sunday January 25, 2026** the Vestry has appointed a Nominating Committee for the election of new members of the Vestry. According to the bylaws of the parish, the Nominating Committee shall consist of the Rector and the outgoing members of the vestry. The members of the Nominating Committee are Carol Field, Steve Haughey, David Tousignant, and Denise Sheehan. We are grateful for the work of the Nominating Committee in securing candidates for service on the Vestry.

The following are duly qualified and have accepted nomination.

Shelley Jonik Rhonda Stroud Leon Tillery Brad Van Amberg

Nominees' pictures and bios will be published in the new year.

Additional nominations are encouraged from the congregation and will be accepted up to two weeks before the Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday **January 25, 2025** at 9am in the sanctuary. All nominees must be qualified according to the Constitution and Canons of the Diocese of East Carolina. Any additional nominations should be submitted in writing to a member of the Nominating Committee by January 11, 2026.

Third Annual St. Paul's Reflection Writers' Workshop

St. Paul's invites you to take part in our Third Annual Reflection Writers' Workshop, a morning of creativity, conversation, and spiritual exploration as we begin preparing for our seventh annual Lenten Reflections by the family and friends of St. Paul's.

Whether you are a seasoned reflection writer, someone who is simply curious to explore the process, or anywhere in between, this workshop offers an engaging and encouraging space to reflect, write, and share together.

WHEN: Saturday, January 10

WHERE: Parish Hall

Schedule:

8:30am - Coffee, donuts, and conversation

9:00-11:30am – Workshop

11:30am-12:00pm – Brainstorming the theme for the 2026 Lenten Reflections

12:00pm – Adjourn

There is no charge to attend. Please call the St. Paul's office during business hours to sign up. The workshop will be led by Lisa Sanders-Park, David Frederiksen, and Royster Hedgepeth, who look forward to welcoming you for a thoughtful and inspiring morning together.

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

Cover art: Makoto Fujimura: *John – In the Beginning, 120 x 150 cm, mineral pigments, gold on Belgium linen.* The Prayers of the People are from Common Worship: Times and Seasons.

Permissions: Acclamation, collects, psalm, creed, and prayers taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979. Public domain. Texts of the Old Testament, New Testament, Epistle, and Gospel taken from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, Copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Permission to stream music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # A-727069, all rights reserved.