

The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024

10:30am ~ Holy Eucharist with Joyful Noise! ~



JESUS MAFA. John the Baptist preaching in the desert, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48386> [retrieved December 11, 2024]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

~From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.~

1135 Walnut Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461

617-527-6642

office@parishofstpaul.org www.parishofstpaul.org

SERVICE MINISTERS

Celebrant and Preacher:	The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney
Musician:	Brenda Carter
LEM:	Tricia Tyler
Reader 1:	Margaret Hummel
Reader 2:	Mary Lou Pierron
Usher/ Attendance:	Kim Koger
Altar Guild:	Ellie Pandorf and Amy Trueblood
Counting:	Kathryn Anderson and Christopher Gruener

IN OUR DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER:

For the Episcopal Church; for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; for Julia Whitworth, our Diocesan Bishop, and Carol Gallagher, our Assistant Bishop; and for the following churches of the Alewife Deanery: Christ Church, Cambridge, St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge St. James' Church, Cambridge, St. Peter's Church, Cambridge; and for the Diocesan Disciplinary Board.

PARISH PRAYER LIST - PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR:

Sarah Conger, the Katz family, David and Susanna Lee, Mary Lou and Charlie Montgomery, David Murphy, Gary Koger, David Waters, David Tabors, Barry Koger, Joyce Conolly, Matt Beavin, Jim Nolan, Gordon Ledgard, the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, and our friends in the NewCity Church.

STAFF

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney -- meghan@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours: In-Person Wednesday 10am - 1pm and by appointment (please email Rev. Meghan directly if you would like to make an appointment).
Parish Administrator: Lise Brody – office@parishofstpaul.org. Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-1

10:30am ~ Third Sunday of Advent (Year C) ~
~ Holy Eucharist with Joyful Noise! ~

PRELUDE

Musicians

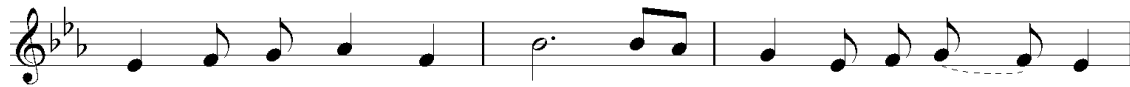
ENTRANCE RITES

WELCOME: From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

GATHERING HYMN (*Please rise as you are comfortable*) *There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying* HYMNAL #75



1 There's a voice in the wil - der - ness cry - ing, a____
2 O____ Zi - on, that bring - est good tid - ings, get thee
3 but the word of our God____ en - du - reth, the____



call from the ways un - trod: Pre - pare in the des - ert a
up to the heights and sing! Pro - claim to a des - o - late
arm of the Lord is strong; he stands in the midst____ of



high - way, a high - way for our God! The____
peo - ple the com - ing of their King. Like the
na - tions, and he will right the wrong. He shall



val - leys shall be ex - alt - ed, the
flowers of the field they____ per - ish, like
feed his____ flock like a shep - herd, the



lof - ty hills brought low; make straight all the crook - ed
grass our works de - cay, the power and pomp of
lambs he'll gent - ly hold; to pas - tures of peace he'll



pla - ces where the Lord our____ God____ may go!
na - tions shall____ pass like a dream____ a - way;
lead them, and____ bring them____ safe to his fold.

Section: Advent Title: There's a voice in the wilderness crying Meter: Irr. Words: James Lewis Milligan (1876-1961), alt. Music: *Ascension*, Henry Hugh Bancroft (1904-1988) Copyright: Music: © 1938, H. Hugh Bancroft.

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

All: **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

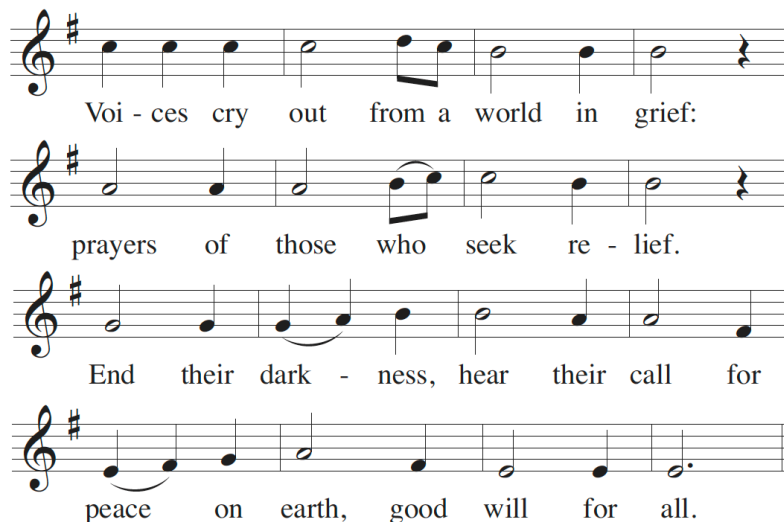
Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: THE LIGHT OF JOY

Choir

Light of Light, we humbly pray;
shine in our hearts today.
Dispel the gloom and dark of night;
fill all the world with love and light.

Congregation



Voi - ces cry out from a world in grief:
prayers of those who seek re - lief.
End their dark - ness, hear their call for
peace on earth, good will for all.

Prayers – Responsive Litany

Celebrant: Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of living.

All: **God of light, we thank you for the gift of life.**

Celebrant: Advent is a time to celebrate the joy of relationships.

All: **God of light, we thank you for our friends and family.**

Celebrant: Advent is a time to celebrate the earth we all share.

All: **God of light, we thank you for providing for our needs.**

Celebrant: Advent is a time to celebrate eternal life.

All: **God of light, we thank you for sending a Savior.**

(Candles are lighted)

Celebrant: Today we light three candles – the candle of hope, of peace, and the candle of joy. This third candle reminds us that because of our God, we have reasons to be truly joyful. The world around us is filled with surprise and beauty. Our cups overflow with goodness and grace, and we rejoice in the promise of eternal life.

All: God of light, we thank you for the many gifts you have given us, and we pray today that you will teach us to be truly joyful. Help us remember that you supply our needs and fill our lives with meaning. Fill our days with keen awareness of your presence, and fill our hearts with praise as we celebrate this joyful Advent season. Amen.

Music and Prayers by Joel Raney. 2019 Hope Publishing Company.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(This week's Psalm is from the St. Helena Psalter, and the other readings come from the NRSV.)

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Celebrant: God is with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Together, let us pray.

Stir up your power, O God, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Savior, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST READING *(Please be seated.)*

Zephaniah 3:14-20

Reader 1: A Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

Our God has taken away the judgments against you,
and turned away your enemies.

The sovereign of Israel, our God, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

Your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

God will rejoice over you with gladness,
and renew you in love;

God will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says our God.

Reader 1: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CANTICLE 9 (Page 86, BCP)
The First Song of Isaiah *Ecce Deus*

Isaiah 12:2-6

Surely, it is God who saves me;
I will trust in God and not be afraid.

For God is my stronghold and my sure defense,
and will be my Savior.

Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing
from the springs of salvation.

And on that day you shall say,
Give thanks to our God and call upon God's Name;

Make God's deeds known among the peoples;
see that they remember to exalt God's Name.

Sing the praises of God, who has done great things,
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy,
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

All: Glory to the Holy and Undivided Trinity, One God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

THE SECOND READING

Philippians 4:4-7

Reader 2: A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians.

Rejoice in our God always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. God is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Reader 2: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN (*Please rise as you are comfortable*) *Surely It Is God Who Saves Me* **HYMNAL # 679**



1 Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust - ing him, I shall not
2 Make his deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed



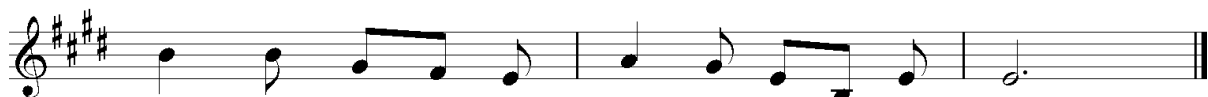
fear. For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing
Name. Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his



help is near. So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal -
might pro - claim. Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with



va - tion's liv - ing spring; in the day of your de -
you has come to dwell, in your ve - ry midst, the



liv - erance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

Section: The Christian Life Title: Surely it is God who saves me Meter: 87. 87. D Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944); para. of *The First Song of Isaiah*
Music: Thomas Merton, Ray. W. Urwin (b. 1950) Copyright: Words: Copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: © 1984 Ray W. Urwin.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Fine

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

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

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

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

Repeat if desired.

Arr: Kevin Weed

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All: **Glory to you, O Christ.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin 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."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

Celebrant: The Gospel of Christ.
All: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney

STATEMENT OF FAITH

LEM: Please rise as you are comfortable as we proclaim our Statement of Faith.

**We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all,
and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom.
Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt,
we put our trust in God;
and in the name of Jesus Christ we commit ourselves,
in the service of others,
to seek justice, and to live in peace;
to care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness;
to live in the freedom of forgiveness, and the power of the Spirit of love.
And in the company of the faithful we will be the church,
a community of flawed and forgiving disciples,
for the glory of God alone.**

Amen.

Statement of Faith adapted from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, © 2001, The Iona Community.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LEM: In peace, we pray to you, O God.

Silence

LEM: For all people in their daily life and work;

All: **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

LEM: For this community, the nation, and the world;

All: **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

LEM: For the just and proper use of your creation;

All: **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

LEM: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

All: **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

LEM: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

All: For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

LEM: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Julia, our Diocesan Bishop, Carol, our Assistant Bishop; for all bishops and other ministers; and for the following churches of the Alewife Deanery: Christ Church, Cambridge, St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge St. James' Church, Cambridge, St. Peter's Church, Cambridge; and for the Diocesan Disciplinary Board.

All: For all who serve God in God's Church.

LEM: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; and especially for Sarah Conger, the Katz family, David and Susanna Lee, Mary Lou and Charlie Montgomery, David Murphy, Gary Koger, David Waters, David Tabors, Barry Koger, Joyce Conolly, Matt Beavin, Jim Nolan, Gordon Ledgard, our friends in the NewCity Church, the Global Village Children's Project, and the Centre Street Food Pantry. Either silently or aloud, for whom and what else do we pray today?
(The People may add their own petitions.)

LEM: Hear us, O God;

All: For your mercy is great.

LEM: We thank you, O God, for all the blessings of this life. Either silently or aloud, for whom and what do we give thanks today?

(The People may add their own thanksgivings.)

LEM: We will exalt you, O God;

All: And praise your Name for ever and ever.

LEM: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. Either silently or aloud, who do we name and remember this day?

(The People may add their own names.)

LEM: O God, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

All: Who put their trust in you.

PRAYER FOR THE SOCIAL ORDER (BCP P. 823)

LEM: Together let us pray.

All: Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Silence

Celebrant offers a collect.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and ourselves.

Silence

All: O God, we bring you our failure, our hunger, our disappointment, our despair, our greed, our arrogance, and our fear. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not truly loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry, we are humbled, and we pray that you will strengthen us with your grace. We turn to you, O God. We renounce evil, we claim love, we choose to be made whole. Forgive us and renew us now.

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

All: Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of God be always with you.

All: And also with you.

HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Choir

THE DOXOLOGY *(Please rise as you are comfortable)*

HYMNAL #380

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above all life and death
Creator, Christ, and Holy Breath. Amen.*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

Celebrant: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All: **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

All: **Have mercy, O God, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

All: **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

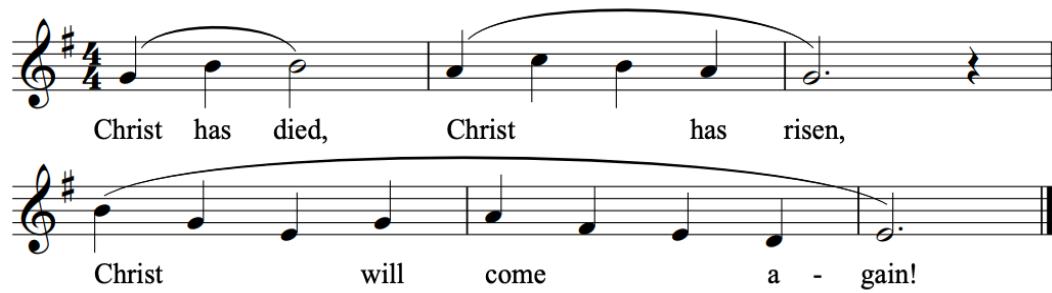
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, O God of glo - ry,
po - wer and might. Heav - en and earth are full, are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

And so, Holy God, we who have been redeemed by Christ, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Holy God of our Mothers, our Fathers, our Parents; Holy God of our Savior Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in Christ's name.

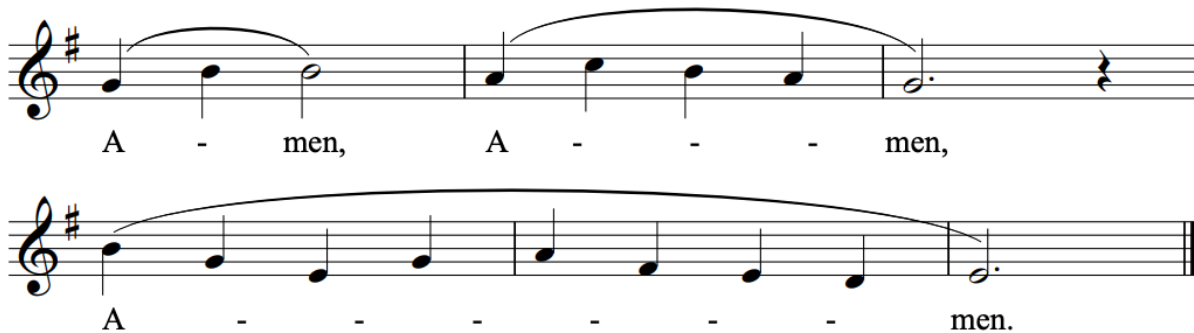
All: Risen Christ, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

(The celebrant continues...)

Accept these prayers and praises, Holy God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

THE GREAT AMEN

All:



Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, and Amen are arranged by Taylor Burton-Edwards. The General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. (Found in *The United Methodist Hymnal*, #211.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(We invite you to say whatever version of the Lord's Prayer is most meaningful for you.)*

Celebrant: As Jesus taught us, we now pray:

All: Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Section: The Holy Eucharist Title: The Holy Eucharist II, Fraction Anthem: Lamb of God: *Agnus Dei* Music: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

1950) Copyright: Copyright © 1981 GIA Publications, Inc.

Celebrant: These are the Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived and loved, died, and rose again for you, and feed on Christ in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

You are welcome at this table, exactly as you are, because of who you are.

If you feel called to the table, please come forward to receive Communion.

At this time, the Parish of St. Paul offers a common cup as well as individual cups for receiving the consecrated wine. Please either take an individual cup (found on a front pew on the right as you approach the altar for communion) or indicate to the Lay Eucharistic Minister that you would like to receive from the common cup.

If you do not wish to receive the consecrated wine, please know that receiving the consecrated bread alone constitutes a full Communion.

If you do not wish to receive Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire a blessing.

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

(This prayer of Spiritual Communion is said privately and is intended for individuals participating remotely, and for individuals who may not wish to receive Communion or a blessing.)

In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of bread and wine, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

POSTCOMMUNION HYMN (Please rise or sit as you feel moved.) *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* HYMNAL: #324



1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
 on the way, as the Light of Light de -
 sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
 Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may va - nish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"



our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Section: Holy Eucharist Title: Let all mortal flesh keep silence Meter: 87. 87. 87 Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885)
 Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER (Please rise as you are comfortable)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of compassion. You have united us with Christ, and you have made us one with all peoples and creatures in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that our lives may give birth to your love in the world, and that we may continue to make our home in your life. Amen.

THE BLESSING

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (Please rise as you are comfortable) *Soon and Very Soon*

LEVAS #14

1. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
2. No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
3. No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
4. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King; _____

1. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
2. No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
3. No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King, _____
4. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King; _____

1. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King,
2. No more cry - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King,
3. No more dy - in' there _____ we are goin' to see the King,
4. Soon and ver - y soon _____ we are goin' to see the King;

— Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, _____ we're goin' to see the King!

1.2. 3.4.

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.

Section: Advent Title: Soon, Very Soon Words: Andrae Crouch (b. 1942) Music: Andrae Crouch Copyright: © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music/ASCAP

PARISH NOTICES

DISMISSAL

Celebrant: Our worship has ended, let our service begin. Go in peace to love and serve God and God’s people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



Events:

Today! - Advent Lessons and Carols at Grace Episcopal Church, Newton Corner at 4pm
 St. Paul’s joins with Grace, Newton Corner and St. John’s, Newtonville in an annual service of Advent Lessons and Carols.

Service of Solace and Strength – Saturday, December 21 at 7:30pm
 Our parish’s annual Holy Eucharist of Solace and Strength will be on Saturday evening, December 21, at 7:30pm. While Christmas can bring much joy, it’s a tender time that can also be difficult. Please join in this reflective and prayerful liturgy that holds space for myriad thoughts and feelings.

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, December 24 at 7:30pm (music prelude begins at 7:15pm)

Celebrate the birth of Love into our world.

Christmas Morning – Morning Prayer at Grace Church, Newton Corner at 10am

Grace Church will offer a simple service of Morning Prayer. St Paul's parishioners are invited to attend.

First Sunday after Christmas – Holy Eucharist at Grace Church, Newton Corner, Sunday, December 29 at 10:30am

Rev. Meghan will be on vacation from December 25 - January 3. St. Paul's is invited to join with Grace Church, Newton Corner, to celebrate Holy Eucharist on the first Sunday after Christmas.

Ugly Sweater Sing-Along – Saturday, January 4 at 4:00pm

Come and sing some not-so-religious seasonal favorites in your festive holiday attire! Snacks and beverages provided. (You are also invited to bring something to share.) Please bring a food donation for the Centre Street Food Pantry.

Rev. Meghan on Vacation – December 25 - January 3

Rev. Meghan will be on vacation from December 25 - January 3. The parish is invited to join Grace Church, Newton Corner for Holy Eucharist on Sunday, December 29. In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact the wardens.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers needed

The ministry of Lay Eucharistic Minister is an essential ministry in the sacramental life of our parish. If you find yourself curious about or drawn to serving as a LEM, please be in contact with Rev. Meghan.

Rental Committee

The Vestry seeks volunteers from the parish who would be interested in serving on a rental committee to explore how much and how often the parish might consider renting the building and grounds, rental fees, renter alignment with parish mission, overall space use, etc. If you would like to serve on such a committee, please let Rev. Meghan know.

Can Redemption Volunteers

Volunteers sought to assist with can redemption for the Plenty ministry. Please connect with Christopher Gruener if you can assist.

Episcopal Church, Diocesan, and Deanery Notices

Diocesan Grief Retreat

The Barbara C. Harris Camp and Conference Center in Greenfield, N.H., will host a Friday-Sunday, Dec. 20-22 retreat weekend, "You Are Not Alone: Responding to Grief and Trauma by Building Relationships"—to include optional overnight components on Friday and Sunday, alongside the Saturday retreat day structured around three presentations on facing loneliness and isolation; overcoming grief and trauma; and building relationships and social connection.

Retreat co-presenters are the Rev. Bob Davidson, an Episcopal priest and social worker who has served as a hospice chaplain and trauma counselor, and Dr. Anthony Valdini, Professor of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Massachusetts Chan School of Medicine. For registration information, contact the center at info@bchcenter.org or 603-547-3400.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to reach out to our Vestry!

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney
Co-Warden: Kim Koger, mkskoger5@gmail.com
Co-Warden: David Montgomery, dmontgomery@montlegal.com
Treasurer: Richard Pearce, Richard@northinfo.com
Clerk: Bernice Cramer, bernicecramer@gmail.com
Kathryn Anderson, kmanderson.english@gmail.com
Chris Gruener, crossroadscounseling101@gmail.com
Margaret Hummel, margarethummel@verizon.net
Dustin Ledgard, ledgarddustin@gmail.com

ADVENT CALENDAR

WE WONDER WHY WE ALL ARE CALLED TO COME TO BETHL'HEM'S CATTLE STALL.
 HOW COULD THE GOD WHO FORMED THE EARTH BE FOUND IN SUCH A LOWLY BIRTH?
 THIS INFANT WILL IN HUMBLE GUISE DISARM THE STRONG AND FOOL THE WISE
 AND BLESS THE POOR, ALL THOSE ONCE SCORNED, IN BEAUTY DRESS, BY GOD ADORNED.

LIGHT ONE CANDLE! 1  JER. 33:14-16	SEE THE MOON. 14  ISAIAH 55:12	SEEK OUT A FRIEND... 20  LUKE 1:39-40	... OR A STRANGER. 21  HEBREWS 13:1,2
CHOOSE PEACE. 16  ISAIAH 11:1-9	UNDERSTAND. 11  JOEL 2:28	BE READY. 3  ESTHER 4:14	IMAGINE HER CONFIDENCE. 19 Let it be to me... LUKE 1:26-38
FINISH IT. 7  PHIL. 1:3-6	LIGHT TWO CANDLES. 8  LUKE 3:1-6	SING! 17  PSALM 95:1,2	DO IT. 4  JAMES 1:22
FIND STILLNESS. 5  PSALM 46	MAKE ROOM. 23  LUKE 2:1-7	FOLLOW. 12  JOHN 8:12	LIGHT THREE CANDLES. 15  ZEPH. 3:14-20
REACH OUT. 13 Love ~ Prayer ~ Patience ~ Hospitality ~ Rejoice ~ Affection ROMANS 12:9-13	SEE NEWNESS. 2  ISAIAH 43:18,19	LIGHT FOUR CANDLES. 22  MICAH 5:2-5A	LISTEN WITH CARE. 10  PSALM 19:1-4A
HEAR A TEACHER. 9  ISAIAH 52:7	FEEL THE LIGHT. 18  ISAIAH 9:2	GIVE SECRETLY. 6 ST. NICHOLAS  2 COR. 9:6-8	24  JOHN 1:14

WE'LL COME TO THAT IMPOV'RISHED PLACE AND FIND OURSELVES IN NEED OF GRACE.
 WITH ALL THE WEAK, THE WOUNDED, LOST, WHO GATHER 'ROUND THE MANGER TROUGH.
 SO COME, DEAR FRIENDS, WITH WONDER, AWE AND WORSHIP AT HIS BED OF STRAW
 WITH SHEPHERDS AND THE HOST ABOVE, COME, WELCOME CHRIST, THE LORD OF LOVE.

DEVOTIONS: MERRY WATERS * ADVENT 2024 * POEM & DESIGN: THOMAS MOUSIN * thomasmousin.com