

The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

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



JESUS MAFA. Mary and the child Jesus, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48289> [retrieved December 12, 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: | David Montgomery |
| Reader 2: | Christopher Gruener |
| Usher/ Attendance: | Eliza Blay |
| Altar Guild: | Amy Trueblood and Margaret Hummel |
| Counting: | Kathryn Anderson and Christopher Gruener |
| Tech: | William Holz |

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy birthday, Amy Radin (December 25th)!
Happy birthday, Elizabeth Pearce (December 26th)!

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: Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard, Cambridge, Lutheran Episcopal Chaplaincy at Mass. Institute of Technology, Cambridge, and The Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge; and for the Hospital Chaplaincies and Healthcare Chaplains.

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**

* Rev. Meghan will not be holding office hours this week.

** The office will not be staffed December 25th and 26th

10:30am ~ Fourth 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*)

Savior of the Nations, Come!

HYMNAL #54



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Section: Advent Title: Savior of the nations, come Meter: 77. 77 Words: Martin Luther (1483-1546) after Ambrose of Milan (340-397); tr. William M. Reynolds (1812-1876) and James Waring McCrady (b. 1938) Music: *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland*, melody from *Erfurt Enchiridia*, 1524; harm. Melchior Vulpius (1560?-1616) Copyright: Words: Sts. 3-4 © 1982, James Waring McCrady.

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 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: THE LIGHT OF LOVE

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 let go of anger and fear.

All: God of love, fill our hearts with true compassion.

Celebrant: Advent is a time to look for the best in others.

All: God of love, help us speak truth with kindness.

Celebrant: Advent is a time to share with those in need.

All: God of love, remind us that in giving, we receive.

Celebrant: Advent is a time to notice and appreciate the good around us.

All: God of love, help us see the world through loving eyes.

(Candles are lighted)

Celebrant: Today, we light four candles – the candles of hope, peace, joy, and the candle representing love. This candle is a symbol of Christ’s eternal love for us, as well as a reminder that we have been instructed to love others as we love ourselves. Because God is love, and because we were created in God’s image, we ourselves are the embodiment of God’s love here on earth. Love is patient and kind and powerful, and we all share the calling to go into the world and spread that love to others.

All: God of love, we open our hearts to you today and ask that you fill us with the power of your love. Take away our bitterness, greed, and jealousy. Remind us that we are brothers and sisters, siblings in Christ, all sharing the wonderful gift of life. Help us treat others with respect and love, and help us care for the world you have given us with loving hearts and gentle hands. Amen.

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

COLLECT FOR THE DAY

Celebrant: God is with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Together, let us pray.

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.

THE FIRST READING *(Please be seated.)*

Micah 5:2-5a

Reader 1: A Reading from 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 God shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;

then the rest of the ruler's kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

The ruler shall stand and feed the flock in the strength of God,
in the majesty of the name of God.

And they shall live secure, for now this ruler shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
who shall be the one of peace.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE

Canticle 15 Page 91, BCP
The Song of Mary *Magnificat*

Luke 1:46-55

My soul proclaims the greatness of God,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;
for God has looked with favor on this lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is God's Name.

God has mercy on those who fear God
in every generation.

God has shown the strength of God's arm,
and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

God has cast down the mighty from their thrones,
and has lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things,
And sent the rich away empty.

God has come to the help of God's servant Israel,
for God has remembered the promise of mercy,

Which God made to our ancestors,
and their children for ever.

**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

Hebrews 10:5-10

Reader 2: A Reading from Paul's 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 Christ 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." Christ 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 2: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

Section: Holy Days and Various Occasions Title: The angel Gabriel from heaven came Meter: 10 10. 12 10 Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924) Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943) Copyright: Music: © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H 0LD, England.

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 1:39-55

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

All: **Glory to you, O 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 God 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 God."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies God,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

for God has looked with favor on the lowliness of God's servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is God's name.

God's mercy is for those who fear God
from generation to generation.

God has shown strength with the arm;
God has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

God has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

God has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

God has helped God's servant Israel,
in remembrance of mercy,

according to the promise God made to our ancestors,
their descendants forever."

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: Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard, Cambridge, Lutheran Episcopal Chaplaincy at Mass. Institute of Technology, Cambridge, and The Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge; and for the Hospital Chaplaincies and Healthcare Chaplains.

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.

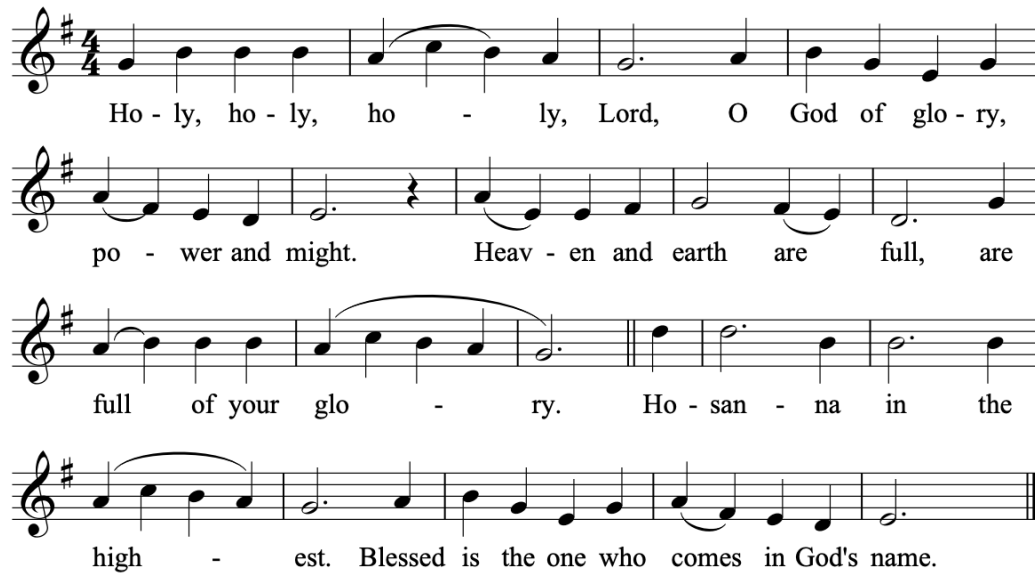
All: **Have mercy, O God, for we are sinners in your sight.**

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



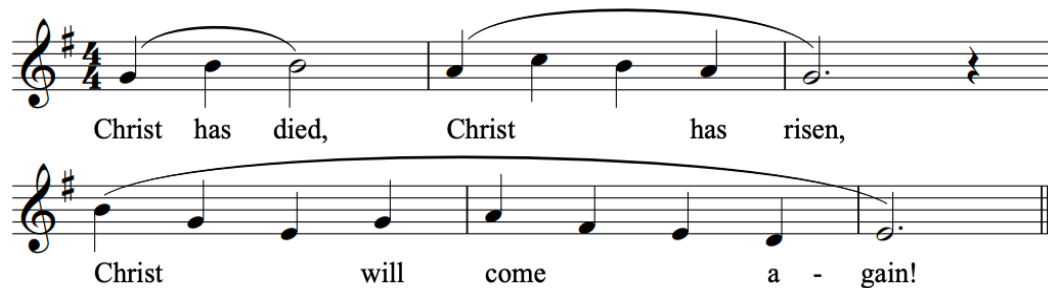
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord, O God of glo - ry,
po - wer and might. Heav - en and earth are full, are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

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:



Christ has died, Christ has risen,
Christ will come a - gain!

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.

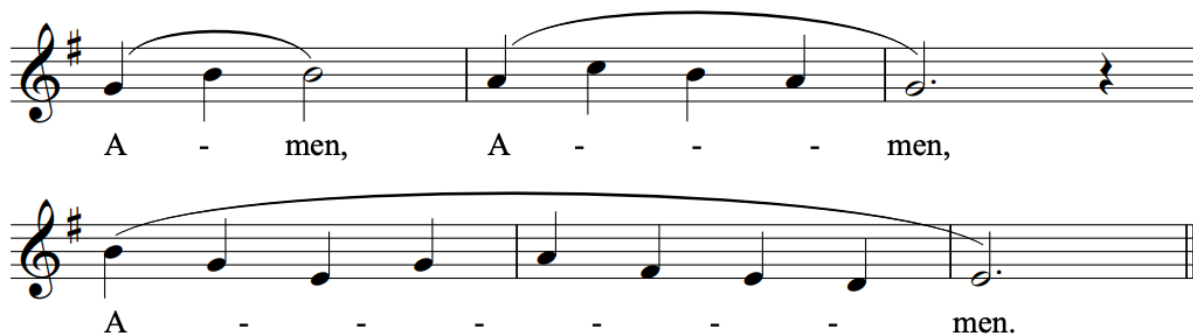
All: Risen Christ, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

(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:

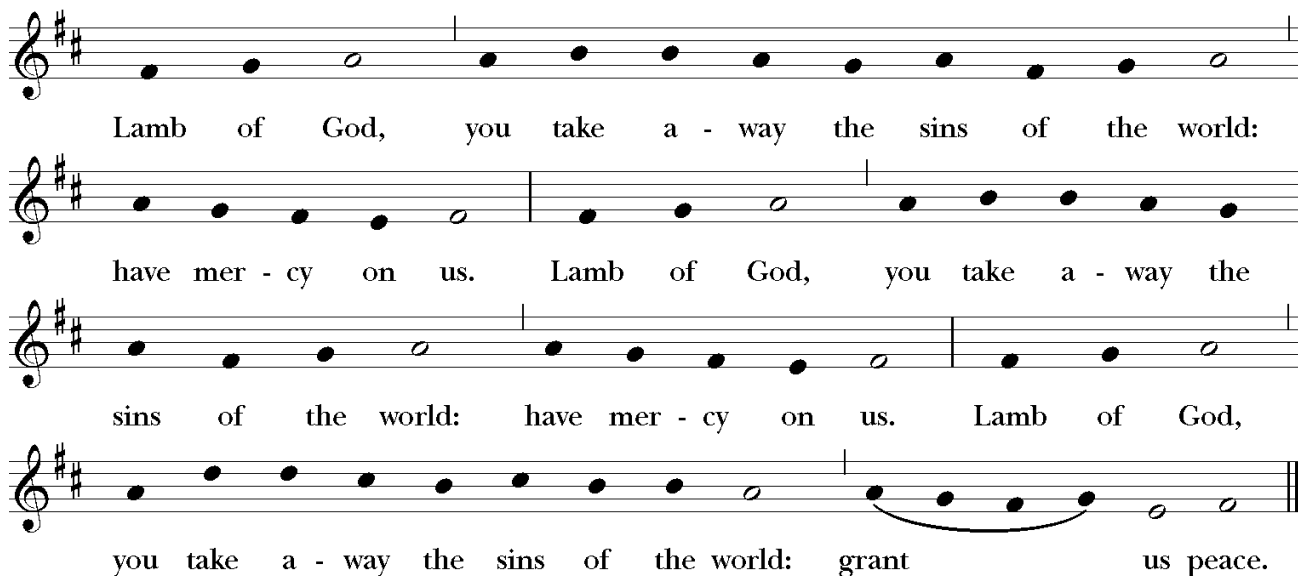
All: **Our Creator in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the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

$\text{♩} = 76$

Guitar tacet, or play melody

unis.

(Kybd.)

1. My _

6 Em C D Em C D

(1.) soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my
 (2.) I am small, my ___ God, my all, you ___ work great _ things in me, and your
 (3.) halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the
 (4.) na - tions rage from _ age to age, we re - mem - ber who holds us fast: God's _

10 Em G D Em C Em

spir - it ___ sings of the won - drous _ things that you bring to the ones who wait. You
 mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your
 king be - ware for your jus - tice ___ tears ev - 'ry ty - rant ___ from his throne. The
 mer - cy ___ must de - liv - er ___ us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This

14 G D Em C D

fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not spurn, so from
 ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will
 hun - gry poor shall _ weep no more, for the food they can nev - er earn: There are
 sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us bound, 'til the

18 Em G D Em C Em

east to west shall my name be ___ blessed. Could the world be a - bout to ___ turn?
 show your might, put the strong to ___ flight, for the world is a - bout to ___ turn. } My
 ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry mouth be ___ fed, for the world is a - bout to ___ turn.
 spear and rod can be crushed by ___ God, who is turn - ing the world a - round. }

22 G *div.* D Em C *unis.* D

heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -

unis.

heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires ___ of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a -

To Coda ☉

26 Em C D Em C Em

way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

30 G D Em C Em

1. 2. 3. 3° To Coda ☉

Coda

35 Em G D Em C *unis.*

turn! My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice

bout to turn! My hear shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your

39 D Em C D *a tempo* Em C

burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to

jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a -

43 Em G D Em C Em

turn.

bout to turn!

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)* *Sing the Wondrous Love of Jesus* LEVAS #20

1. Sing the wondrous love of Je - sus, Sing His mer - cy and His grace;
2. While we walk the pil - grim path-way, Clouds will o - ver - spread the sky;
3. Let us then be true and faith-ful, Trust-ing, serv - ing ev - 'ry day;
4. On - ward to the prize be - fore us! Soon His beau - ty we'll be-hold;

1. In the man - sion bright and bless - ed, He'll pre - pare for us a place.
2. But when trav - 'ling days are o - ver, Not a shad-ow, not a sigh.
3. Just one glimpse of Him in glo - ry Will the toils of life re - pay;
4. Soon the pearl - y gates will o - pen; We shall tread the streets of gold.

When we all _____ get to heav - en, What a day of re-
When we all get to heav - en, What a

joic - ing that will be! When we all see

day of re - joic - ing that will be! When we all see

Je - sus, We'll sing and shout the vic - to - ry.

Je - sus, We'll sing and shout, and shout the vic - to - ry.

Section: Advent Title: When We All Get to Heaven Words: Eliza Edmunds Hewitt (1852-1920) Music: Emily Divine Wilson (1865-1942)

PARISH NOTICES

DISMISSAL

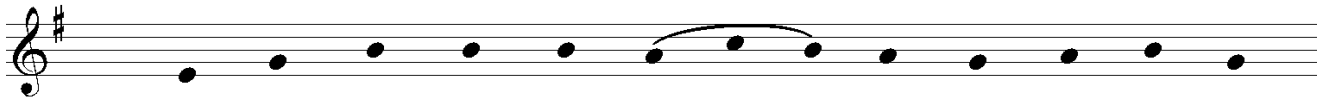
Celebrant: Our worship has ended, let our service begin. Go in peace to love and serve God and God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

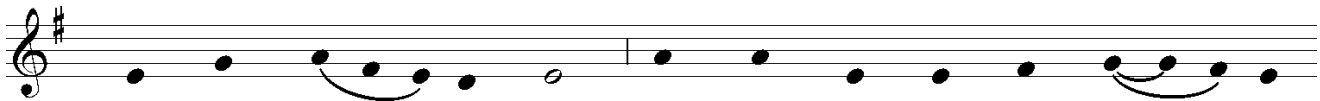
POSTLUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

HYMNAL #56, verses 1-3, 6, 8



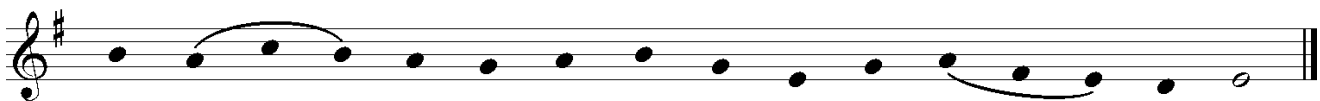
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
 (Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
 (Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
 (Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
 (Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
 (Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
 (Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
 (Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
 2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
 3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
 4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
 5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
 6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
 7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
 8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
 3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
 4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
 5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
 6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
 7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
 8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.

Section: Advent Title: O come, O come, Emmanuel Meter: LM with Refrain Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt. Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Copyright: Words: © The Church Pension Fund



Events:

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.

Christmas Day - Potluck Dinner at 5pm at Grace Church, Newton Corner
Grace Church hosts a potluck dinner on Christmas Day at 5pm, and parishioners of St. Paul's are invited! Please bring a side dish. For more information and to RSVP, please contact Mary Swezy, a parishioner at Grace: meswezy@gmail.com.

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.

Feast of St. Paul and Parish Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 26
We will celebrate our parish feast day and have our annual meeting on Sunday, January 26. Please plan to be at church that day for the meeting and a Festive Coffee Hour.

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.

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