

*Celebrating Christ's Presence
In a Changing World*

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



SECOND SUNDAY OF
ADVENT

December 5, 2021

10:30 am

Prelude: *Prepare the way, O Zion*
 Jeffrey Blersch (1969-)

Opening Hymn **The Hymnal 1982 #65**
 Prepare the Way O Zion

Welcome by the Rev. Melissa Congleton

The people stand as they are able,

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

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.**

Hymn of Praise: **The Hymnal 1982 #56 (v. 3 &4)**
 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The Lessons

First Reading

Baruch 5:1-9

A Reading from the Book of Baruch:

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting;
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For God will give you evermore the name,
"Righteous Peace, Godly Glory."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,

and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies;

but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be
made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.

The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
People **Thanks be to God**

Remain seated.

The Response

Canticle 16 Page 92, BCP

The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Luke 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
 he has come to his people and set them free.
He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
 born of the house of his servant David.
Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
 from the hands of all who hate us.
He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
 and to remember his holy covenant.
This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
 to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship him without fear, *
 holy and righteous in his sight
 all the days of our life.
You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
 for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,
To give his people knowledge of salvation *
 by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
 the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, *
 and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. **Amen.**

Second Reading

Philippians 1:3-11

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians:

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
People **Thanks be to God**

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn **The Hymnal 1982 #444**
Blessed Be the God of Israel

Gospel

Luke 3:1-6

People The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the

region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.
Every valley shall be filled,
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
and the rough ways made smooth;
and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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

The Sermon The Rev. Sarah Hurlbert

(All stand)
Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Intercessor As we pray for ourselves and the world, please respond with
“Be our hope and our salvation.”

Intercessor Friends, may God strengthen our hearts in holiness. Trusting in
God, let us pray, “O come, o come, Emmanuel;
People: **Be our hope and our salvation.**

Intercessor God our hope, make us increase and abound in love for one
another. Keep your Church and all its leaders on the paths of
love and faithfulness.
(*Silence*) O come, o come, Emmanuel;
People **Be our hope and our salvation.**

Intercessor God our hope, usher in your reign of justice and righteousness.
May all the world know your peace and safety. We pray
especially for all first responders and all teachers.
(*Silence*) O come, o come, Emmanuel;
People **Be our hope and our salvation.**

Intercessor God our hope, under your reign divisions are overcome, unity established; bring the people of this land, especially our President, our Governor and our Mayor, together in a spirit of love and respect.

(Silence) O come, o come, Emmanuel;

People **Be our hope and our salvation.**

Intercessor God our hope, give your compassion and love for the healing of the sick and the suffering, the anxious and the grieving. Especially...

(Silence) O come, o come, Emmanuel;

People **Be our hope and our salvation.**

Intercessor God our hope, forgive us all our days that we may meet the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with joy. May we and all who have died, especially Doris Easter and Oxford H.S. students: Hana St. Juliana, Tate Myre, Madisyn Baldwin and Justin Schilling, rise to live immortal with all your saints.

(Silence) O come, o come, Emmanuel;

People **Be our hope and our salvation.**

Celebrant O God the hope of today and all our tomorrows, strengthen us to do your gracious will in our hurting world and let us be peacemakers in every part of the lives you give us. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God.

(silence is kept)

All **God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Announcements – Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays: Wayne Frey, Jim Freer, Elaine Themm, Margaret O'Connor, John Alipit, Diane Billingsley, Rev. Sarah, Jan Osborn, Harriet Lloyd, and Jesus.

Anniversaries: Mike & Diane Worthing, Wayne & Romelle Frey, Jim & Joyce Grace

The Holy Communion

The Presider says,

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *-Ephesians 5:2*

Meditation *An Advent Prelude.*
 Romelle Frey, flautist

Charles Callahan (1951-)

(please kneel or stand as you are able)



The Great Thanksgiving

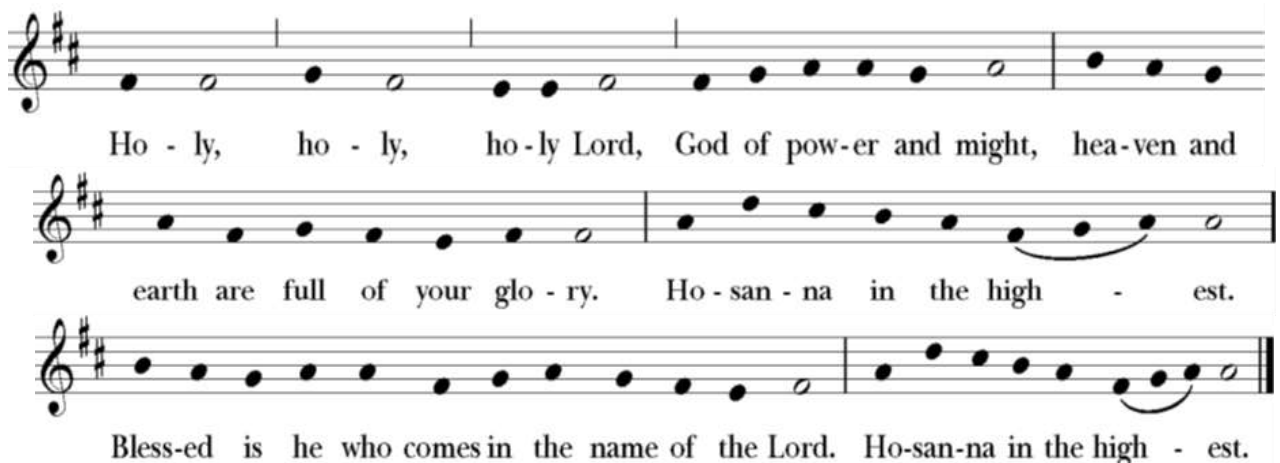


It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

The Hymnal 1982 #S124



The Celebrant continues,

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

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**.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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

Hymn S154

This setting is not used in Lent.

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.

The Presider says,

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take Them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with Thanksgiving.

Communion Hymns

The Hymnal 1982 #455

O Love of God , How Strong and True

The Hymnal 1982 #333

Now The Silence

After Communion, the Celebrant says,

Let us pray.

We pray with those worshipping with us online and here with us:

Celebrant and People,

Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Celebrant blesses the people, saying,

Life is short, and we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So, be swift to love and make haste to be kind....

and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be with you now and always. **Amen**

Closing Hymn:

The Hymnal 1982 #75

There's a Voice In the Wilderness

Go in peace to love and serve Jesus Christ our Savior.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude *Prepare the way, O Zion*
Kevin Hildebrand (1973-)

- ❖ ALTAR FLOWERS for today are GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD and IN LOVING MEMORY of my wife Valerie and sister Eunice Washbush by Larry Bullen.
- ❖ THE AUMBRY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK to the Glory of God and IN LOVING COMMEMORATION of the birthday on December 6, 1958 of Chuck Perlos by Kim, Lane and Lindy.



Worship Ministers:

The Rev. Sarah Hurlbert; The Rev. Melissa Congleton;

Julie Baglien, Organist;

Wayne Frey & Christy Randall, Vocal Leaders; Special Music, Romelle Frey

Tom Holsinger-Friesen, 1st Reader & LEM;

Leah Holsinger-Friesen, 2nd Reader & Acolyte;

Samuel Holsinger-Friesen, Intercessor & Acolyte;

Christie Swanson & Laura Orr, Ushers

Special thanks as always, to our tech team - for their faithfulness & expertise!

Announcements

- Be sure to stay for coffee hour today and special treats for the kids at the St. Nicholas Party. Young families, please check the St. Paul's Facebook page or weekly newsletter for holiday church school updates and Epiphany pageant details. The Epiphany Pageant is a time-honored tradition of St. Paul's and one of the highlights of our program year. Help is needed to coordinate the pageant and as actors. Please contact Rev. Melissa if you are interested in helping out this year. The pageant will be on Sunday, January 2nd with rehearsal at 9 am on January 1st.
- For Advent, Rev. Sarah and Eric Magnusson will lead a parish wide study using "Traces of the Trade: Tales From The Deep North" during Adult Forum on the four Sundays of Advent as well as Wednesday evenings (beginning on Dec. 1st) at 5:30pm in the Small Dining Room. All study materials will be provided for you and a simple supper will accompany the Wed. study. Please plan to come and learn together during this Holy Season.
- The Women of St. Paul's ECW annual Christmas luncheon will be at the Country Club of Jackson on Saturday, December 11th at 11 am. Please R.S.V.P. on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the glass narthex so we have an accurate head count. Cost is \$20 per person. Financial help is available if needed, contact Pastor Sarah. All are welcome!
- ECW is collecting new children's hats, mittens and socks for the Priceless Gift Toy Store. They are preparing toys currently and can use volunteers on Tues., Thur. and Sat. from 10 AM- 3 PM. They can also use donations: Zipper type bags (all sizes), blanket zipper bags, batteries, baby wipes, eraser type sponges, paper lawn and leaf bags, shampoo, deodorant, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, washcloths, dental floss, shavers and toilet paper. There is a collection box in the glass narthex. A big THANK YOU! for all the donations received so far! One delivery has already been made, and we are still collecting **until Sunday, December 12th.**
- There is still time to turn in your annual pledge if you haven't already!

St. Paul's Weekly Calendar

12/5/2021 – 12/12/2021

Day	Activity	Time	Location
SUNDAY	Holy Eucharist Church School Adult Forum Holy Eucharist St. Nicholas Party /Coffee Hour	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Sanctuary Upstairs Classrooms Sm. Dining Room Sanctuary Holy Spirit Hall
MONDAY			
TUESDAY	Cardio Drumming Toastmasters	5:15 pm 6:00 pm	Holy Spirit Hall Library
WEDNESDAY	Bible Study Holy Eucharist Parish Advent Study FB Live Compline Service	10:30 am 12:15 pm 5:30 pm 8:00 pm	Sm. Dining Room Chapel Sm. Dining Room Facebook
THURSDAY	Cardio Drumming Handbells	5:15 pm 6:00 pm	Holy Spirit Hall Chapel
FRIDAY			
SATURDAY	ECW Christmas Lunch	11:00 am	Jackson Country Club
NOISY SUNDAY	Holy Eucharist Church School Adult Forum Holy Eucharist Coffee Hour	8:00 am 9:15 am 9:15 am 10:30 am	Sanctuary Upstairs Classrooms Sm. Dining Room Sanctuary Holy Spirit Hall

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“Like Us” on Facebook: www.facebook.com/stpauljxmi

Opening Hymn: The Hymnal 1982 #65

Prepare the Way O Zion

1 Pre- pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a -
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em -

near! Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap -
bove. His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and
brace, and tidings of sal - va - tion proclaim in ev - ery

pear. Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore -
love. Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for
place. All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their

Refrain
told in sa - cred sto - ry.
grace and joy a - bound - ing. O blest is Christ who
ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.

came in God's most ho - ly name.

Hymn of Praise: The Hymnal 1982 #56 (v. 3 & 4)

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

3 O come, O come, great Lord of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times did give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

4 O come, O Branch of Jesse's stem,
unto your own and rescue them!
From depths of hell your people save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. (*Refrain*)

Latin;
VENI, VENI,
EMMANUEL

Sequence Hymn: The Hymnal 1982 #444

Blessed Be the God of Israel

1 Blessed be the God of Israel,
who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us,
who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy,
of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise
and bring the people peace.

2 He from the house of David
a child of grace has given;
a Savior comes among us
to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald,
forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation,
the harbinger of day.

3 On prisoners of darkness
the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness
upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims
along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior
with songs that never cease.

Words: Michael A. Perry, b. 1942
Music: Thornbury; Basil Harwood, 1859-1949

The Hymnal 1982 #455
O Love of God , How Strong and True

1 O love of God, how strong and true,
eternal and yet ever new;
uncomprehended and unbought,
beyond all knowledge and all thought.

2 O wide-embracing, wondrous Love,
we read thee in the sky above;
we read thee in the earth below,
in seas that swell and streams that flow.

3 We read thee best in him who came
to bear for us the cross of shame,
sent by the Father from on high,
our life to live, our death to die.

4 We read thy power to bless and save
e'en in the darkness of the grave;
still more in resurrection light
we read the fullness of thy might.

Words: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889 Music: DUNEDIN; Vernon Griffiths, b. 1894

The Hymnal 1982 #333

Now The Silence Now the Peace

333

Holy Eucharist

The musical score is written on ten staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter, eighth, and half notes, and some rests. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty
hands up - lift - ed Now the kneel - ing Now the plea
Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come Now the hear - ing
Now the power Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing
Now the Bo - dy Now the Blood Now the joy - ful
cel - e - bra - tion Now the wed - ding Now the songs
Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing Now the Spi - rit's
vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny
Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (b. 1919)

Music: Now, Carl Flentge Schalk (b. 1929)

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Irr.

Closing Hymn: The Hymnal 1982 #75
There's a Voice In the Wilderness

1 There's a voice in the wilderness crying,
a call from the ways untrod:
Prepare in the desert a highway,
a highway for our God!
The valleys shall be exalted,
the lofty hills brought low;
make straight all the crooked places,
where the Lord our God may go!

2 O Zion, that bringest good tidings,
get thee up to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people
the coming of their King.
Like the flowers of the field they perish,
like grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations
shall pass like a dream away;

3 but the word of our God endureth,
the arm of the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations,
and he will right the wrong.
He shall feed His flock like a shepherd,
the lambs he'll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he'll lead them,
and bring them safe to his fold.

Words: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961 (alt.) Music: ASCENSION; Henry Hugh Bancroft, b. 1904
