



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Seeking to see and serve Christ in all persons

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two **December 13, 2020: The Third Sunday of Advent**

The service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer. The service is printed here in its entirety.

The Opening Hymn

Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding
Hymnal 59

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Light One Candle
Natalie Sleeth

*Light one candle for hope, one bright candle for hope.
He brings hope to every heart, He comes! He comes!*

*Light one candle for peace, one bright candle for peace.
He brings peace to every heart, He comes! He comes!*

*Light one candle for joy, one bright candle for joy.
Every nation will find salvation in Bethlehem's baby boy.*

The Liturgy of the Word

The Celebrant says

People Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.

The people say 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 Trisagion

Hymnal S 100

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, 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 Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson — Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
 because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
 to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
 and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
 and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
 to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
 the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
 the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
 they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
 the devastations of many generations.
For I the Lord love justice,
 I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
 and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
 and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
 that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
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.

Psalm 126

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, *
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, *
and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, *
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, *
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, *
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears *
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, *
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Second Reading — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Sequence Hymn

On Jordan's bank the baptist's cry
Hymnal 76

The Holy Gospel — John 1:6-8,19-28

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

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Hazel Smith Glover

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

All say together,

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.*

The Prayers of the People – Form VI

BCP 392

Intercessor In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Intercessor For all people in their daily life and work;
People *For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

Intercessor For this community, the nation, and the world;
People *For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

Intercessor For the just and proper use of your creation;
People *For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

Intercessor For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;
People *For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

Intercessor For the peace and unity of the Church of God;
People *For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

Intercessor For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Rob, Paul and Don, our Bishops; and for all
bishops and other ministers;
People *For all who serve God in God's Church.*

Intercessor For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray for those on our prayer list, especially: Mark, David.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Intercessor Hear us, Lord;
People For your mercy is great.

Intercessor We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We give thanks for those who celebrate birthdays this week, especially: Sissie, Elisabeth, James, Melissa, Edie.

Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.

Intercessor We will exalt you, O God our King;
People And praise your Name for ever and ever.

Intercessor We pray for all who have died, especially Brenda Williams, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Intercessor Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
People Who put their trust in you.

Intercessor We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Intercessor and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

The Peace

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

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Pray that Jerusalem
C.V. Stanford

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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

Hymnal S 124

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

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

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

The Fraction Anthem

Hymnal S 154

The Communion Anthem

“Sing A Song of Advent”
Hal Hopson

*Sing a song of Advent, sing a song of joy, God soon comes to live among us, God, Emmanuel.
Long ago the prophets spoke, they told us signs to see; bright flowers blooming by the road,
a star to lead the way. John the Baptist preached the word, his voice was loud and clear;
“Get ready for the Lord to come, the day of God draws near.”
How can we prepare the way, the way for God to come?
We’ll watch and wait, we’ll sing and pray, Lord Jesus, come, come soon!*

Celebrant Let us pray.

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

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

The Closing Hymn

Herald, sound the note of judgement
Hymnal 640

The Dismissal

Parish Notices are sent via email and posted on the church website and Facebook page.

If you are not receiving emails from the church, please contact Lesley Williams at
parishadmin@stpaulsnewnan.org.

The church website is www.stpaulsnewnan.org.

The Facebook page is www.facebook.com/StPaulsNewnan

Remember in your prayers:

We pray for those with ongoing concerns: Roxanne Wallis, Malcolm Velasca, Kiran Force, Alice Magnan, Annie Bulford, Margaret Crary, Trina Hall, Tyler Chapman, Anna Endres, Kimberly Leitch, Candy Waldron, Peter Funnell, Kirk Goodell, Bo Warren, Brittany Jones, Ralph Hajosy, Judy Causey, Amanda Howell Eber, Jeff Lawhead, Billy Newman.

We pray for those with timely concerns: Beth McAllister, Nikki Henderson, LB Groover, Ann Johnson, Patrick Bagwell, Jim Sejvar, Don Doggrell, Phil Watkiss, Mark Bulford, John and Rachel Herman, John Spivey, David Pape.

We pray for those who are sick and those who love them, and for those who have died because of the coronavirus; for those who are oppressed by fear and for those who are losing the income that sustains them. Let us also pray for those in the medical, scientific, research and pharmaceutical communities devoting their time and talent to the cause of global health. And, let us pray for all our elected officials and all those who hold the common trust that their wisdom and compassion for all people will increase.

We pray for the members of the Vestry: Jennifer, Bill, Nicole, Philip, Mark, Kay, Geoff, Renee, Heather, Lisa; the Clergy and Staff: Hazel, Mason, Lesley, Dawn, Elisabeth, Mary Margaret, Britney, Mary, Kimberly, Cole.

We pray for members of our armed services and their families: Phil Kearney, Kevin Bradley, Joe Clay, Tom Choate, Linda Boyce, Dariel Johnson, Sean McGraw, Steven Puckett, Bill Tudor, Jr., Scott Woodward, Luke White, Tommy White, Zach Simkins, Jacob Britt, Morgen Davis, Luke Eason, Michael Rafferty, David Norwood, Arron Essex, Adam Harrison, Sam Vermilyea, Charles Mathews, Nick Watts, Cameron Everett, Lanier Sealy, Beau Massenburg.

We give thanks for the lives of those celebrating birthdays this week: Sissie Jarrell, Elisabeth Copeland, James Jordan, Melissa Sadler, Edit Teal.

We pray for those who have died: Brenda Williams, sister-in-law of Ernie and Virginia Williams. *Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her. Amen*

Parish Announcements

Christmas Eve Bulletin Dedications -- Christmas brings members and friends of St. Paul's the opportunity to thank God for the blessings and special people in their lives and to remember loved ones at this holy time of year, by making a special donation to the Music and Flower ministries. A dedication from the donor will be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. To submit a donation and dedication, please email Lesley Williams at lesley@stpaulsnewnan.org.

Adult Formation: Sundays at 9:00 a.m. -- Please join us on Sunday mornings to discuss the book *Rediscover Jesus: An Invitation*, by Matthew Kelly. The book is available on Amazon Kindle or paperback, or you may just listen in. To join, log into Zoom and use the meeting ID: 790 9996 9401 and password: qSPW5q. Feel free to invite friends from near or far to join.

EYC: Youth Christmas Party. -- St. Paul's Youth, grades 6-12, are invited to an in-person Youth Christmas & White Elephant Party on Sunday, December 13, from 3-4 pm. Come prepared with warm clothes, (including a tacky Christmas sweater and a mask), and a funny or cute gift for the White Elephant exchange - your price limit is \$10! Again, the same diocesan policies apply - outside, socially distanced, masks - but we'll have a bonfire and tacky Christmas sweaters to keep us warm. Hope to see you there! Email Mary Margaret Stewart with any questions.

Virtual Children's Choir: Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. -- Children in grades 2 and up are invited to join our St. Paul's Virtual Children's Choir for the coming year. There is no upper grade/age limit. To register your child if you have not already done so, email Dawn Harrison.

Prayer Requests -- Prayer requests for the parish prayer list or the confidential Daughters of the King prayer list may be submitted online at <https://tinyurl.com/stpprayers> or you may also contact Hazel+ directly.

Financial Gifts -- Many of you have asked how you can continue to give financially to St. Paul's as well as contribute to the rector's discretionary fund or our Peace and Purpose campaign during this time. You may mail a check to the church, set up one-time or regular payments via your bank, or make an online payment via credit card. Please visit <http://www.stpaulsnewnan.org/give/> for detailed instructions.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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CLERGY AND Staff

The Rev. Hazel Smith Glover, Priest in Charge; **Mason Copeland**, Organist and Choirmaster; **Lesley Williams**, Parish Administrator; **Dawn Harrison**, Music Associate; **Elisabeth Copeland**, Interim Director of Children's Ministry; **Mary Margaret Stewart**, Interim Youth Director; **Britney McCord**, Nursery Worker; **Mary Tipton**, Nursery Worker; **Kimberly Stokes**, Bookkeeper; **Cole Hankins**, Multimedia Associate.

Vestry

Jennifer Thomasson, Senior Warden; **Bill Tudor**, Junior Warden; **Nicole Edwards**, Outreach Liaison; **Philip Hand**, Stewardship Liaison; **Mark Huskison**, Policies and Procedures Liaison; **Kay Lewis**, Parish Life and Evangelism Liaison; **Geoff Mattera**, Communications Liaison; **Renee Powell**, Health and Healing Liaison; **Heather Turner**, Welcoming Liaison; **Lisa Diebboll**, Clerk of the Vestry; **Beth Gourley**, Treasurer