



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

Masks/face coverings must be worn by all (except those aged two and under) as you exit your vehicle until you get back in it. Please bring your own mask; if you forget, masks will be available at the service.

Six-foot social distancing must be observed between persons/units (persons of the same household do not need to socially distance from one another). The chairs will be spaced six feet apart.

There will be separate entrance and exit points; signs will be posted to direct you.

Hand sanitizing should be frequent (stations will be available).

Anyone exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or having been recently exposed to someone with COVID-19 should not attend the in-service worship.

Pre-registration is required and your attendance from the reservation sign-up list will be verified for contact tracing purposes. Please plan to arrive a few minutes early for the check-in process so we may begin the service on time.

Printed bulletins will not be available. You may print your own copy of the bulletin from the Facebook page/website and bring it with you; bring your smartphone or tablet to the service and follow along on the electronic version (scan the posted QR code at the Welcome Table for quick access); or bring your own Book of Common Prayer. Please note that paper bulletins and personal BCPs cannot be shared outside your own family.

We strongly encourage any parishioners who fall into any high-risk categories to not attend the in-person services but to continue to enjoy the recorded services.

Thank you for your continued patience and prayers during this pandemic.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Reader O God, we light the third candle of Advent.

Reader We look to John, the one you sent, to point us to your light. The light will come into our world and enlighten everyone.

Reader God sent John the Baptizer to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus Christ, the true Light of the World. John called for people to repent of their sins and to live faithfully. He baptized with a cleansing water and proclaimed the new life that Christ, the one who would follow him, would bring. This Advent, we ask for God's mercy and a joyful new beginning.

Merciful God, we give thanks that you send messengers like John to call us to greater faith. We ask that in these days we prepare for you in prayer and acts of holy compassion. Forgive us and lead us to your light. Amen

The Liturgy of the Word

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

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 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

A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 15

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

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

The Second Reading — 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

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 Homily

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.

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,
Eddie.

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.

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

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

The Peace

The Peace may be exchanged via waves, bows, etc. (i.e. no body contact).

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

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A - BCP 361

The people remain standing, as able. The Celebrant, faces them and says

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 him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:

Celebrant and People

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

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

People and Celebrant

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

During the distribution of communion, persons may briefly remove their masks in order to consume the host.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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 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 -- To make a financial gift to St. Paul's, including the rector's discretionary fund or our Peace and Purpose campaign, 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