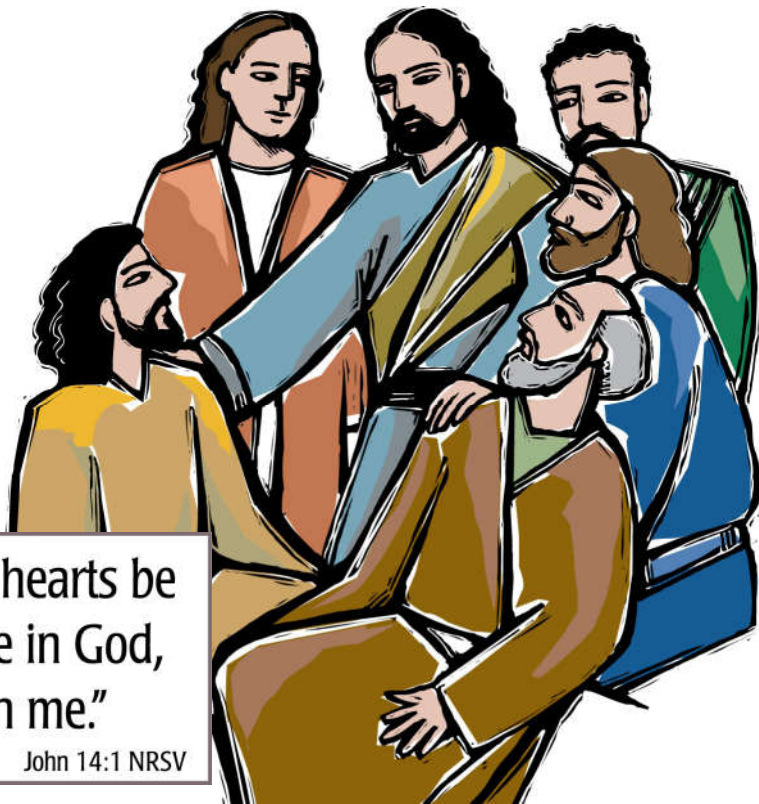


# Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1528 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA 95355 - (209) 522-3267

[www.saintpaulsmodesto.org](http://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org)

*Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 7, 2023*



“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.”

John 14:1 NRSV

## **Mission Statement**

We are a worshipping, inquiring and inclusive community united in Jesus' name to change the world.

## **Welcoming Statement**

We invite everyone to join in the communal life of the body of Christ, through participation and leadership in this congregation, and by fully sharing in the life and sacraments of this church. We affirm that each person is a child of God, and that those of every race, ethnicity, creed, age, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation and gender identity are called to be one with us.

# The Entrance Rite

Prelude

Chuck Sheaffer

## Processional Hymn #518 Christ is made the sure foundation

Celebrant: Alleluia, Alleluia, the Lord is Risen!

All: The Lord is Risen indeed, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### Gloria

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly King, al -  
mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we  
praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,  
on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;  
5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
ceive our prayer. 6. For  
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the  
 Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the glo - ry of  
 God the Fa - ther. A - - - men.

Setting: William Mathias (b. 1934)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you**

Celebrant: Let us Pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

## The First Lesson

Acts 7:55-60

<sup>55</sup>But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup>“Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”

<sup>57</sup>But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. <sup>58</sup>Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup>While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

## The Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

- <sup>1</sup> In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;  
let me never be put to shame; \*  
deliver me in your righteousness.
- <sup>2</sup> Incline your ear to me; \*  
make haste to deliver me.
- <sup>3</sup> Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,  
for you are my crag and my stronghold; \*  
for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.
- <sup>4</sup> Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, \*  
for you are my tower of strength.
- <sup>5</sup> Into your hands I commend my spirit, \*  
for you have redeemed me,  
O Lord, O God of truth.
- <sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; \*  
rescue me from the hand of my enemies,  
and from those who persecute me.
- <sup>16</sup> Make your face to shine upon your servant, \*  
and in your loving-kindness save me.”

## The Second Lesson

1 Peter 2:2-10

- <sup>2</sup> Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— <sup>3</sup>if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.
- <sup>4</sup> Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>For it stands in scripture: “See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup>To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner,” <sup>8</sup>and “A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they diso-

bey the word, as they were destined to do.<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.<sup>10</sup>Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

The Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Gradual Hymn #484 Praise the Lord through every nation**

## **The Holy Gospel**

John 14:1-14

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to John.

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

<sup>1</sup>“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. <sup>2</sup>In my Father's house there will be satisfied.”<sup>9</sup>Jesus said to him, “Have I are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?<sup>3</sup>And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way to the place where I am going.”<sup>5</sup>Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?”<sup>6</sup>Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. <sup>7</sup>If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”<sup>8</sup>Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”<sup>10</sup>Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works.<sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves.

<sup>12</sup>Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to

the Father. <sup>13</sup>I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **Homily**

Rev. Dondi

### **The Nicene Creed**

BCP page 358

**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 worshipped 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**

## **The Rite of Peace**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## **Blessings and Celebrations**

### **Birthday Prayer**

Watch over your *children*, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide *them* wherever *they* may be. Strengthen *them* when they stand; comfort *them* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *them* up if they fall; and in *their* hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *their* lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Wedding Anniversary Prayer**

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and His Church. Send, therefore, your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **Prayer for the Anniversary of Baptism**

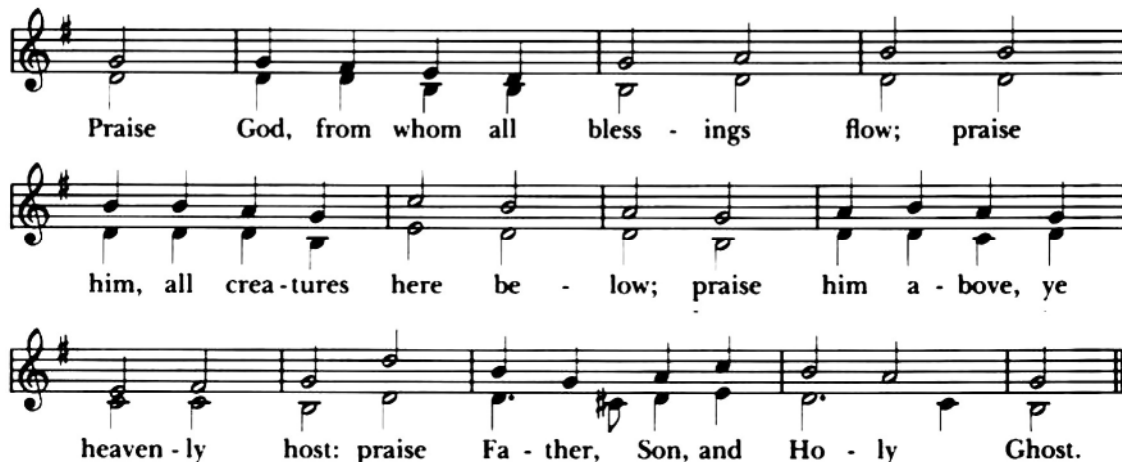
O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Holy Spirit through the teaching of your Son, Jesus Christ, who was first baptized by John in the Jordan River. Bless this *child* of yours on the anniversary of Baptism, that the gifts of the Holy Spirit may ever remain with *them*, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Prayer for the Sick**

O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness

with your servant *N.*, that *his* weakness may be banished and *his* strength restored; and that *his* health being renewed, *he* may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### Offertory Hymn #536 Open your eyes, O faithful people



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise  
him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye  
heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

## The Holy Communion The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A BCP page 361

**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.

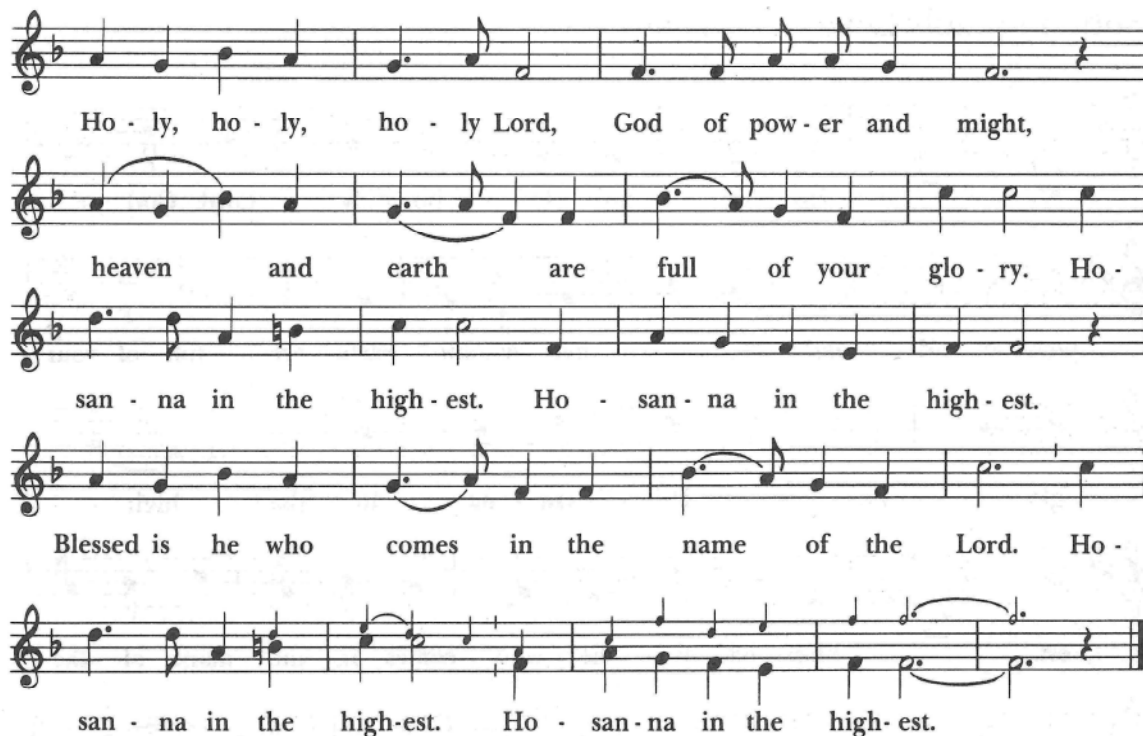
**People:** It is right to give God thanks and praise.

**Celebrant:** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting



life. 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:

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

Celebrant: 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 us 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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: 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.

**All: Amen**

Celebrant: And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa-ther who art in hea-ven, Hal- lowed be thy Name, Thy king- dom  
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea ven. Give us this day our  
dai-ly bread. For-give us our tres- pas es, As we for-give those who tres pass a-gainst us,

as we for-give. And lead us not in-to temp-ta-ion, but de-li-ver us from  
 e-vil. Thine is the king-dom and the pow-er and the  
 glo-ry for ev-er. A-men

Celebrant: Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us.

**All: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### Agnus Dei

Je-sus, Lamb of God: have mer-cy on us. Je-sus, bear-er of our sins: have  
 mer-cy on us. Je-sus, re-dem-er, re-deem-er, of the  
 world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

Celebrant: 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.

*All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

### Communion Hymn Levas #154 Taste and See

## Closing Prayers

Celebrant: Let us pray.

**All: 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.**

### Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

BCP page 833

**Lord make us instruments of your peace.**

**Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

### Final Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

*The blessing is bestowed.*

**Recessional Hymn #525 The Church's one foundation**

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!

**All: Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude:

Chuck Sheaffer



The flowers at the altar today are given to the  
 Glory of God  
 by Stephanie Gilmer  
 in memory of her beloved husband.

### ***May Ministry Schedule***

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Clergy Homily	Rev. Dondi Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn Dcn. Greg	Rev. Kathie Rev. Kathie	Rev. Lyn Rev. Lyn
Acolytes	Judy T Claudine	Jim P Annamary	Judy T Claudine	Nancy S Judy T
Lectors	Judy T Ann M	Sarah H Christine J	Nancy S Steph HW	Steph G Barbara V
Intercessor	Judy T	Brandi A	Linda L	Carolyn L
Greeters & Ushers	Ishmael H Carolyn L	Christine J Claudine	Phil M Sarah H	Christine J Linda L
Vestry Rep	Judy T	Brandi A	Linda L	Carolyn L



## ***Prayer and Praise***

*as of 5-1-2023*

- ◆ Arlene Cox went to be with the Lord on Sunday the 16th. Please keep Mike, Pam and the Cox family in your prayers as they navigate through their grief at the loss of Mike's mother.
- ◆ Please pray for all of those who will be traveling El Camino de la Pascua April 22nd through May 13th.
- ◆ Please pray for Bonnie Palmer's brother Sam, he had heart surgery last week. Pray for the Dr's wisdom and for healing for Sam.
- ◆ Please pray for Sheri Tapley (Roberta & Ed Bearden's daughter) she is had hip replacement surgery May 2nd. Pray for strength and healing.
- ◆ Please pray for Zach Statzer (Jeni's son) who has an appointment with a specialist on the 10th to go over his CT scan results
- ◆ Please pray for healing, comfort, strength and guidance for Susan Sell. Susan is new to the St. Paul's Family.
- ◆ Prayers for healing, comfort and strength as Michael Thorington continues to recover from surgery.
- ◆ Please pray for Ann Mootz's sister-in-law. Pray for strength to endure what is ahead and for her complete recovery. Also, for peace for her family and friends.
- ◆ Darla Davisson has asked us to pray for people who have hate in their hearts.
- ◆ Please pray for Sharon Andrews' son and daughter-in-law for healing, comfort, guidance and strength.
- ◆ Please pray for strength and healing for Elaine Paradis
- ◆ Pray for healing and God's wisdom for Ralph (Linda Lowe's brother)
- ◆ Please pray for healing and comfort for Rebecca, a friend of Eric Sheaffer. Pray also that her latest treatment will be successful.
- ◆ Continue to pray for healing and comfort for the Munroe's.

- ◆ Continue prayers for healing for Rj.
- ◆ Continue to pray for relief from pain, healing, strength, courage and patience for Carol Collier.
- ◆ Update on Christine Judd: Please pray that they will be able to find a good place for her to go upon release from the rehab hospital.
- ◆ Please pray for those who may be alone or struggling in someway.
- ◆ Please pray for our Vestry.
- ◆ Continued prayers for the search committee.

If you have any prayers, praises or updates you would like added, please contact Jeni using the church phone number 209-522-3267.

If you have any pastoral needs, please contact the church office.

## *Recycling at St. Paul's*

Every Sunday, collection cans for recycled aluminum cans and CA redeemable plastic are in the church entrance. Please **rinse and drain** your recyclable plastic and aluminum cans before putting them in the bins. The money from recycling will go to fund "Creation Care" projects.



The chart to sign up for flowers for 2023 is in the narthex. Now is your chance to sign-up for the dates you want before they are taken.

## *Free Covid Tests*

We have free Covid tests available in the Narthex or the church office.

- Jeni



## *Meetings, News and Needs*

- ☞ Please hold onto your paper and plastic bags for the Salvation Army Food Commodities Program. We have run out of room to store them so if you can please keep the bags you have at your home for a while, Judy Teter will let you know when they are needed again. Thanks!
- ☞ Tai Chi meets in the Parish Hall every Tues. and Thurs. from 9-10.
- ☞ Food Distribution continues in the Parish Hall the 1st Wednesday of every month from 11 to 12 noon.
- ☞ If you are interested in joining our choir, please contact Chuck Sheaffer. Contact info on page 19
- ☞ If you are interested in playing hand bells, please contact Judy Teter. Contact info on page 19
- ☞ Paint and Succulents Day - Want to create something beautiful for all seasons? Need help or encouragement with painting and planting? In June come paint a flower pot guided by a local artist and fill it with lovely succulent plants while learning about them. All materials will be included to decorate the pot and finish it with a variety of plants. More details to come, including the date and time.
- ☞ Mark your calendars the Halloween party is back! October 28th. More information to come but this will give you some time to start planning your costume.
- ☞ The first Sunday of the month there is a donation box for Inter-faith Ministries (Now called The Stanislaus Food Initiative)
- ☞ There will be a basket in the narthex for the Shower Shuttle, they always need underwear and socks! We will also be putting together hygiene kits and need two-blade razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, travel Kleenex, combs and q-tips. Clothes soap and dryer sheets are also a big need.



- ☞ There will be a clothing donation box for MoPride in the narthex. We will be collecting clothing year around. They are also in need of feminine hygiene products. Also, watch for upcoming events we will be sponsoring and consider attending to show our love.
- ☞ If you are interested in helping with the food giveaway the first Wednesday of each month please contact Judy Teter.
- ☞ If you are interested in helping with Salvation Army dinners please contact Linda Lowe
- ☞ If you are interested in helping Knit One, Pray Two please contact Gayle Ivy



## ***A Prayer for El Camino de la Pascua***

O God, who brought your servant Abraham out of the land of the Chaldeans, protecting him in his wanderings, who guided the Hebrew people across the desert, we ask that you watch over, your servants, as they journey in the love of your name through the Diocese of San Joaquin. Be for them their companion on the way, their guide at the crossroads, their breath in their weariness, their protection in danger, their shelter on the camino, their shade in the heat, their light in the darkness, their consolation in discouragement, and their strength in intention; that seeing the light of the countenance of Jesus Christ your Son in the sufferings and triumphs of all your people in this land, especially its First Nations and all those who have suffered and struggled to rise with your Christ, so that with your guidance they may arrive safe and sound at the end of the Camino and enriched with grace and virtue they return safely to their homes filled with joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



**April 22-May 13, 2023**

Join EDSJ as we tour the diocese visiting locations that embody the death, hope and resurrection of Jesus.

For more information:

[www.diosanjoaquin.org](http://www.diosanjoaquin.org)

“El Camino de la Pascua”

Walkers for the El Camino de la Pascua will be at St. Paul’s on May 11<sup>th</sup>. We are responsible for providing dinner and places to sleep for them. It is my job to coordinate sleeping quarters. If you can accommodate one or two walkers please contact me at 209-522-9600 or email [bertbear714@gmail.com](mailto:bertbear714@gmail.com). If you have any questions you can contact Linda Lowe or me. Linda’s information is in your Sunday bulletin on page 19

Roberta Bearden

# ***St. Paul's Episcopal Church***

## **Pastoral Team**

Archdeacon Emeritus George Cano.....209-551-2304  
Deacon Greg Maszta..... gregmasz@gmail.com

## **Parish Administrator and Facilities Coordinator**

Jeni Statzer: 209-522-3267 ..... jstatzer@saintpaulsmodesto.org

## **Other Important Contacts**

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffer ..... cbshea@pacbell.net  
Hand Bells, Judy Teter..... jlpt@sbcglobal.net  
Prayer Chain, Jeni Statzer ..... stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com  
St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletin, Cherie Sheaffer ..... cbshea@pacbell.net  
St. Paul's Web Page, Social Media, Deacon Greg Maszta .... gregmasz@gmail.com  
Finance Committee, Judy Teter ..... jlpt@sbcglobal.net  
Event Coordinator, Tracy Pugh..... vinofileincal@gmail.com  
Stewardship Campaign, Sarah Hartmann ..... shartmann1@charter.net  
"Safeguarding God's Children/People" .....Jeni Statzer & Stephanie Gilmer

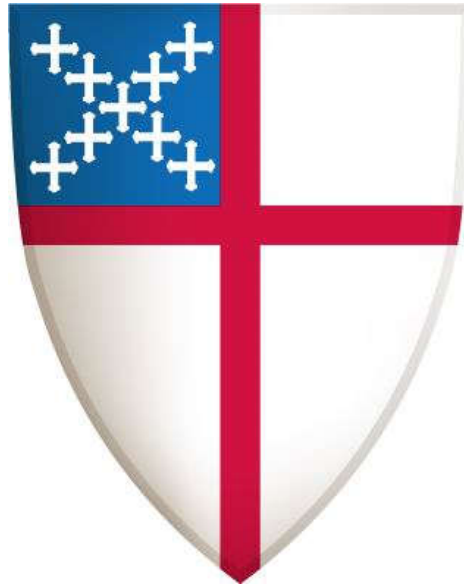
## **Vestry**

Senior Warden: Linda Lowe: 209-496-3937 ..... lwlowe@outlook.com  
Junior Wardens: Carolyn List & Vickie Winchester

Brandi Anderson, Roberta Bearden, Sarah Hartmann, Carolyn List, Linda Lowe,  
Chuck Sheaffer, Nancy Silva, Judy Teter and Vickie Winchester

Treasurer: Stephanie Gilmer (non-vestry)

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

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Then click on videos.



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