

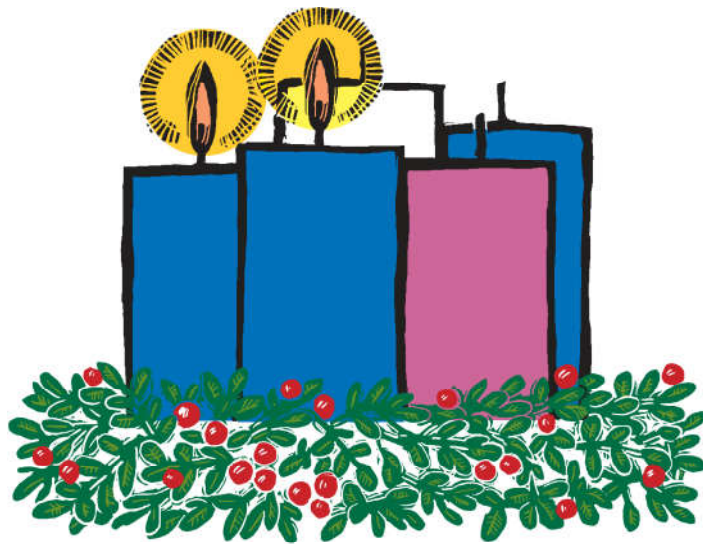
Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Second Sunday of Advent

Dec 10, 2023



— SECOND SUNDAY OF —
ADVENT

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

Opening Hymn # 76 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The advent wreath reminds us of our yearning for God. Its circular shape tells of God's everlasting love and faithfulness. Its evergreen branches tell us of eternal life and of God's desire for us to live with him forever. The four candles remind us of the passing of time, our human history into which God has entered through his Son, Jesus.

God of love and peace, this Advent season help us to watch and wait for the coming of the Christ child. Open our eyes that we may see, open our ears that we may hear and open our hands that we may serve, but most of all open our hearts to receive your love and to know when Jesus is with us.

The second Advent candle is lit.

Blessed are you, holy and living One

All: You come to your people and set them free.

Gloria



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al -
might - y 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.

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 Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 40:1-11

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

The Psalm

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

¹ You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

² You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.

⁸ I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *

that his glory may dwell in our land.
¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
¹¹ Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
¹² The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
¹³ Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Epistle

2 Peter 3:8-15a

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.

⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn Levas # 11 Prepare ye the way of the Lord

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

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

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Homily

Rev. Lyn Morlan

The 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 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

Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi

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.

The Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: 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.

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 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

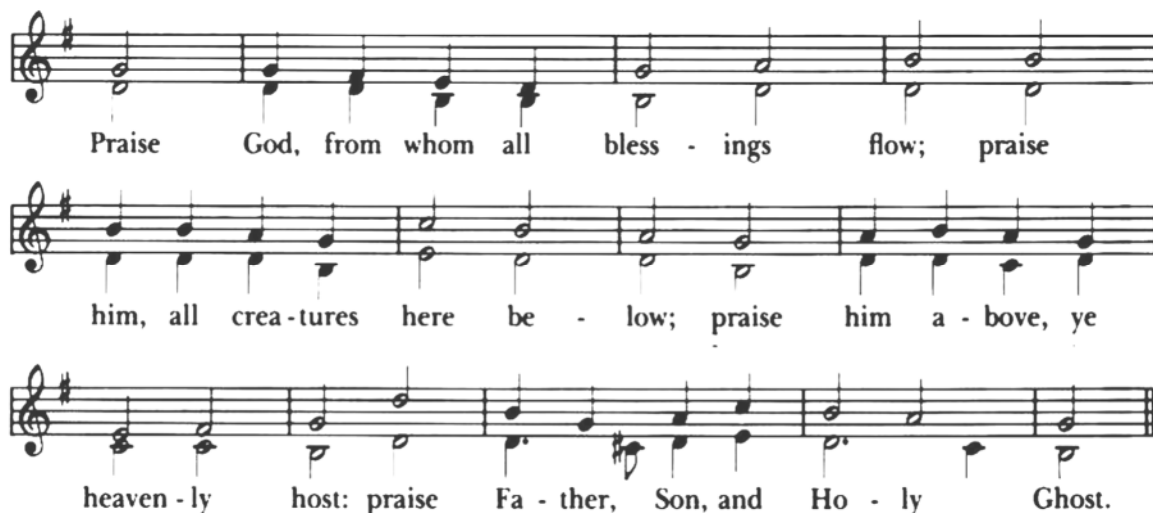
O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servant *N.*, that *his* weakness may be banished and *his* strength restored; and that *his* health being renewed, *he* may bless your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

For the Election of a Minister

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for St. Paul's, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Offertory Rite

Offertory Hymn # 59 Hark, a thrilling voice is sounding



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise
him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye
heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion The Great Thanksgiving The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

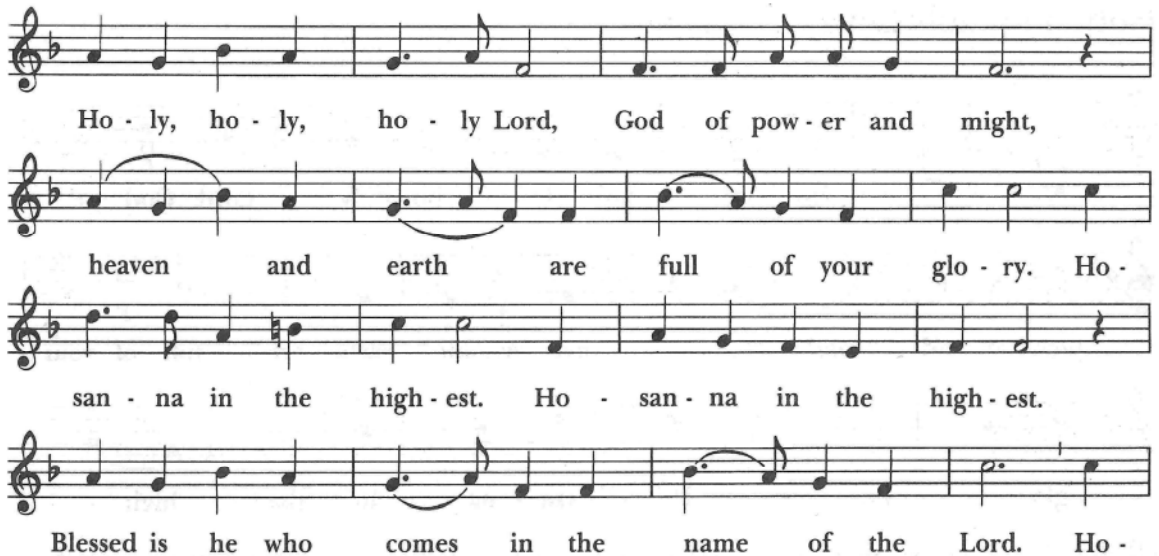
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

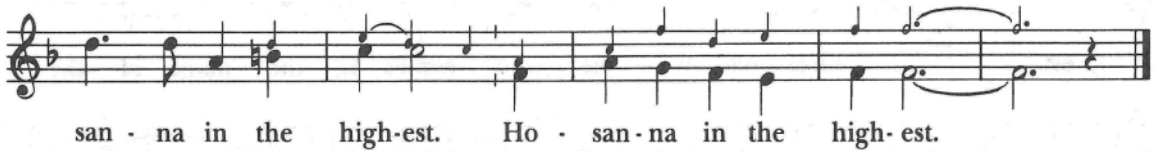
Celebrant: It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

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 -



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

Celebrant: Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out 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.

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share

these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world.

Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Mary, Paul, and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen**

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

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Agnus Dei

Je-sus, Lamb of God: have mer-cy on us. Je-sus, bear-er of our sins: have
7
mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - dem - er, re - deem - er, of the
12
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. Feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn Levas # 151 One bread, one body

Closing Prayers

Celebrant: Let us Pray.

All: 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.

Final Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: May Christ be our new beginning, the hope and salvation of the world, and the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn # 75 There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Celebrant: Alleluia, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer



The flowers at the altar today are given to the
Glory of God by David & Linda Lowe
in celebration of marriage.

We Have Gluten-free Wafers

Gluten-free communion wafers are available on request.
Please let one of the ushers know if you'd like to receive
gluten-free bread.



December Ministry Schedule

	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24 <small>Morning Prayer</small>	Dec 24 <small>5pm family</small>	Dec 31
Clergy Homily	Rev. Dondi	Rev. Lyn	Rev. Kathie	Dcn. Greg	Rev. Lyn	Rev. Kathie
Acolytes	Annamary Jim P	Judy T Nancy S	Judy T Nancy S		Judy T Nancy S	Judy T Nancy S
Lectors	Ann M Christine J	Barbara V Steph HW	Nancy S Ann M	Steph G Judy T	Joyce B Sarah H	Steph G Christine J
Intercessor	Judy T	Linda L	Caroline L		Nancy S	Sarah H
Greeters	William S Phil M	Ishmael H Claudine R	Christine J Phil M	William S Sarah H	Claudine R Carolyn L	Phil M Christine J
Ushers			David L			David L
Vestry Rep	Judy T	Linda L	Carolyn L	Roberta B	Nancy S	Sarah H

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

Have
You
Pledged?



Have You Pledged?

Thank you to everyone who has pledged so far. If you haven't turned in your pledge card yet, there are still some in the church entry.

Recycling at St. Paul's

Don't forget your recycling during the holidays.



Socks!

Thank you for generously donating socks every Advent season in recent years. For this year any donations of socks will be part of the ongoing collection for the Shower Shuttle. For information about this ministry, contact Judy Thorkelson, 209-531-5513.

Poinsettias for Christmas

Our sanctuary will be decorated with all the things that show how special the Christmas season is for us at St. Paul's. If you want to donate towards the poinsettias that will be in the sanctuary, please include that information on a check or envelope. If you are making your donation in honor or memory of a loved one, please include that information as well. Thanks so much.



The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin and the Central Deanery are having a Christmas Party and Las Posadas on Saturday December 16th at 2:00 pm in Fresno at 4147 East Dakota Avenue.

If you are not receiving email messages from St. Paul's, please contact Jeni in the church office so we can add you to our list.

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



Prayer and Praise as of 12-4-2023

☞ Please pray for healing and comfort for the following people:

Theresa Grieshaber
Craig Persons
Pam & Mike Cox
Suzy Cano
Elaine Paradis
Carol Collier
Susan Sell
Linda's Aunt Mudge
Deacon George
Robin Magenot

Sarah Manfredoni
Ann Mootz's sister-in-law
Bonnie Palmer
Michael Thorington
Barbara Weeden
Leslie Littlefield
Sheri, the Bearden's daughter
Darla Davisson
Sharon Andrew's daughter-in-law

- ☞ Susan Sell's son Bryce for strength.
 - ☞ Please pray for those in war torn areas everywhere; Ukraine, Holy Land, Gaza, Palestine and Afghanistan.
 - ☞ Please pray for the country of Ukraine and all the residents for peace and healing.
 - ☞ Please pray for the people of Hawaii, especially the victims of the wildfires on Maui.
 - ☞ Pray for the leaders of all nations for wisdom.
- Please see Jeni's weekly email for the entire list.

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

ADVENT CALENDAR



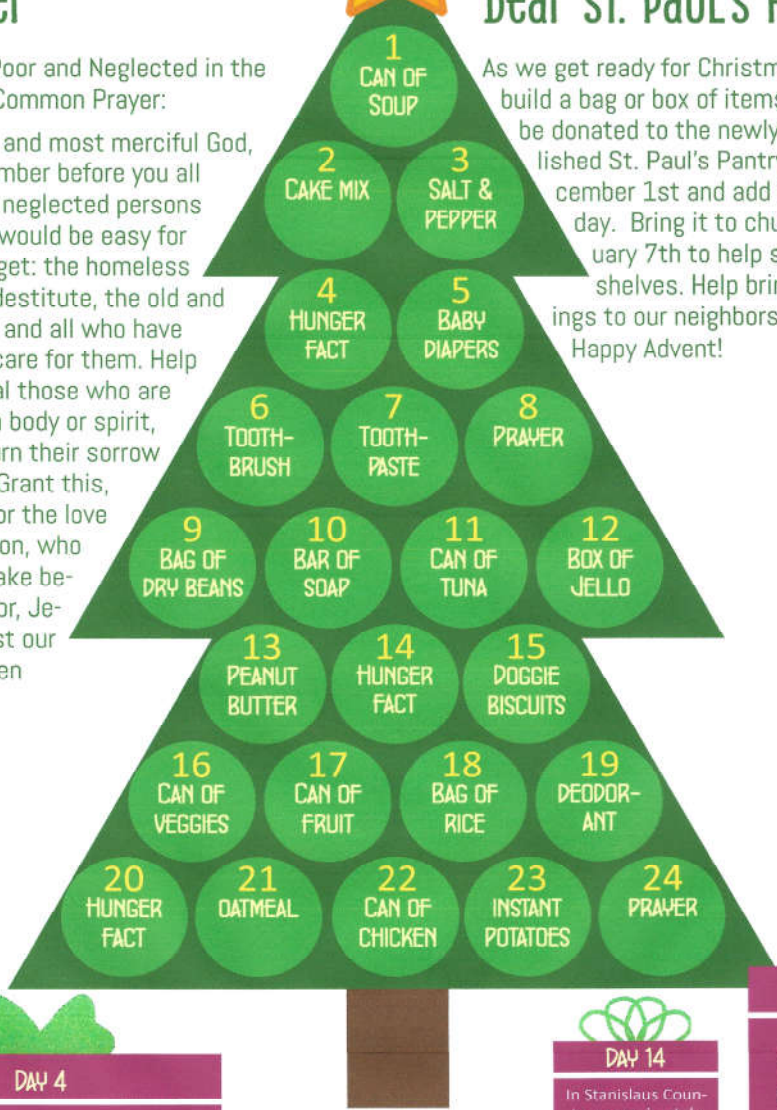
Prayer

For the Poor and Neglected in the Book of Common Prayer:

Almighty and most merciful God, we remember before you all poor and neglected persons whom it would be easy for us to forget: the homeless and the destitute, the old and the sick, and all who have none to care for them. Help us to heal those who are broken in body or spirit, and to turn their sorrow into joy. Grant this, Father, for the love of your Son, who for our sake became poor, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Dear ST. PAUL'S FAMILY

As we get ready for Christmas, let's build a bag or box of items that will be donated to the newly established St. Paul's Pantry. Start December 1st and add items each day. Bring it to church by January 7th to help stock the shelves. Help bring blessings to our neighbors. Happy Advent!



DAY 4

Food Insecurity:
Lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle.

DAY 14

In Stanislaus County, approximately 64,300 persons were "food insecure" in 2022.

DAY 20

Nationwide, 44 million persons, including 20% of children, are "food insecure".

HUNGER FACTS



Winter Family Retreat

Join us January 12 - 14, 2024 for a weekend of games, snow play, relaxation, and fun!

Prices range from \$150 single occupancy to \$460 for a family of 5.

Lodging/Meals/Supplies included

Please visit our website at www.ECCOyosemite.org or call 559-683-8162 to register.

Registration Deadline: 1/3/24



The Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin

News about Diocesan events and weekly spiritual encouragement are available at the Diocese of San Joaquin web-

site, <https://www.diosanjoaquin.org>. The "Friday Reflection" is available through the "News and Resources" link. To receive the Friday Reflection directly to your in-box, sign up via the link at the top of the Home page.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Pastoral Team

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

Parish Administrator and Facilities Coordinator

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

Other Important Contacts

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffercbshea@pacbell.net
Hand Bells, Judy Teterjlpt@sbcglobal.net
Prayer Chain, Jeni Statzerstpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com
St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletin, Cherie Sheaffercbshea@pacbell.net
St. Paul's Web Page, Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztagregmasz@gmail.com
Finance Committee, Judy Teterjlpt@sbcglobal.net
Event Coordinator, Tracy Pughvinofileincal@gmail.com
Stewardship Campaign, Sarah Hartmannshartmann1@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

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

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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