

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Third Sunday of Advent

Dec 17, 2023



— THIRD 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 # 616 Hail to the Lord's anointed

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.

O God, you sent messengers to tell us of the coming of the Messiah. Help us to be messengers to the world about the light of Christ. **Amen**

The third Advent candle is lit.

Blessed are you, holy and living One

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

Gloria

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - 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)

All: 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 Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

¹The 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 broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; ²to

proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³to 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.

⁴They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ⁸For 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. ⁹Their 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.

¹⁰I 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. ¹¹For 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.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

The Psalm

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 Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²² abstain from every form of evil.

²³ 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. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn # 65 Prepare the way, O Zion

The Holy Gospel

John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ 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. ²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered

them, “I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know,²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.”²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Homily

Rev. Kathie Galicia

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

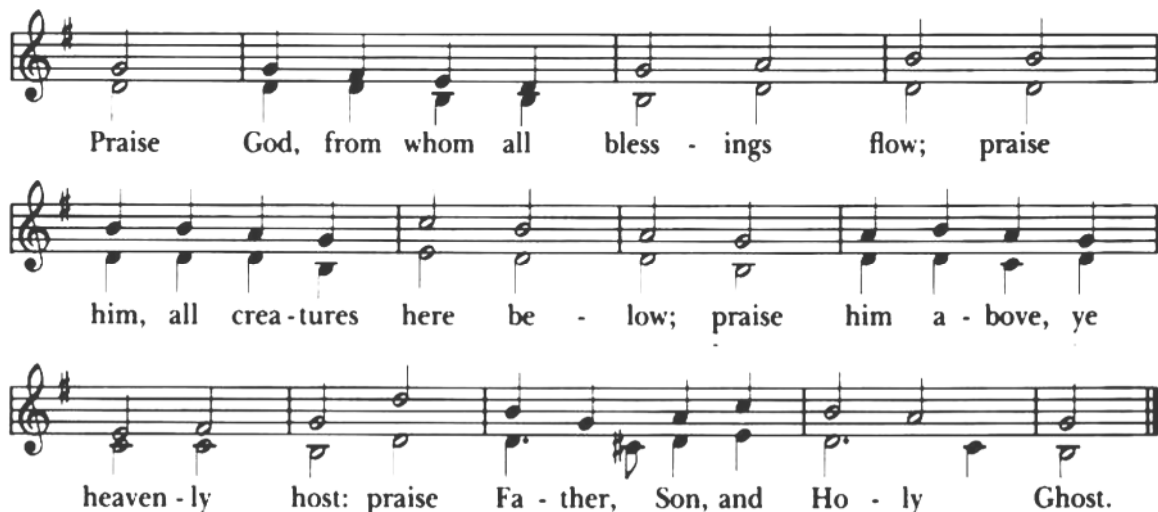
O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servant *N.*, that *his* weakness may be banished and *his* strength restored; and that *his* health being renewed, *he* may bless your holy Name; 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 # 62 Sleepers awake



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise
him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly 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.

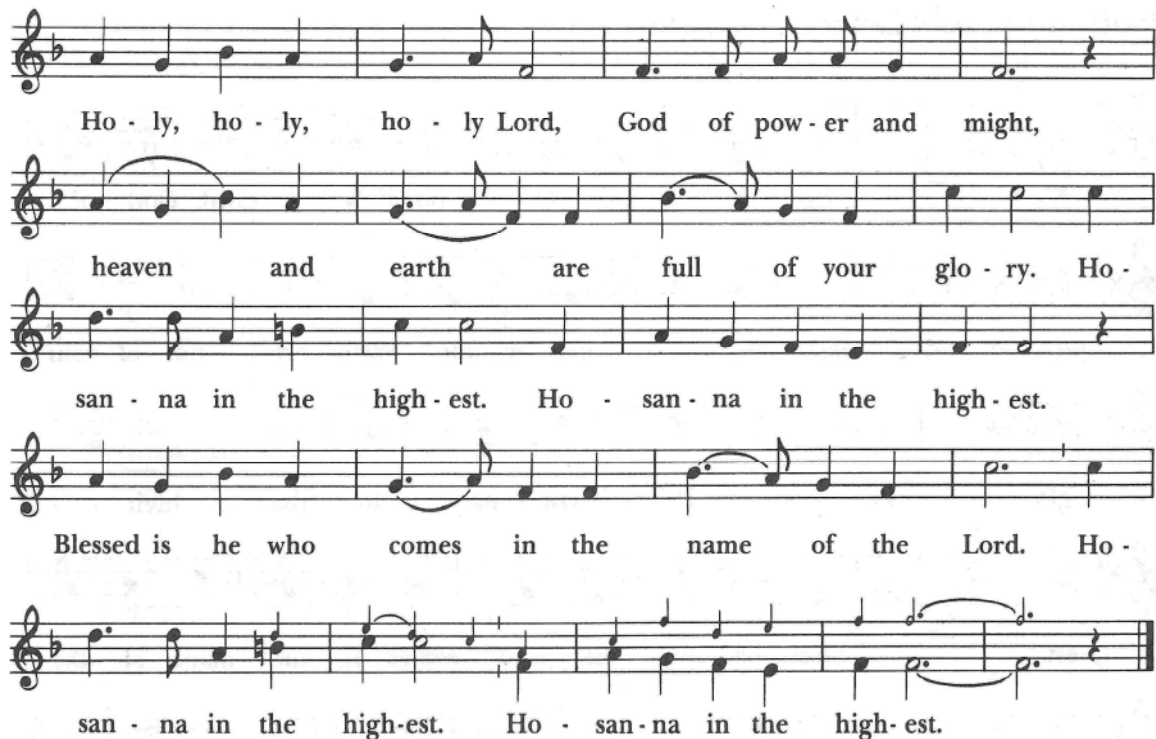
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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-ses, As we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us,
as we for-give. And lead us not in-to temp-ta-tion, but de-li-ver us from
e-vil. This 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
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. Feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn Levas # 118 Spirit song

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 # 74 Blest be the King

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

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

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

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.



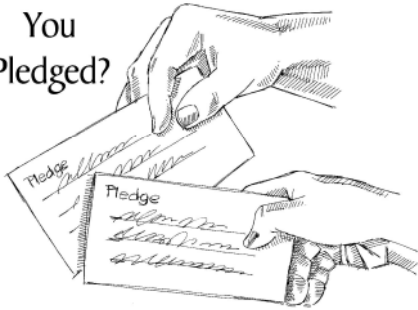
If you have any pastoral needs, please contact the church office.

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 like our vegetable garden.



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.



531-5513.

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-

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



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@saintpaulsmodesto.org

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.



Prayer and Praise as of 12-10-2023

☞ 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
Darla Davisson
Sharon Andrew's daughter-in-law
Family of Al Spina

- ☞ 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



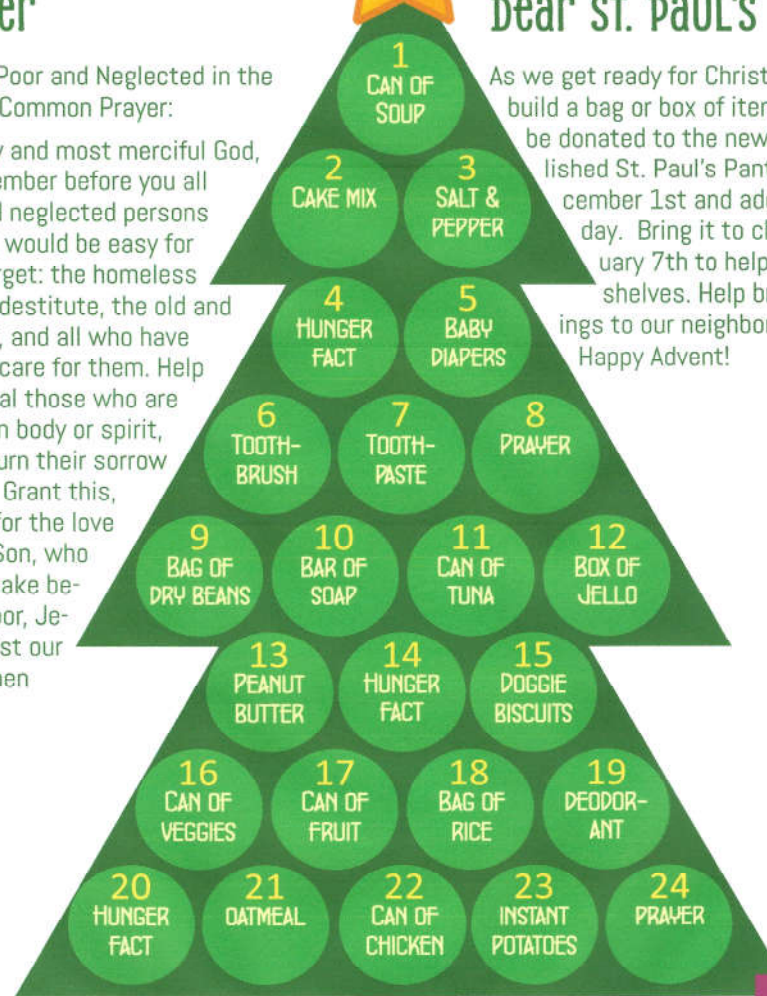
Prayer

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 Masztalgregmasz@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 Masztalgregmasz@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 Warden: 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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