

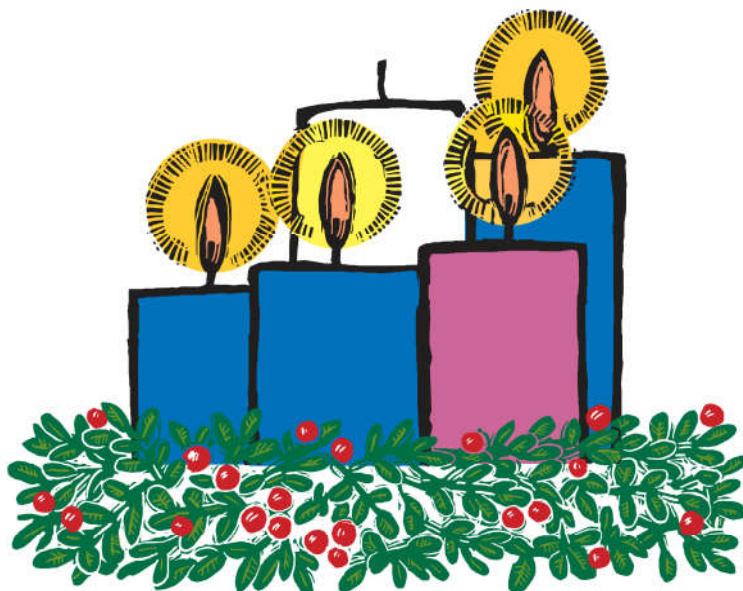
Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec 24, 2023



— FOURTH 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.

Morning Prayer Service

Prelude

Chuck Sheaffer

Entrance Hymn #56 O come, O come, Emmanuel

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.

Gracious God, giver of all gifts, prepare us for the greatest gift. Help us to welcome Jesus into our hearts, celebrate your love and be at peace in your light **Amen**

The fourth Advent candle is lit.

Blessed are you, holy and living One

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

Deacon: Shower, O heavens, from above, and let the skies rain down righteousness; let the earth open, that salvation may spring up, and let it cause righteousness to sprout up also. *Isaiah 45:8, NRSV*

Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins to God.

All: God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Deacon: May the Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

Officiant: O God, be not far from us.

All: Come quickly to help us, O God.

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant: Our God and Savior now draws near:

All: O come let us worship.

Venite

Psalm 95:1-7

Come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise to the Lord a shout with psalms.**

For you are a great God;

you are great above all gods.

In your hand are the caverns of the earth,

and the heights of the hills are yours also.

The sea is yours, for you made it,

and your hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down and bend the knee,

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For you are our God,

and we are the people of your pasture and the sheep of your hand.

Oh, that today we would hearken to your voice!

Let us listen today to God's voice:

Harden not your hearts,

as your forebears did in the wilderness,

at Meribah, and on that day at Massah,

when they tempted me.

They put me to the test,

though they had seen my works.

Forty years long I detested that generation and said,

"This people are wayward in their hearts;

they do not know my ways."

So I swore in my wrath,

"They shall not enter into my rest."

Please be seated for the reading.

A Reading from the 2nd Book of Samuel

7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

A silent pause for reflection.

Please stand for the Canticle

The Song of Mary Magnificat

Luke 1:46-55

**All: 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.**

Please be seated for the reading.

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans

16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only

wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: Thanks be to God.

A silent pause for reflection.

Please stand for the Canticle

A Song of True Motherhood

Julian of Norwich

**God chose to be our mother in all things
and so made the foundation of his work,
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.**

**God, the perfect wisdom of all,
arrayed himself in this humble place.**

**Christ came in our poor flesh
to share a mother's care.**

**Our mothers bear us for pain and for death;
our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.**

**Christ carried us within him in love and travail,
until the full time of his passion.**

**And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy,
still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.**

**All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God,
for the love of Christ works in us;**

Christ is the one whom we love.

Gradual Hymn Levas #14 Soon and very soon

The Gospel of Luke

1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of

the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

Homily

Deacon Greg Maszta

Offertory Hymn #265 The angel Gabriel from heaven came

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Officiant: Hear our cry, O God.

People: And listen to our prayer.

Officiant: Let us pray.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Suffrages for use in Morning Prayer

V. Help us, O God our Savior;

R. **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

V. Look upon your congregation;

R. **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

V. Declare your glory among the nations;

R. **And your wonders among all peoples.**

V. Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

R. **Never forget the lives of your poor.**

V. Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

R. **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

V. Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;

R. **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

The Collect of the Day

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Concluding Sentence

Deacon: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Concluding Hymn #66 Come, thou long expected Jesus

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

December Ministry Schedule

	Dec 3	Dec 10	Dec 17	Dec 24 Morning Prayer	Dec 24 5pm family	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.



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.

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.

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

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
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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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