Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

1528 Oakdale Road, Modesto, CA 95355 - (209) 522-3267 www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Christmas Eve Dec 24, 2023



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

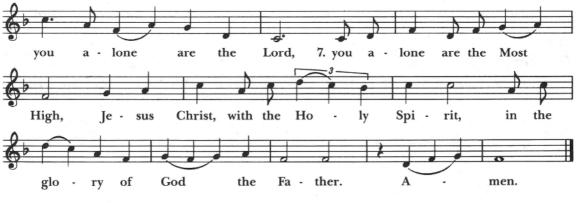
Prelude

Chuck Sheaffer

Opening Hymn # 83 O come all ye faithful

Blessed are you, holy and living One All: You come to your people and set them free.





Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

Celebrant:The Lord be with you.All:And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen**

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness

from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

The Psalm

Psalm 96

¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; * sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. ² Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; * proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations * and his wonders among all peoples. ⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; * he is more to be feared than all gods. ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; * but it is the Lord who made the heavens. ⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! * Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary! ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; * ascribe to the Lord honor and power. ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; * bring offerings and come into his courts. ⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; * let the whole earth tremble before him. ¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! * he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity." ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; * let the field be joyful and all that is therein. ¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, * when he comes to judge the earth.

¹³ He will judge the world with righteousness * and the peoples with his truth.

The New Testament Reading

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn #87 Hark! The herald angels sing

The Holy Gospel

The Gospel in Story and Song

Narrator 1: Long ago God made a promise to the people. God promised that a Savior would come to live among them. This Savior would not be a powerful warrior-king, but a gentle and humble child. When he grew up he would heal the sick, release the prisoners, care for the poor and bind up the broken hearted. What a wonderful promise!

When the days came for God to keep the promise, he sent an angel to a woman named Mary, to tell her that she would have a baby sent from God who would be the Savior of the world, the Son of God. Soon afterwards, a decree went out from the ruler of the empire, Caesar Augustus, that all the people in the empire should be counted and taxed. Everyone had to travel back to the city from which their family had first come.

So Joseph and his wife Mary, who was expecting the special baby, had to return to Bethlehem. The city of Bethlehem was crowded with people and there was nowhere for Mary and Joseph to stay. There was no room in the inn. What's more, the time had come for Mary to have the baby. Luckily an innkeeper gave them a place to stay in his stable, so it was there that Mary's special baby was born. It was a boy, and they named him Jesus, wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger.

(Following the reading Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, donkeys, cows and chickens are brought forward and placed in the creche.)

Hymn # 79 O Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1-3)

Narrator #2: In heaven, all round the throne of God, there are choirs of angels, who day and night sing "Holy, Holy, Holy." God sent some of these very special messengers to tell the people of the birth of Jesus. A great company of angels came from heaven singing God's praises: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and good will to all people."

(Following the reading Angels are brought forward.)

Hymn # 96 Angels We Have Heard on High (verses 1-3)

Narrator #3: The angels told their good news to some poor shepherds, who were out in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks by night. The angels appeared to the shepherds and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and the shepherds were filled with fear. They were terrified. But the angels said to them "Do not be afraid, for we bring you glad tidings of great joy. Today in the city of Bethlehem, God's promised Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

Then the shepherds said to one another "This is wonderful news! Let us go straight to Bethlehem and see the child who was born for us today." And so they went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby was lying in the manger, just as the angels had told them.

(Following the reading shepherds and sheep are brought forward)

Hymn # 101 Away in a Manger

Narrator #4: Shepherds were not the only people to greet the baby Jesus. Some of the people from the inn also came out to the manger. And so Jesus was born in Bethlehem. God came to us as a little child, in poverty and humility, almost unnoticed except in the hearts of the shepherds and the townspeople. This was God's promised Savior, showing his great love for us by coming to live among us.

Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad every year as we remember the birth of the Child Jesus, the Savior of the world. Grant that, like the shepherds and angels, we too may know him on earth; and grant that his spirit of peace may fill our hearts, our families, and our world, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Hymn # 111 Silent Night

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 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 *him/her*, 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

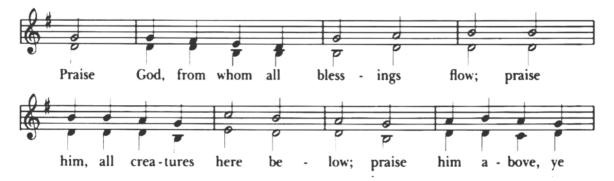
O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servants, that *their* weakness may be banished and *their* strength restored; and that *their* health being renewed, *they* may bless your holy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

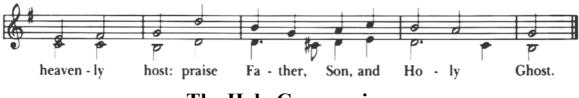
For the Election of a Minister

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 #89 It came upon a midnight clear





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.

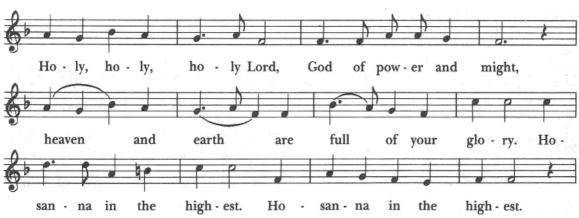
All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

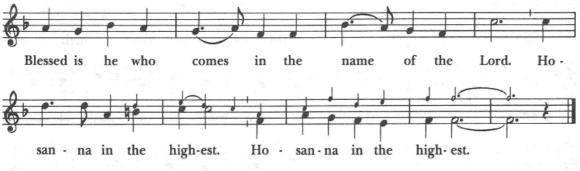
All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 ever-lasting 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



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:

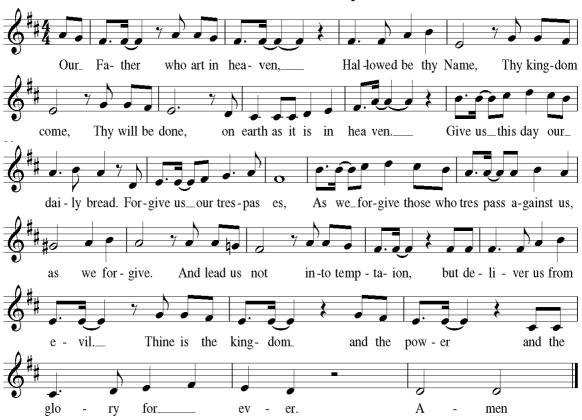
All: Christ has died. Christ is Risen. Christ will come again.

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**

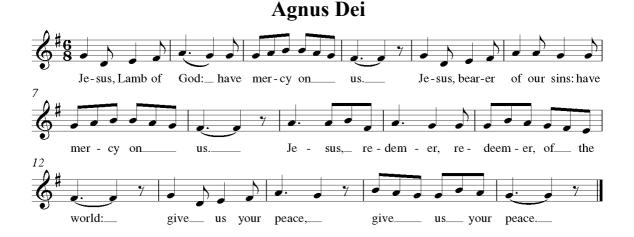
Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,



The Lord's Prayer

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.



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 #81 Lo, how a Rose

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 # 100 Joy to the World

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

All: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

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?

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.

Cookie Walk 2023

They say "It takes a village to raise a child". But, it also takes a parish to run a Cookie Walk fund raiser. It requires all of you to be bakers, walkers, workers, promoters, and to set up and take down. Look around you and thank each other. Cookie Walk raised \$4,069 for our parish this year. THANK YOU, EVERYONE!!



Prayer and Praise as of 12-16-2023

Please pray for healing and comfort for the following people:

Annamary Peck Bob Jensen 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 Danielle (Jeni's friend)

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 people of Hawaii, especially the victims of the wildfires on Maui.
- See Pray for the leaders of all nations for wisdom.
- Please pray for the American people to listen to God's will on their hearts and do unto others as they would want done to them and their families.
- Please pray for all travelers as journey to and from their destinations.

Please see Jeni's weekly email for the entire list.

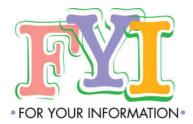
If you have any prayers, praises or updates you would like added, please contact Jeni using the church phone number 209-522-3267.

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	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

December Ministry Schedule

January Ministry Schedule

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



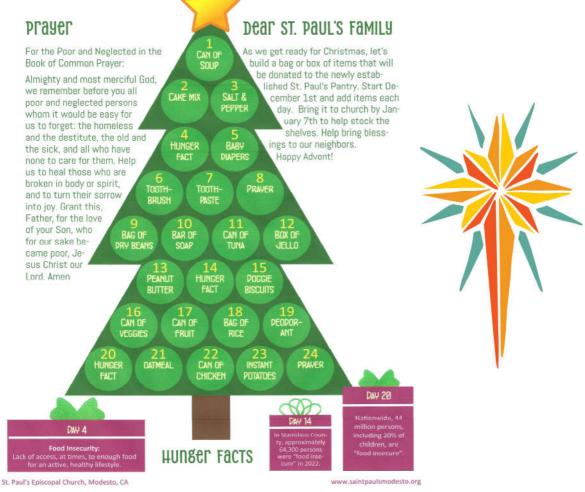
Sunday School has started and is held in the room at the back of the church during the Readings and the Homily.

So Tuesday Noon Day Prayer in the Guadalupe Chapel at 12 noon, every Tuesday. To be followed by **Jump Start** Bible study.

So If you are interested in joining the **Altar Guild** please contact Elaine Paradis or Toni Clark.

- So Tai Chi meets in the Parish Hall every Tues. and Thurs. from 9-10.
- Section Choir is still on a break.
- See If you are interested in playing **hand bells**, contact Judy Teter.
- Food Distribution continues in the Parish Hall the 1st Wednesday of every month from 10 to 11. If you are interested in helping, please contact Judy Teter. If you have grocery bags to donate, please bring on Sunday.
- So The first Sunday of the month there is a donation box on the altar rail for **The Stanislaus Food Initiative** (formerly Interfaith Ministries).
- Shere 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.
- Show Some set the set of the
- Show If you are interested in joining Knit One, Pray Two, please contact Gayle Ivy. They will be meeting the 3rd Monday of the month at 1 pm in the youth room of the Parish Hall. This years charity is the Seaman's Institute. They are making scarfs, hats, socks etc.
- So There are still free **Covid 19 tests available** in the Narthex or in the church office.
- If you are interested in joining a Wednesday Morning Prayer service or our Book Club contact Judy Thorkelson <u>jthork2404@aol.com</u>
- Shere 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.

ADVENT CALENDAR



Altar Flowers for 2024

The 2024 Altar Flower donation list is now posted in the Narthex. You may sign up on the list or send a request to carolynlist@sbcglobal.net or to the office at jstatzer@stpaulsmodesto.org. The donation amount remains \$35. When you donate, your name and the memory, celebration, or honor or your person or event is printed in the weekly Service Bulletin so the congregation can observe with you.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church



Pastoral Team

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

Parish Administrator and Facilities Coordinator

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

1usic Director, Chuck Sheaffercbshea@pacbell.net
land Bells, Judy Teterjlpt@sbcglobal.net
Prayer Chain, Jeni StatzerPrayer 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
inance Committee, Judy Teteriltpt@sbcglobal.net
Event Coordinator, Tracy Pugh
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 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



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www.https://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org/

