

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

First Sunday after Christmas

Dec 31, 2023



And the Word
became flesh and
dwelt among us ...

John 1:14, ESV

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.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Prelude

Chuck Sheaffer

Opening Hymn #102 Once in Royal David's City (verses 1, 2 & 6)

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, 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)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever **Amen**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
 the spirit of counsel and might,
 the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
 the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
 the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #81 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

The Second Lesson

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 favour 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 for ever, 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 Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #265 The angel Gabriel from heaven came

The Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God

Gradual Hymn #79 O little town of Bethlehem

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #93 Angels from the realms of Glory

The Fifth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and

they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #109 The first Nowell (verses 1-3)

The Sixth Lesson

John 1:1-14

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

All: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') (From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn #83 O come all ye faithful (verses 1-3)

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

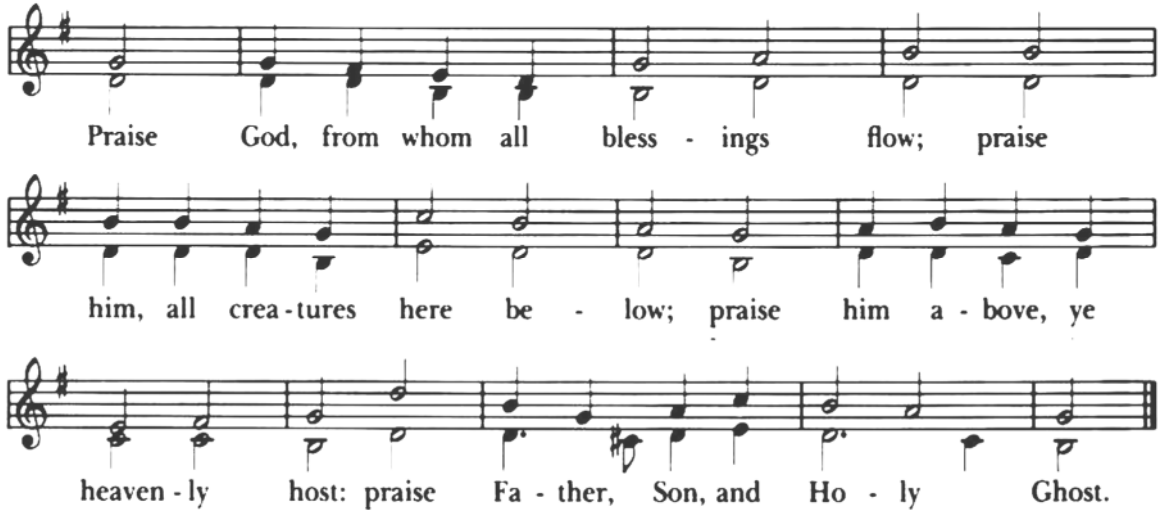
O God of heavenly powers, by the might of your command you drive away from our bodies all sickness and all infirmity: Be present in your goodness with your servant *N.*, that *his* weakness may be banished and *his* strength restored; and that *his* health being renewed, *he* may bless your holy Name; 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 #110 The snow lay on the ground



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 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.

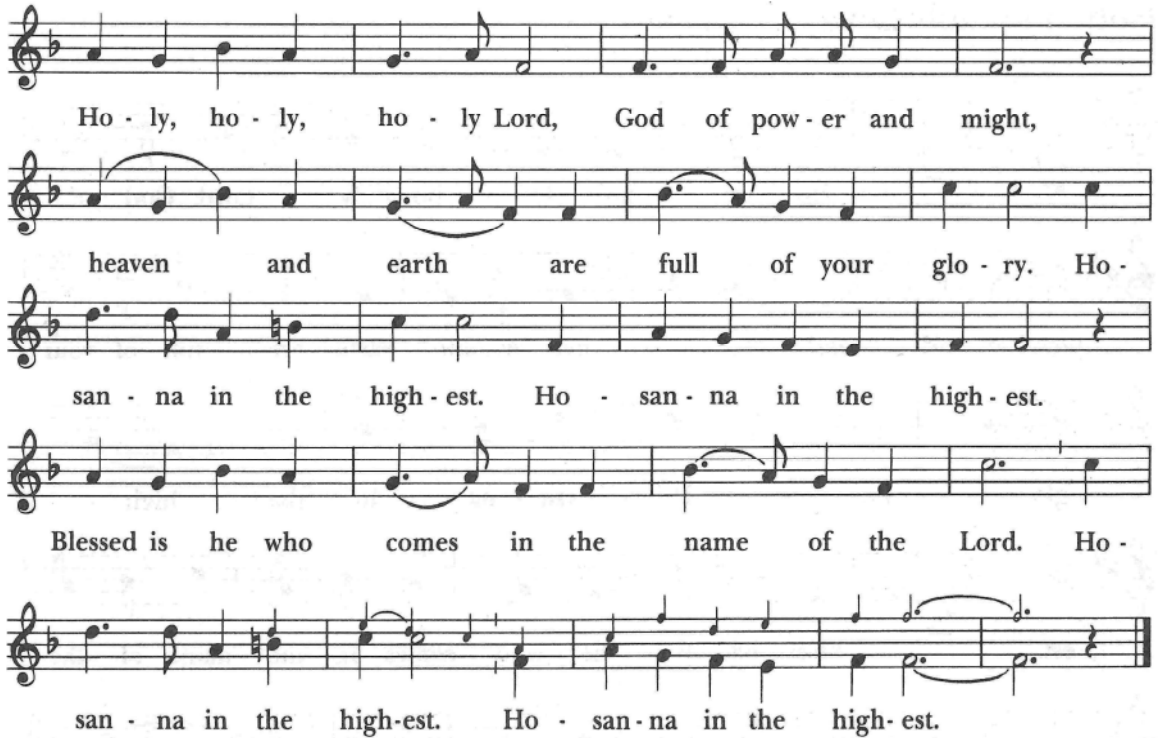
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 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
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 #439 What wondrous love is this?

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 #87 Hark! The herald angels sing

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.



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

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 |

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.



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.



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.

☞ 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.

ADVENT CALENDAR



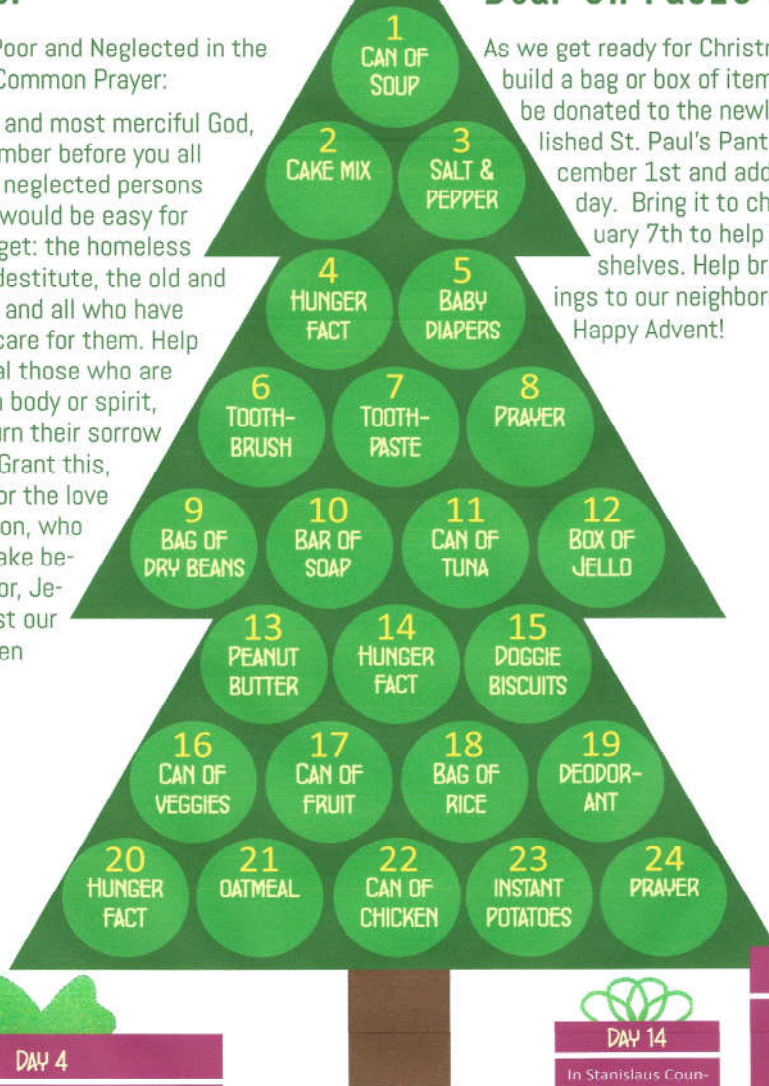
Prayer

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.

HUNGER FACTS

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".

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: 209-496-3937lwlowe@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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