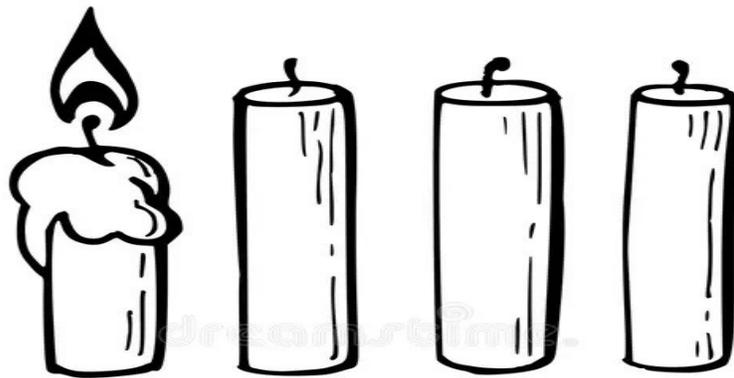


# Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

[www.saintpaulsmodesto.org](http://www.saintpaulsmodesto.org)



# 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.

Prelude

Chuck Sheaffer

### Opening Hymn #65 Prepare the way, O Zion

Blessed be God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

### 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: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

## BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ.  
 He is Emmanuel, the hope of all peoples;  
 he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us;  
 he is the Savior of every nation.

O God, let your blessing come upon our community  
 gathered here before you.

Bless us (+) and our Advent wreath (+)

May the light that shines forth from them illumine our way as we journey  
 towards Christmas;  
 may the light that shines forth from them illumine our lives as we wait in  
 hope for the birth of the Christ-child.

We ask this through Christ who is the Light of the World.

**Amen.**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

*Rev Matthew Kozlowski (adapted)*

### **First Sunday of Advent**

Today we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of HOPE.

*The candle is lit.*

“We wait in hope for the LORD; he is our help and our shield.”

Let us pray:

**Eternal God, as we await the coming of our savior, give us the courage to hope. Give us grace to see your plans of redemption for our lives, for this community, and for the world. Through Jesus Christ, the source of our redemption and hope. Amen.”**

### **The Lessons**

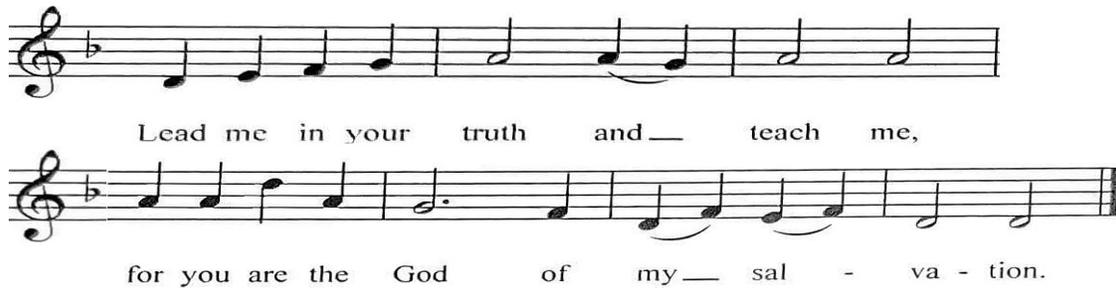
*The first lesson is from Jeremiah 33:14-16*

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 25:1-9



Lead me in your truth and — teach me,  
for you are the God of my — sal - va - tion.

- 1 To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;  
my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated,  
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2 Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3 Show me your ways, O LORD, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4 Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5 Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love  
and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.
- 7 Gracious and upright is the LORD; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.
- 8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.
- 9 All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

*The second reading is from I Thessalonians 3:9-13*

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn #74 Blest be the King whose coming**

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 21:25-36*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole

earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon: Fr. Brian Dawson**

### **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**

### **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

### **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.**

## **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 thy peace which passeth 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

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Offertory Hymn #58 Lo! He comes with clouds descending**

**Doxology**

## The Holy Communion The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

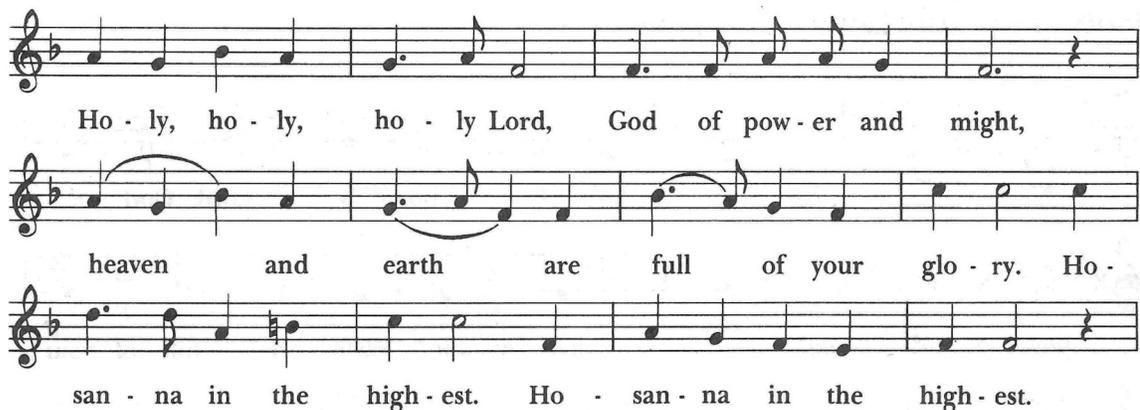
**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

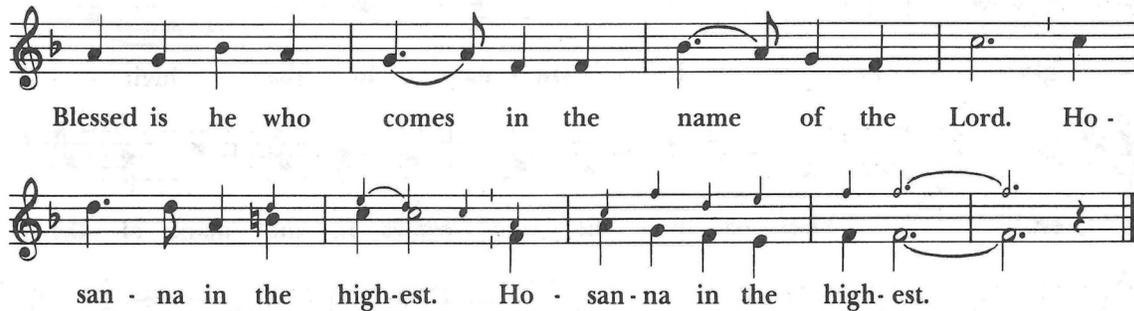
Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

### 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.



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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of

praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia**

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.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*Gluten free wafers are available. If you want just a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your body.*

**Communion Hymn Levas #154 Taste and see**

**Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,**

**You have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with the spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Bod and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

**Closing Hymn #616 Hail to the Lord's anointed**

**Dismissal**

Alleluia, alleluia. Grace be with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Go in peace.

**We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

### *Coffee Hour-Parish Hall following Worship*

Enjoy coffee or tea and something delicious each week in the Parish Hall. Spend a little time getting to know your Christian brothers and sisters before heading out to enjoy your Sunday.

## December Ministry Schedule

Dates	Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	Dec 8 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 15 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Dec 29 <sup>th</sup>
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	Nancy S.	Jim P. Nancy S.	Judy T. Nancy S.	Nancy S. Judy T.	Nancy S. Judy T.
Eucharistic Minister	Stephanie G.	Nancy S.	Judy	Rex	Nancy S.
Lectors	Stephanie G. Alex S.	Joyce B. Linda L.	Nancy S. Stephanie H-W.	Barbara V. Judy T.	Linda L. Stephanie H-W.
Intercessor	Luis M.	Nancy S.	Judy T.	Ann M.	Sarah H.
Ushers	Phil M. David L.	Claudine R. Carolyn L.	Ishmael H. Phil M.	Greg B. Claudine R.	Ishmael H. Phil M.
Greeters	Phil M. David L.	Claudine R. Carolyn L.	Ishmael H. Phil M.	Greg B. Claudine R.	Ishmael H. Phil M.
Vestry Rep.	Luis M.	Nancy S.	Judy T.	Ann M.	Sarah H.



**For Health, Peace and Comfort:**

Cherie Sheaffer; Claudine Romegialli; Pam & Mike Cox; Suzy Cano; Elaine Paradise; Deacon George; Ryan Anderson; Ann Mootz's sister-in-law; Mary Kinnaman; Michael Thorington; Ismael Huggins; Kristina & Rozy Frias; Ken & Trish Hart; Mary Griffin; Joshua Trautmann; Christine Judd; Joel; Fr. Bob and Alexis Woods; Lennyn; Bob Jensen; Rev. Karen; Nell; Clare; Susan Sell; Christine Jayne; Howard; Thomas; Keith and Ginny; Brett; Colleen; Priscilla

**Praise God:**

Anthony Coca and family recovering from a fire.

The Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe, the new Presiding Bishop

**Please Pray For:**

Kristina Frias, for success in her job search.

Gabe Trautmann for success in his job search.

Ally Young for success in her job search.

Please pray for those in war torn areas everywhere: Ukraine, Holy Land, Gaza, Palestine and Afghanistan.

Pray for the leaders of all nations for wisdom.

Please pray for the American people to listen to God's will in their hearts and do unto others as they would want done to them and their families.

Please pray for all travelers as they journey to and from their destinations.

Please see the weekly email for the entire list.

☐



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

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



The flowers at the altar today  
are given to  
The Glory of God by Jack and Tina Dempsey in  
Celebration of Marriage.

**\*\*Join Us for Noonday Prayer \*\***

We extend a warm invitation to join us for the weekly Noonday Prayer service, held every Tuesday at noon in the Guadalupe Chapel in the parish hall.

Our Noonday Prayer service offers a brief yet meaningful opportunity for worship, reflection, and communal prayer. Lasting just a short while, it's a perfect chance to step away from the rush of our schedules and center ourselves in the presence of God.

In addition to our time of prayer, we will also take a moment to read the readings for the upcoming Sunday. This allows us to prepare our hearts and minds for the messages and lessons that will be shared during our Sunday service. It's a chance to delve deeper into the Word, to ponder its significance, and to consider how it speaks to our lives today.

Contact Sarah Hartmann, 215-917-8477, with any questions.

## **ACTION PACKED ADVENT!**

December 1<sup>st</sup> -we begin our Advent Giving Calendar with everyone bringing a can (or two) of food to add to the collection in the library at the back of the church.

December 7-8<sup>th</sup> - The Cookie Walk is a tasty way to support our parish and invite your friends and family along.

December 14<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) - Los Posadas, Lodi. Come and travel the journey to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph (and have a great time as well).

December 15<sup>th</sup> - Sock it to 'Em Sunday - contribute to a our semi- regular sock drive for patrons of the Shower Shuttle. Socks can be dropped off any Sunday before then (see the box in the library)

December 24-25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Services. We are planning on two services on Christmas Eve and one on Christmas Day. An indication of how many might attend would be helpful and there will be jobs (readers etc) so see the sheet in the church entrance.

# ***St. Paul's Episcopal Church***

## **Pastoral Team**

Fr. Brian Dawson.....209-897-1612.....FrBrianDawson@gmail.com  
Archdeacon Emeritus George Cano  
Deacon Greg Maszta.....deacongreg66@outlook.com

## **Parish Administrator**

Linda Lowe: 209-522-3267 .....stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

## **Other Important Contacts**

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffer .....cbshea@pacbell.net  
Hand Bells, Judy Teter .....jlpt@sbcglobal.net  
Prayer Chain .....stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com  
St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletin, Cherie Sheaffer.....cbshea@pacbell.net  
Social Media, Deacon Greg Maszta .....deacongreg66@outlook.com  
Finance Committee, Carolyn List .....carolynlist@sbcglobal.net  
Stewardship Campaign, Sarah Hartmann .....shartmann1@charter.net  
Praesidium Academy .....Stephanie Gilmer

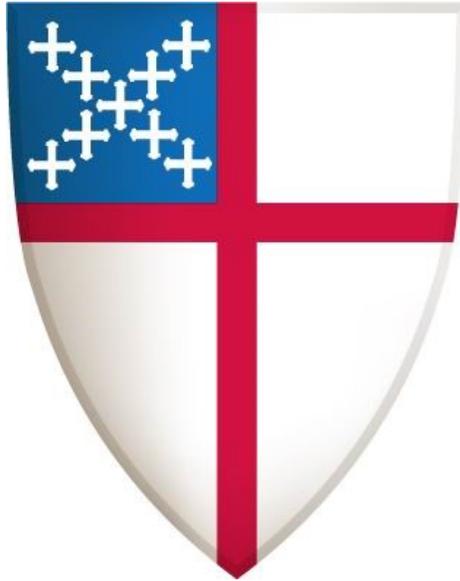
## **Vestry**

Senior Warden: Linda Lowe: 209-496-3937 ....lwlowe@outlook.com  
Junior Warden: Judy Teter .....jlpt@sbcglobal.net

Lora Burnett, Sarah Hartmann, Linda Lowe, Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz,  
Chuck Sheaffer, Nancy Silva, and Judy Teter.

Treasurer: Stephanie Gilmer

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

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Then click on videos.



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