

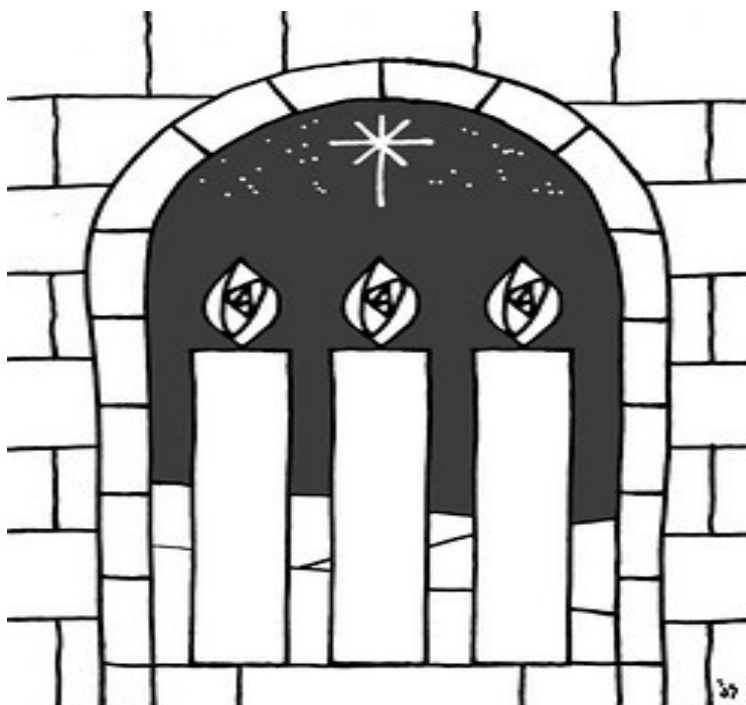
Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 2024



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 #56 O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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)

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Rev Matthew Kozlowski (adapted)

Today we light the third candle of the Advent wreath, the candle of
 JOY.

The candle is lit.

“You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills
 will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their
 hands.”

Let us pray:

Gracious God, you came to us in human flesh and you abide with us in the Holy Spirit. Fill us with your joy, and help us shine as a light to the world. Through Jesus Christ, who makes our joy complete. Amen.

The Lessons

The first lesson is from Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,

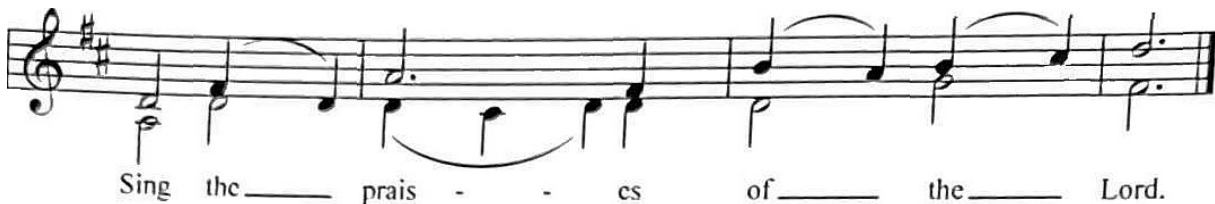
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 9 -The First Sign of Isaiah



Surely, it is God who saves me; *
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, *
and he will be my Savior.
Therefore you shall draw water with rejoicing *
from the springs of salvation.
And on that day you shall say, *
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon his Name;
Make his deeds known among the peoples; *
see that they remember that his Name is exalted.

Sing the praises of the Lord, for he has done great things, *
and this is known in all the world.

Cry aloud, inhabitants of Zion, ring out your joy, *
for the great one in the midst of you is the Holy One of Israel.

The second reading is from Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #59 Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 3:7-18

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

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 #76 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

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.

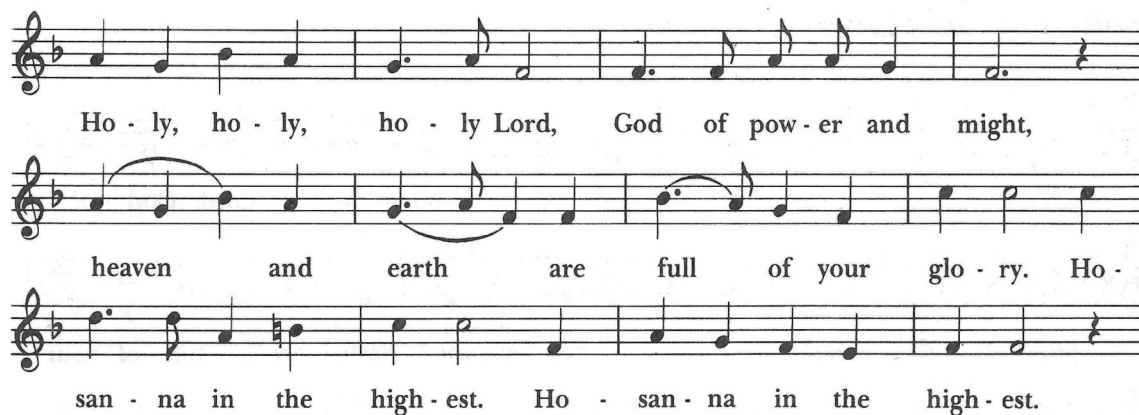
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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.

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)

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 #151 One bread, one body

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 #61 Sleepers awake

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 st	Dec 8 th	Dec 15 th	Dec 22 nd	Dec 29 th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian Dc. Greg	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; Denise; Ryan Anderson; Ann Mootz's sister-in-law; Mary Kinnaman; Michael Thorington; Ismael Huggins; 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; Cheryl; Thomas; Keith and Ginny; Brett; Colleen; Priscilla; the Pew Family; Dennis; Rocky; Loretta; Ed and Roberta; Craig and Marti.

Praise God:

Mike Cox's revised diagnosis and continued healing.

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 to the weekly prayer list, please contact the church office phone number 209-522-3267.



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God by David and Linda Lowe in
Celebration of Marriage

Epiphany and Beyond

Sunday, January 5, 2025-Feast of Epiphany

*Sunday, January 19-Annual Parish Meeting after 10 am Worship
Service-Election of Vestry Members and Delegates to Diocesan
Convention*

March 4-Shrove Tuesday

March 5-Ash Wednesday

April 13-Palm Sunday & Visit by Bishop David

April 20-Easter Sunday

ACTION PACKED ADVENT!

Advent Giving Tree– Bring a can (or two) of food to add to the collection in the library, under the Christmas tree at the side of the church. Check out the sign on the tree for suggestions of items to donate. All items will be given to the Food Initiative of Greater Stanislaus (formerly Interfaith Ministries) after Christmas.

December 15th - **TODAY! Sock it to 'Em Sunday** - contribute to a our semi- regular sock drive for patrons of the Shower Shuttle.

December 24-25th - 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.). Contact the church office with any questions or if you will be available to participate in any of the 3 services: Christmas Eve-5:30 and 10:45 pm, Christmas Day-10 am

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: 209-522-3267stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

Other Important Contacts

Music Director, Chuck Sheaffercbshea@pacbell.net
Hand Bells, Judy Teterjlpt@sbcglobal.net
Prayer Chainstpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com
St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletin, Cherie Sheaffer.....cbshea@pacbell.net
Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztadeacongreg66@outlook.com
Finance Committee, Carolyn Listcarolynlist@sbcglobal.net
Stewardship Campaign, Sarah Hartmannshartmann1@charter.net
Praesidium AcademyStephanie Gilmer

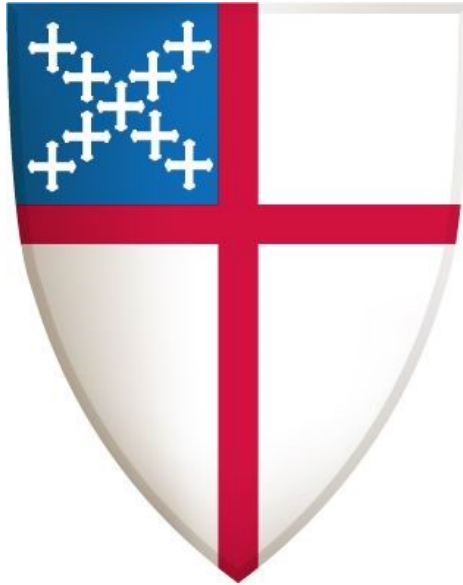
Vestry

Senior Warden: Linda Lowe: 209-496-3937lwlowe@outlook.com
Junior Warden: Judy Teterjlpt@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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