

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025



**THIRD
SUNDAY
IN LENT**

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.

Sunday Worship in Lent

The Lenten season is a time for taking things up. During this season we avoid certain things like singing the Gloria and saying Alleluia. This is to make those things even more special when we start using them again.

This Lent we are using a special liturgy. Much of it will be familiar, a few things will be new. While we don't sing the Gloria we will chant the Kyries. We will also introduce a little Spanish to our service, with the Gospel being read in both English and Spanish for the next seven weeks.

I am also replacing the prayers we have been using for birthdays, anniversaries and people we want to ask for prayer for with some newer ones that attempt to gather our prayers and celebrations. This is a trial only. I would very much value feedback about them and invite you to talk with me after services or via email or telephone. Nothing is set in stone and as you'll continue to hear me say this is just another part of me inviting us to go broader and deeper in our faith and as a Church family.

I invite you to join me as we enter into this Lent, taking up what you can and leaving aside what you must. It is a Holy Time and I invite us all to embrace it fully.

Grace and Peace

Fr Brian

Liturgy for the Lenten Season

Prelude

Chuck Sheaffer

Opening Hymn #401 The God of Abraham praise

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

During Lent in place of the Gloria we chant the ancient Kyries

Kyrie eleison

Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

The first lesson is from Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD,

the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you':

This is my name forever,
and this my title for all generations.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63:1-8



O God, you are my God; ea - ger - ly I ——— seek you

- 1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.
- 2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.
- 3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.
- 4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.
- 5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- 6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.
- 7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- 8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.

The second reading is from I Corinthians 10-1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #648 When Israel was in Egypt's land

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 13:1-9

Glory to you, Lord Christ. (Español: Gloria a ti, Cristo Señor)

Lucas 13:1-9

¹ Por aquel mismo tiempo fueron unos a ver a Jesús, y le contaron que Pilato había mezclado la sangre de unos hombres de Galilea con la sangre de los animales que ellos habían ofrecido en sacrificio.

² Jesús les dijo: «¿Piensan ustedes que esto les pasó a esos hombres de Galilea por ser ellos más pecadores que los otros de su país? ³ Les digo que no; y si ustedes mismos no se vuelven a Dios, también morirán. ⁴ ¿O creen que aquellos dieciocho que murieron cuando la torre de Siloé les cayó encima eran más culpables que los otros que vivían en Jerusalén? ⁵ Les digo que no; y si ustedes mismos no se vuelven a Dios, también morirán.»

⁶ Jesús les contó esta parábola: «Un hombre tenía una higuera plantada en su viñedo, y fue a ver si daba higos, pero no encontró ninguno. ⁷ Así que le dijo al hombre que cuidaba el viñedo: “Mira, por tres años seguidos he venido a esta higuera en busca de fruto, pero nunca lo encuentro. Córdala, pues; ¿para qué ha de ocupar terreno inútilmente?” ⁸ Pero el que cuidaba el terreno le contestó: “Señor, déjala todavía este año; voy a aflojarle la tierra y a echarle abono. ⁹ Con eso tal vez dará fruto; y si no, ya la cortarás.”»

El evangelio del Señor.

Te alabamos, Cristo Señor.

Luke 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: Fr. Brian Dawson

The ringing of the prayer bell leads us into and out of a time of stillness.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

**God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

God of joy and celebration, we thank you for the precious gift of life and for the unique journey that each day brings. As this(ese) your servant(s) celebrate(s) another year of life, we pray for your abundant blessings to be upon them. May your grace continue to guide and shape their paths, filling their days with love, purpose, and joy. Amen

Anniversary Prayer

**Blessed are you, O God, for in the good and the bad times of our life you have stood lovingly by our sides.
Bless those whose anniversaries we acknowledge this day.
May they remain faithful and loving so that we may be true witnesses to the covenant you have made with us all. Amen.**

Prayer for Those We Love

**Gracious God,
we entrust all who are dear to us to your never-failing care and love,
for this life and the life to come, knowing that you want for us all
better things than we can desire or pray for; through Jesus Christ our
Lord. Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Choir Anthem “There Will I Be” by Craig Courtney

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.

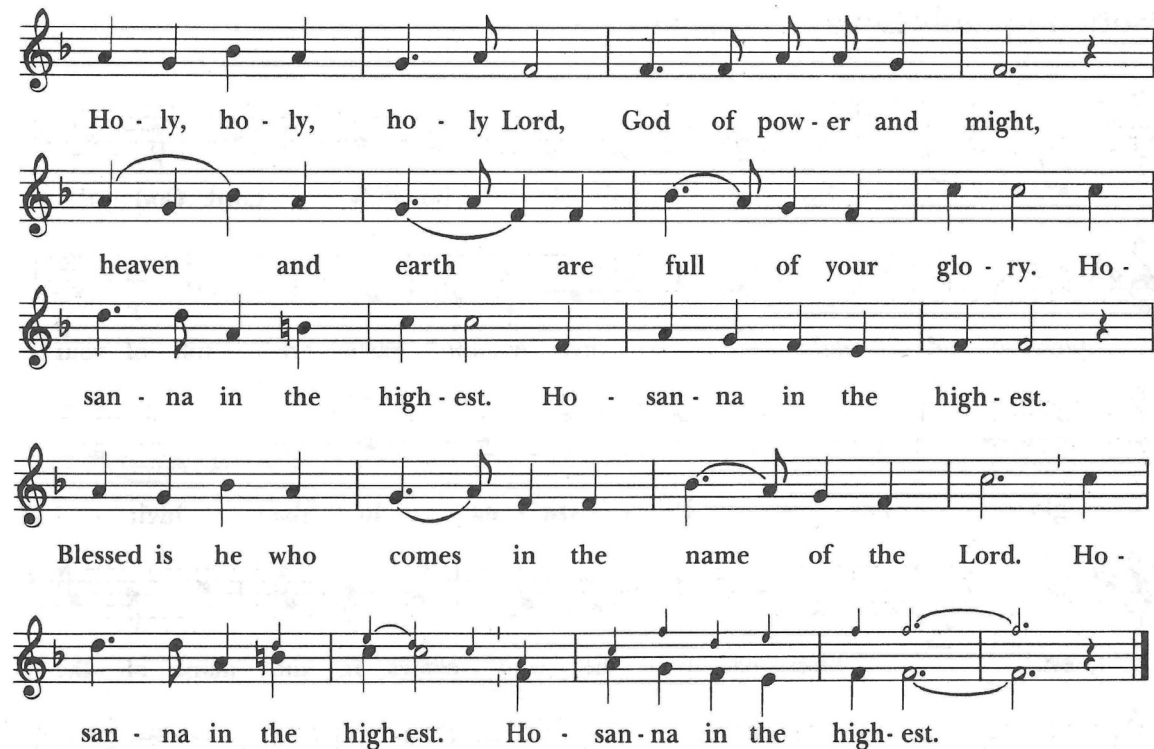
It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God,
source of life and fountain of mercy.

You call your faithful people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast;
that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy,
and renewed by your Word and Sacraments,
they may come to the fullness of grace

which you have prepared for those who love you.

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)

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, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends,
saying:
“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”

After supper, 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 to remember me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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 [_____ 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,

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-tion, but de-li-ver us from
e-vil. This is the king-dom and the pow-er and the
glo-ry for ev-er. A-men

The bread is broken.

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

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 Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
 Come, for all things are now ready.

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.

**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**

Blessing

Closing Hymn #149 Eternal Lord of love, behold your church

Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

This liturgy is adapted from 'Enriching Our Worship 1', Church House Publishing

All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105

Maundy Thursday Agape Meal

We will once again be having a Maundy Thursday evening Agape Meal, and it will be helpful to have an idea of numbers. If you THINK you will be there, please add your name to the sheet in the narthex of the church. If you can please also indicate what "finger food" you might bring, and whether you can assist with setting up and cleaning up.

Many thanks.

Fr. Brian



Prayer and Praise

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Alexa, Pam, Deacon George, Susan, Robin, Denise, Priscella, Laurence, Louisa, Marlene, Mark, Toni, Mauro, Loretta, Kelly, Gabriel, Joy, Ken, Bonnie, Alfred, Clare, Michael, Susan, Dennis, Michael, Ishmael, Lisa, Mary, Bob, Mary, Howard, Marti, Daniel, Tony, Joanne, JoAnne, Linda, Janet, JoHanna, Sasha, David J., Cherie, Doug, Alice, Annamary, Gayle, Michelle, Ginny, Keith, Dorothy, Brett, Lora

Those who have passed away:

Elaine Paradis

Carol DeMaria Donati Hertle

Collene Arfman

Joyce Hosegood Ray Campbell

Jaden Justman

Those in the Military:

1 LT Sam Birch, USA

LTC Nathaniel P. Wallace, USAFR

CPT Jenavieve Campbell, USAF

CPT Fred Campbell, USAF

PO1st Class Johnny Olmos, US Coast Guard

Leaders and Ministries of St. Paul's:

The Clergy, Vestry & Wardens & Eucharistic Ministers

March Ministry Schedule

Dates	Mar 2 nd	Mar 9 th	Mar 16 th	Mar 23 rd	Mar 30 th
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian Dc Greg
Acolytes	Judy T. Nancy S.	Nancy S. Judy T.	Nancy S. Jim P.	Nancy S. Judy T.	Nancy S. Judy T.
Eucha- ristic	Stephanie G.	Nancy S.	Judy	Rex	Nancy S.
Lectors	Ann M. Theresa G.	Nancy S. Stephanie H-W.	Barbara V. Alex S.	Judy T. Rex	Joyce B. Ann M.
Interces- sor	Sarah H.	Courtney S.	Lora B.	Luis	Nancy S.
Ushers	Phil M. Linda L.	Claudine R.	Greg B. Carolyn L.	Phil M. Carolyn L.	David L. Claudine R.
Greeters	Phil M. Lynelle H.	David L. Claudine	Greg B. Carolyn L.	Phil M. Carolyn L.	David L. Claudine R.
Vestry Rep.	Sarah H.	Courtney S.	Lora B.	Luis	Nancy S.

Coming Up In Lent & Holy Week

Sunday – *Starts March 9th* 5.30 pm Zoom Lenten Book Study (*Turning Over Tables*) & Night Prayer

Brian Dawson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83350737801?pwd=x6pNgYEAckdB5zm3vQrcv38VURD8AI.1>

Meeting ID: 833 5073 7801

Passcode: 210399

Tuesday *Starts Midday March 11th* Noon Day Prayer & Lenten Book Study (*Turning Over Tables*) in *Guadalupe Chapel*

Wednesday—7:15 am Eucharist in the Church

Thursday – 10 am Eucharist in the Church

Starts March 13th 10.45 am Lenten Book Study (*Can You Drink This Cup* by Henri Nouwen) in Office Conference Room

Sunday March 30th – Parish Forum following 10 am Eucharist

Sunday April 6th-8 am Rite 1 Eucharist-No music or sermon

Holy Week April 13th – 20th

Palm Sunday

10 am Palm Sunday Eucharist with Confirmations & Yellow Bag

Collection *Bishop David visiting*

5.30 pm Zoom Lenten Book Study & Night Prayer

Holy Tuesday 1 pm Diocesan Chrism Mass at St James' Cathedral Fresno

All invited

Holy Wednesday

7.15 am Eucharist

Noon Final Lenten Book Study

5.30 pm Final Zoom Lenten Book Study

Maundy Thursday 5 pm Potluck Meal in the Church followed by Eucharist, foot washing & vigil

Good Friday 10 am Way of the Cross

Holy Saturday 7 pm Easter Eve Vigil (*with St Francis Turlock at St Paul's*)

Easter Day 10 am Easter Eucharist

5th Sunday Family Forum

Your vestry wants to ensure that everybody is in the loop and involved in what's happening at St Paul's. One of the ways we will do that is by having a parish forum after church every time there is a 5th Sunday in the month.

Our first forum is on **Sunday March 30th** after the 10am service. We will gather in the hall where we have Coffee Hour. This month Deacon Greg will offer a presentation on the Diocesan Budget and Fr Brian will outline the ministry model Vestry has adopted. This is an interactive session so questions and comments are encouraged. There will also be a chance for any other questions or issues to be raised.

Golden Corral Senior Luncheon Group

Come one, come all.....spouses, partners, friends are all welcome-
the more the merrier!

Phil and Anita Machado will be hosting lunch at Golden Corral, Tuesday, April 15 at 2:30 pm. No reservation required.

The price for seniors is \$15, including drinks. Find Phil and Anita around the corner from the dessert station, ready to enjoy good company and good food.

For more information, contact Phil at 209-527-2727.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Archdeacon Emeritus George Cano

Deacon Greg Masztal.....deacongreg66@outlook.com

Parish Administrator

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

Other Important Contacts

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Hand Bells, Judy Teterjlpt@sbcglobal.net

Prayer Chainstpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com

St. Paul's Epistle & Bulletin, Cherie Sheaffer.....cbshea@pacbell.net

Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztaldeacongreg66@outlook.com

Finance Committee, Carolyn Listcarolynlist@sbcglobal.net

Stewardship Campaign, Courtney Smith.....courtneyvsmith@gmail.com

Praesidium AcademyStephanie Gilmer

Vestry

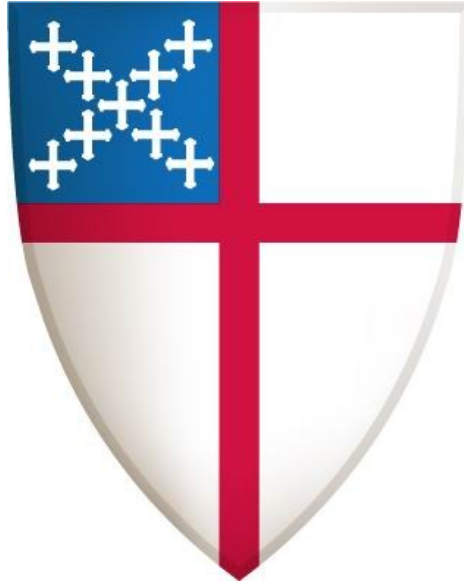
Senior Warden: Joyce Bell -(215) 275-6502bellj1@charter.net

Junior Warden: Peter Krewko (707) 853-3604pmkjfc@att.net

Joyce Bell, Lora Burnett, Sarah Hartmann, Ishmael Huggins, Peter Krewko,
Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz, Chuck Sheaffer, Nancy Silva, and Courtney Smith.

Treasurer: Greg Burnett

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

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