

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

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

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

***The Fourth Sunday After The Epiphany  
February 1, 2026***



## **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 #440 "Blessed Jesus, at thy word"

Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit

Glory to God for ever and ever.

### 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)

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; 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 Micah 6:1-8**

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you

but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Psalms 15*



The right - eous shall a - bide up - on — God's ho - ly hill.

- 1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
but he honors those who fear the LORD.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things \*  
shall never be overthrown.

*The second reading is from 1 Corinthians 1:18-31*

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn #656 “Blest are the pure in heart”**

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 5:1-12*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon: Fr. Brian Dawson**

*Stillness - the prayer bowl rings to take us in and out of a time of stillness and reflection.*

**The Prayers of the People**

## **Reconciliation**

The grace of God has dawned upon the world  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
Who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.  
Let us confess our sins.  
*Silence.*

**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.**

*The Priest proclaims God's forgiveness.*

## **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 of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

**Offertory Hymn #560 “Remember your servants, Lord”**

**Doxology**

### **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 our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right to glorify you, Holy One, and to give you thanks;  
for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible  
from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and  
fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splen-  
dor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and  
day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you un-  
ceasing praise.

Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven,  
we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, 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)

We acclaim you, holy God, glorious in power.  
Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love.  
You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.

When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death.  
In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you.

Again and again you called us into covenant with you,  
and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Holy God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior.  
Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, Jesus lived as one of us, yet without sin.

To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation;  
to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.  
To fulfill your purpose Jesus gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for Christ who died and rose for us, you sent the Holy Spirit, your own first gift for those who believe, to complete your work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for Jesus to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them Jesus 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 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 shed  
for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink  
it, do this for the remembrance of me."

*[Deacon]*

Almighty God, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption.  
Recalling Christ's death and descent among the dead, proclaiming  
Christ's resurrection and ascension to your right hand,  
awaiting Christ's coming in glory;  
and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us,  
this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

God our Creator, we pray that in your goodness and mercy  
your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctify-  
ing them and showing them to be holy gifts  
for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body  
and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, re-  
deemed by the blood of your Christ.

Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember our Presiding Bishop Sean,  
our Diocesan Bishop David and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ,  
and those whose faith is known to you alone;  
bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
with matriarchs, patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the  
saints who have found favor with you in ages past.

We praise you in union with them and give you glory through Jesus  
Christ our Savior.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

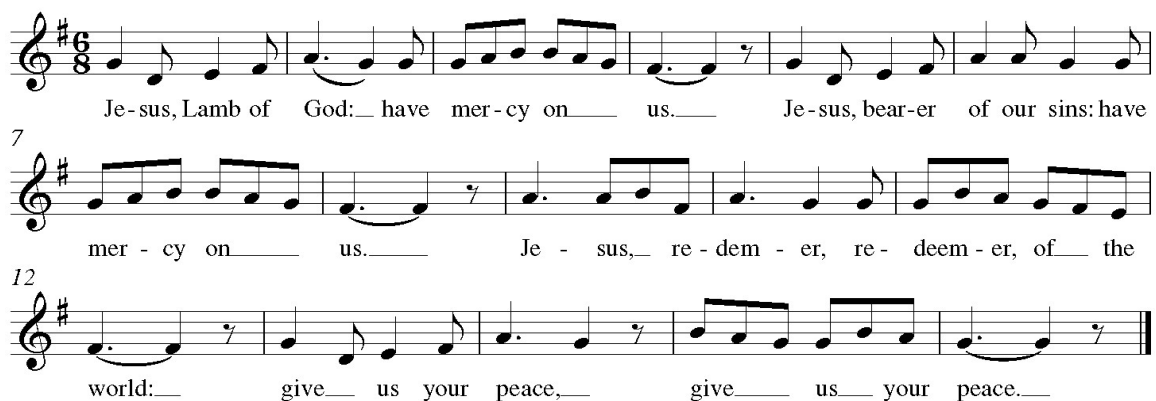
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

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. Thine is the king-dom and the pow-er and the  
glo-ry for ev-er. A-men

*The bread is broken*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**



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.

Come, for all things are now ready.

*All baptized persons 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 #325 “Let us break bread together”**

**Extending Our Eucharistic Gathering**

*A representative of the parish’s Eucharistic Visitors comes forward to receive the bread and wine reserved for those who are sick or otherwise unable to join us in person.*

In the name of us all at St Paul’s Episcopal Church, we send our Eucharistic Visitors forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom they go may share with us in this Holy Communion of Christ’s body and blood. May they with whom these gifts are shared remain bound to us, and we to them.

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

## **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 #556 “Rejoice, ye pure in heart”**

**Go now to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

*All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105*

## ***Flowers for Sunday***

We are blessed each week to have lovely floral bouquets by the altar, dedicated to loved ones or as thank offerings.

There are opportunities this year to sponsor the flowers with a donation of \$35.00. Look for the flower chart in the narthex or call the church office or Carolyn List for more information.

Linda, 209-522-3267

Carolyn, 209-604-2398



## **Prayer and Praise**

### **Remember those who have asked for our prayers**

Bonnie, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Cherie, Annamary, Ginny, Keith, Bill, Judy, Mike, Jose, Hennie, Kevin, Murray, Karen, Claudine, Ellen, Darlene, Jim, James, Maureen, Christine, Mindy, Ivy, Diane, Sandy, Lindsay, Robert, Marlene, Stephen, Natalie, Peter, Dorothy, Susan, Diane, Tyler, Sandra, Susie, Fr. Nick, Ann-Marie, Christy, Dean, Gail, Matt, Anita, Rosalie

### **Those who have passed away:**

Brian Carmody

### **Those in the Military:**

CPT Sam Birch, USA

CPT Fred Campbell, USAF

CPT Jenavieve Campbell, USAF

PO1st Class Johnny Olmos, US Coast Guard

SGT Carson Repan, USAF

LTC Nathaniel P. Wallace, USAFR

### **Leaders and Ministries of St. Paul's:**

The Clergy, Vestry & Wardens, Altar Guild





The flowers at the altar today  
are given to  
The Glory of God, Thankful for the  
St. Paul's Family

## **COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S**

### **Tuesday February 17<sup>th</sup> – Shrove Tuesday**

Pancakes! Pancakes! Pancakes! We will prepare for Lent with delicious pancakes and a friendly team competition. The Scouts will be providing pancakes and we'll thank them with a free-will donation. Fr. Brian will be conducting a Lenten Quiz. **Dinner starts at 5:30 pm. Come and be part of the fun!**

### **Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday**

There will be Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes services at 10 am and 5 pm, as well as 'Ashes to Go' at the entrance to the church between noon and 1.00 pm.

### **Lenten Studies 2026**

Our main Lenten Studies series will focus on Liturgy and Worship in the Episcopal Tradition. The series will be Sundays, noon-1:30 pm after Coffee Hour. Look for the sign-up sheet in the narthex or through the church office.

### **Other Worship and Study Opportunities**

Noonday Prayer and Bible Study-Noon-1 pm-Guadalupe Chapel (Parish Hall)

Morning Prayer via Zoom-10 am-Contact the church office for the link

Mid-week Eucharist and worship-10-10:30 am-Guadalupe Chapel

## February 2026 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup>	Feb 8 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup>
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg
Acolytes	Joyce B. Alex S.	Judy T. Jim P.	Nancy S. Evelyn B.	Joyce B. Gabe T.
Eucharistic Minister	Stephanie G.	Alex S.	Sarah H.	Linda L.
Lectors	Stephanie H-W. Judy T.	Ann M. Alex S.	Stephanie G. Nancy S.	Linda L. Theresa G.
Intercessor	Alex S.	Carolyn L.	Luis M.	Rosanne M.
Ushers	Claudine R. David L.	David L. Carolyn L.	Carolyn L. Luis M.	Claudine R. Rosanne M.
Greeters	Claudine R. Lynelle H.	David L. Carolyn L.	Carolyn L. Luis M.	Claudine R. Rosanne M.
Vestry Rep.	Alex S.	Carolyn L.	Luis M.	Rosanne M.
Coffee Hour Host	Linda L.			Lisa B.
Sunday School	Sarah H.	Evelyn B.	Ann M.	Sarah H.

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

### **Pastoral Team**

Fr. Brian Dawson.....209-897-1612.....FrBrianDawson@gmail.com  
Deacon Greg Masztal.....deacongreg66@outlook.com  
Stephanie Gilmer, Pastoral Care Coordinator.....mzgilmer@gmail.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, Barbara Vassell .....stpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com  
Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztal .....deacongreg66@outlook.com  
Finance Committee, Carolyn List .....carolynlist@sbcglobal.net  
Stewardship Campaign, Courtney Smith.....courtneyvsmith@gmail.com

### **Vestry**

Senior Warden: Joyce Bell -(215) 275-6502 .....bellj1@charter.net  
Junior Warden: Peter Krewko (707) 853-3604 .....pmkjfc@att.net

Joyce Bell, Jose Cruz, Peter Krewko, Carolyn List, Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz,  
Rosanne Mountain, Alex Sarina, & Courtney Smith.

Treasurer: Brandi Anderson

Vestry Clerk: Linda Lowe



Livestreamed Sundays @ 10am

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Pauls-Episcopal-Church-of-Modesto-CA-106952012668211/>

Then click on videos.

Please note that today's service is being livestreamed on Facebook. If you prefer not to appear on camera, we kindly ask that you sit on the side of the church behind the camera.



Visit St. Paul's website to give online

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

