

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

***The First Sunday After The Epiphany
January 11, 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 #135 "Songs of thankfulness and praise"

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.

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The first lesson is from Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

I am the LORD, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms 29



- 1 Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- 2 Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- 3 The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- 4 The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- 5 The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- 6 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- 7 The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- 9 And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- 10 The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- 11 The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

The second reading is from Acts 10:34-43

Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the

Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn #529 "In Christ there is no East of West"

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 3:13-17

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon: Fr. Brian Dawson

Dear friends in Christ,
it is our joy to join with Nicole and Geoffrey, their family and friends,
to celebrate the gift of their daughter, born into the world;
given to them to love, to nurture and to enjoy.

Geoffrey and Nicole, what name have you given this child?

The family, holding the child, responds

We have named you Florence Marie.

*The family may wish to explain the choice of name
and may give a gift or token to the child.*

Giving of Scriptures

Bible books for both the parents and child are presented

Receive this book.

In it is the good news of God's love.

The Thanksgiving

The parents say together

God our Creator,
thank you for the waiting and the joy,
thank you for new life and for parenthood,
thank you for the gift of Florence, entrusted to our care.
May we be patient and understanding,
ready to guide and forgive,
that in our love Florence may know your love.
May she learn to love your world
and the whole family of your children;
through Christ our life.

Amen.

The Prayers

The mother prays

Creator Spirit, I thank you for the experience of giving birth;
for the preparation and expectancy,
and for my part in creation.

I thank you for sustaining me through the pain of labour,
and for the birth of our daughter Florence. **Amen.**

The father prays

Living God, I thank you for the gift of Florence, this new member of our
family,

and for the promise of her personality.

Guard her from all that may harm her,
and make her happy in receiving and giving love. **Amen.**

The priest prays

God of the humble and hopeful,

you bless those who believe when you promise.

Help us, like Mary and Elizabeth, simply to delight in the good things you
prepare for us,

to say 'yes', and to trust that your strength and your love will provide the
wisdom needed by those who care for Florence.

We thank you God for this new person, child of your creation.

May the knowledge of you dawn on her,

may the love of you grow in her,

and may the grace of your Spirit draw her to you.

The priest prays over the family

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven,

enfold this family with your grace.

May their home be a place of your presence,

your forgiveness and your freedom.

May your will be done in them and through them
this day and for ever. **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 Levas #121 “Christ when for us you were baptized”

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.

God of all power, Source and Sustainer of the Universe,
you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be:
shining light and enfolding dark;
the vast expanse of interstellar space,
galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses,
and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race,
and blessed us with the capacity for memory, reason, and skill. You
made us the stewards of your creation.
But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust;
and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return.
Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in
the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word,
born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law,
opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with
prophets, apostles, and martyrs,
and with all those in every generation
who have looked to you in hope,
to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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, Lord our God,
for sending us Jesus, the Christ,
who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread,
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.”

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do

this for the remembrance of me.”

[Deacon] Remembering now his work of redemption,
and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**We celebrate Christ’s death and resurrection
as we await the day of his coming.**

Therefore, O God, we who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ, and
made a new people by water and the Spirit,
now bring before you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit

to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Sanctify us also, and let the grace of this Holy Communion
make us one body, one spirit in Christ,
that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

God of our ancestors; Redeemer and Mother of Israel;

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver
us from the presumption of coming to this Table
for solace only and not for strength;
for pardon only and not for renewal.

Accept these prayers and praises, Almighty God,

through Jesus Christ our great High Priest,

to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to genera-
tion. **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

The bread is broken

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
 mer-cy on us. Je-sus, re-dem-er, re-deem-er, of the
 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.

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 Levas #302 “Father, we thank thee”

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 #448 “O Lord, how deep, how broad, how high”

Go now to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105

Thanksgiving

Today we are joined by Geoffrey and Nicole Felver along with their friends and family as we celebrate and give thanks for the birth of their daughter, Florence.

Notice of Parish Meeting

As required in the diocesan canons I hereby give notice of the **Annual Meeting of the Parish of St Paul's Episcopal Church, Modesto**, to take place following the 10.00am service on **Sunday January 25th 2026**. This meeting is called to receive reports and a parish budget, discuss matters of parish business as required and to elect members of the Parish Vestry and Delegates and Alternates to Diocesan Convention. **Nomination forms** can be obtained from the Parish Office and should be returned no later than 5.00pm, Wednesday January 14th.

The Rev'd Brian Dawson, Rector



Prayer and Praise

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Bonnie, Susan, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Cherie, Annamary, Ginny, Keith, Bill, Judy, Mike, Jose, Lora, Hennie, Kevin, Dorothy, Murray, Nancy, Gina, Karen, Claudine, Ellen, Brandi, Deborah, Darlene, Jim, James, Maureen, Christine, Mindy, Ivy, Diane, Sandy, Wendy, Arnold, Lindsay, Wendy, Ivonne, Lonnie, KellyAnn, Chester, Robert, Marlene, Stephen, Natalie, Peter, Dorothy

Those who have passed away:

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, Greeters/Ushers



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God in Memory of Lynn Sutton

COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S

Wednesday January 14th – 5.00pm Interfaith Council Dinner & Meeting

In 2026 the Stanislaus Interfaith Council is planning to meet at different worship and faith centres each month, beginning with St Paul's. The first part of the event will include a light meal and opportunity for local faith members to share about their worship centre and events. If you can assist with soup please see Fr Brian.

Saturday January 17th – 9.00am-3.00pm Winter Retreat Day – Merton Meets Baxter

A one-day retreat to be held at St Paul's and led by Fr Brian. Focused on the poetry of Thomas Merton and James K. Baxter, this retreat will look at the themes of God and Faith through the works of these two very different but intersecting men. The day is free but all are invited to register with Fr Brian and bring something to share for lunch.

Sunday January 25th – 11.30am Parish Annual Meeting

Our annual receiving of reports and election of new vestry members and representatives.

The meeting will include updates on both the proposed sale of the vacant church land and ongoing maintenance requirements of the campus.

Saturday January 31st – Vestry Retreat

A day long retreat and planning day for Vestry members confirmed at the Annual Meeting.

January 2026 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Jan 4 th	Jan 11 th	Jan 18 th	Jan 25 th
Clergy	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg
Acolytes	Judy T. Evelyn B.	Nancy S. Alex S.	Judy T. Jim P.	Nancy S. Gabe T.
Eucharistic Minister	Joyce B.	Linda L.	Sarah H.	Linda L. Joyce B.
Lectors	Stephanie H-W. Judy T.	Ann M. Alex S.	Judy T. Nancy S.	Linda L. Joyce B.
Intercessor	Joyce B.	Ann M.	Sarah H.	Courtney S.
Ushers	Claudine R. Carolyn L.	Carolyn L. Ann M.	Claudine R. David L.	David L. Courtney S.
Greeters	Lynelle H. Carolyn L.	Carolyn L. Ann M.	Sarah H. Lynelle H.	David L. Courtney S.
Vestry Rep.	Joyce B.	Ann M.	Sarah H.	Courtney S.
Coffee Hour Host				Annual Meeting
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: 209-522-3267stpaulsmodestoca@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, Barbara Vassellstpaulsmodestoca@gmail.com
Social Media, Deacon Greg Masztaldeacongreg66@outlook.com
Finance Committee, Carolyn Listcarolynlist@sbcglobal.net
Stewardship Campaign, Courtney Smith.....courtneyvsmith@gmail.com

Vestry

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

Joyce Bell, Jose Cruz, Sarah Hartmann, Peter Krewko, Luis Martinez, Ann Mootz, Alex Sarina, Chuck Sheaffer, Nancy Silva, & Courtney Smith.

Treasurer: Greg Burnett

Vestry Clerk: Carolyn List



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/)

