

# Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

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

***The Third Sunday After The Epiphany***  
***January 25, 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 #607 "O God of every nation"**

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.

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lessons

### The first lesson is from Isaiah 9:1-4

There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 27:1, 5-13



The    LORD    is my light    and my sal - va - - - tion.

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear? \*  
the LORD is the strength of my life;  
of whom then shall I be afraid?

5 One thing have I asked of the LORD;  
    one thing I seek; \*  
        that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;

6 To behold the fair beauty of the LORD \*  
    and to seek him in his temple.

7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*  
    he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
        and set me high upon a rock.

8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
    above my enemies round about me.

9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
    with sounds of great gladness; \*  
        I will sing and make music to the LORD.

10 Hearken to my voice, O LORD, when I call; \*  
    have mercy on me and answer me.

11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
    Your face, LORD, will I seek.

12 Hide not your face from me, \*  
    nor turn away your servant in displeasure.

13 You have been my helper;  
    cast me not away; \*  
        do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.

*The second reading is from 1 Corinthians 1:10-18*

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided?

Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For 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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn #660 “O Master let me walk with thee”**

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew 4:12-23*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of  
the Gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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 #304 “I come with joy to meet my 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.**

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.

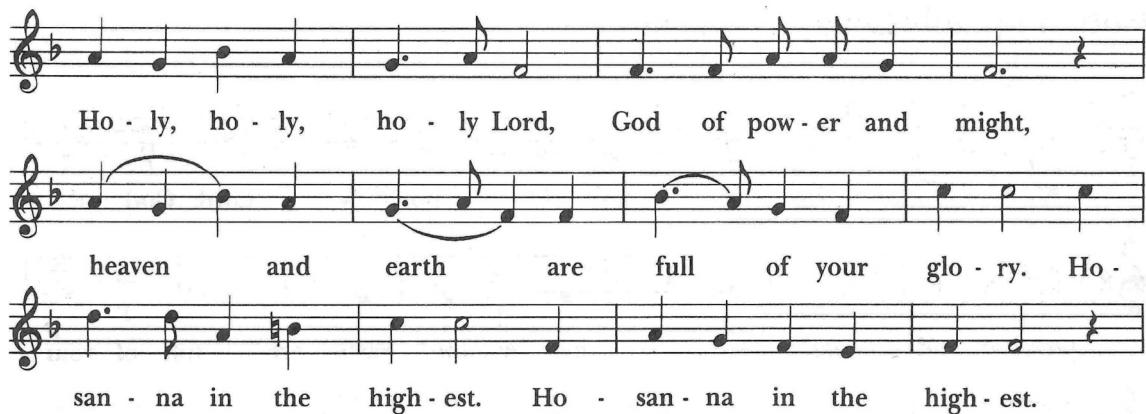
Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in  
the fullness of time you sent your eternal Word,  
born of your servant Mary, to fulfill your Law,  
opening for us the way of freedom and peace.

**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. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

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 Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy king-dom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our tres-pas es, As we for-give those who tres pass a-against 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.**

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.

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 #151 “One bread, one body”**

**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 #530 “Spread , O spread, thou mighty word”**

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*

**Annual Parish Meeting Today**

We will gather in the Parish Hall after the service. Coffee and refreshments may be had during the meeting. New vestry members and delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention will be elected. The meeting will also include updates on both the proposed sale of the vacant church land and ongoing maintenance requirements of the campus.

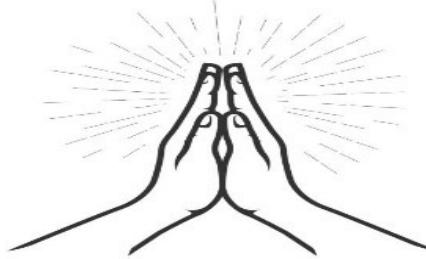
*Flowers for Sunday*

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, Annmary, 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, Amelia, Fr. Nick

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

All in Our Prayers

### **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 by  
Clare Jensen in Memory of Her Mother

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

### **Saturday January 31<sup>st</sup> – Vestry Retreat**

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

### **Friday February 13<sup>th</sup> (evening) – Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Building Church Leaders**

This Diocesan Vestry Training Event is held at ECCO in Oakhurst and is a requirement for Wardens and Treasurers and strongly encouraged for new vestry members (or those who haven't attended before).

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

Details on our annual pancake event coming soon.

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

There will be services in both the morning and early evening as well as 'Ashes to Go' at the entrance to the church between noon and 1.00pm.

### **Lenten Studies 2026**

Our main Lenten Studies series will focus on liturgy and worship. Details coming soon.

## January 2026 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	Jan 11 <sup>th</sup>	Jan 18 <sup>th</sup>	Jan 25th
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: 209-522-3267 .....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**

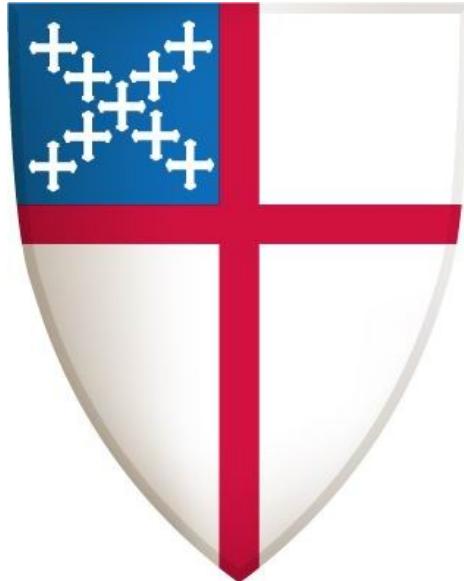
Senior Warden: Joyce Bell -(215) 275-6502 .....bellj1@charter.net

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

Joyce Bell, Jose Cruz, 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/)

