

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

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

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

***The Second Sunday After The Epiphany  
January 18, 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 #542 "Christ is the world's true light"

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 God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lessons**

### **The first lesson is from Isaiah 49:1-7**

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away!

The LORD called me before I was born,  
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.

He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

And he said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will be glorified."

But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely my cause is with the LORD, and my reward with my God."

And now the LORD says, who formed me in the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, for I am honored in the sight of the LORD, and my God has become my strength--he says,

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,  
the slave of rulers,

"Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the LORD, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 40:1-12



- 1 I waited patiently upon the LORD; \*  
he stooped to me and heard my cry.
- 2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; \*  
he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.
- 3 He put a new song in my mouth,  
a song of praise to our God; \*  
many shall see, and stand in awe,  
and put their trust in the LORD.
- 4 Happy are they who trust in the LORD! \*  
they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.
- 5 Great things are they that you have done, O LORD my God!  
how great your wonders and your plans for us! \*  
there is none who can be compared with you.
- 6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! \*  
but they are more than I can count.
- 7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure \*  
(you have given me ears to hear you);
- 8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, \*  
and so I said, "Behold, I come.
- 9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: \*  
'I love to do your will, O my God;  
your law is deep in my heart.'
- 10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; \*  
behold, I did not restrain my lips;  
and that, O LORD, you know.

- 11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;  
I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; \*  
I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the  
great congregation.
- 12 You are the LORD;  
do not withhold your compassion from me; \*  
let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

*The second reading is from 1 Corinthians 1:1-9*

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,  
and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified  
in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in  
every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their  
Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of  
God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you  
have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind  
-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you  
-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the  
revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to  
the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Je-  
sus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellow-  
ship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn Levas #137 "Just as I am"**

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 1:29-42*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

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 #533 “How wondrous and great thy works”**

**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 ses, 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 #439 “What wondrous love is this”**

**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 #535 “Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim”**

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*

**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**

**Golden Corral Senior Luncheon Group**

Come one, come all....spouses, partners, friends...are all welcome-

Phil and Anita Machado will be hosting lunch at Golden Corral, 3737 McHenry Ave, Modesto, Tuesday, January 20th 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, 209-527-2727.



## **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, Hennie, Kevin, Dorothy, Murray, Nancy, Karen, Claudine, Ellen, Brandi, Deborah, Darlene, Jim, James, Maureen, Christine, Mindy, Ivy, Diane, Sandy, Wendy, Lindsay, Ivonne, Robert, Marlene, Stephen, Natalie, Peter, Dorothy, Susan, Diane, Tyler, Sandra

### **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  
Thankful for Many Blessings

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

#### **Sunday January 25<sup>th</sup> – 11.30am Parish Annual Meeting**

Our annual receiving of reports & 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 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 25 <sup>th</sup>
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/)

