

# 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 in Lent*  
*March 8, 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 #686 “Come , thou fount of every blessing”**

*During Lent we begin our liturgy with prayers of penitence and confession*

In the name of God, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

**Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come to the Lord, who is full of compassion,

and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

*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 offers an absolution*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

*Pause*

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.**

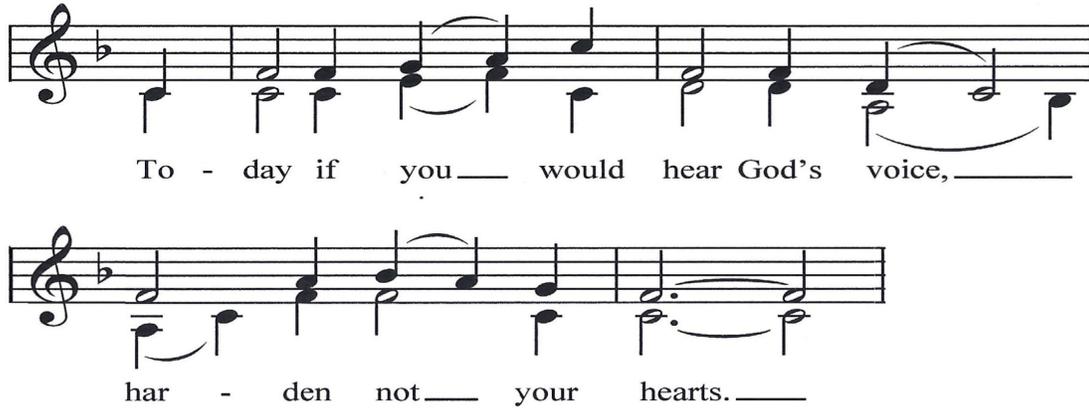
### **The Lessons**

*The first lesson is from Exodus 17:1-7*

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95



To - day if you — would hear God's voice, —

har - den not — your hearts. —

- 1 Come, let us sing to the LORD; \*  
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
- 2 Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.
- 3 For the LORD is a great God, \*  
and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*  
and the heights of the hills are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it, \*  
and his hands have molded the dry land.
- 6 Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*  
and kneel before the LORD our Maker.
- 7 For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!
- 8 Harden not your hearts, as your forebears did in the wilderness, \*  
at Meribah, and on that day at Massah, when they tempted me.
- 9 They put me to the test, \*  
though they had seen my works.

10 Forty years long I detested that generation and said, \**"This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways."*

11 So I swore in my wrath, \*  
"They shall not enter into my rest."

*The second reading is from Romans 5:1-11*

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person-- though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual Hymn Levas #88 "My faith looks up to thee"**

*The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John 4:5-42*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called

Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon: Fr. Brian Dawson**

*Following the sermon we spend some time in stillness. The beginning and end of this time is marked by the ringing of the prayer bowl.*

## **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.**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **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 #522 “Glorious things of thee are spoken”**

**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.**

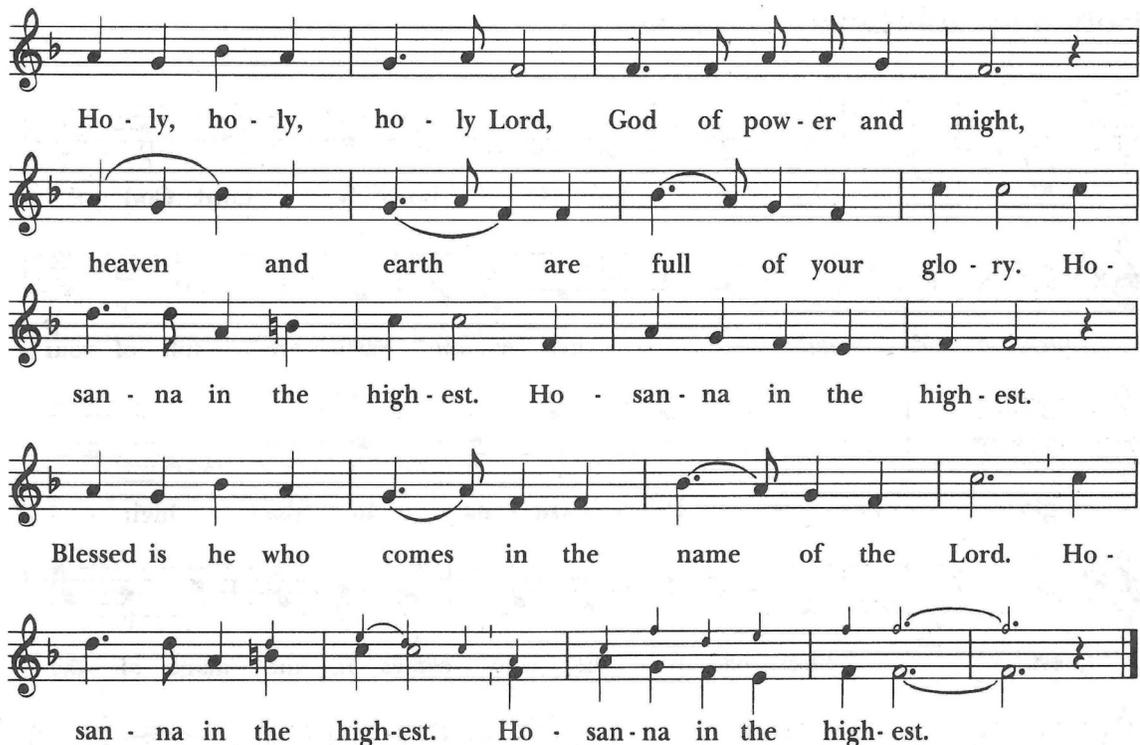
It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

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 (say):

### 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-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*

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  
 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.

Come, for all things are now ready

*All are welcome at God's table. If you would prefer a blessing please place your hands behind your back or arms crossed over your chest.*

**Communion Hymn #328 "Draw nigh and take the Body of the Lord"**

## **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.**

### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

God is with you.

**And also with you.**

Together, let us pray.

**Eternal God, you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven; by it you nourish our faith, increase our hope, and strengthen our love: teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread, and enable us to live lives grounded in service to you and to one another; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

*During the Lenten season in place of a blessing the priest offers a prayer over the people*

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn #495 "Hail, thou once despised Jesus"**

Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go into the world to love what God loves. Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

*All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105*



## **Prayer and Praise**

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

Bonnie, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Cherie, Annamary, Ginny, Keith, Judy, Mike, Jose, Hennie, Kevin, Murray, Karen, Claudine, Ellen, Darlene, Jim, James, Christine, Ivy, Lindsay, Susie, Fr. Nick, Ann-Marie, Anita, Rosalie, Mary-Beth, Cynthia, David, Roy, Linda, Sarah, Arnold, Fog, Cami, Jean, Ashy, Marlene, Faith, Ralph, Sebastian, Kimmie

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

Noelle Strain

#### **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, Sunday School

## **Spring Announcements**

**Lenten Studies** - Noon following Coffee Hour. Our theme is **Liturgy & Worship in the Episcopal Tradition**. Each session will last approximately 90 minutes and all are welcome.

**8am Services during Lent** - Fr. Brian will be holding a Rite 1 Eucharist service at 8.00am each Sunday during Lent. Note this service will not have music or homily. All are welcome.

**Prayers for Bishop David and Bishop-Elect Greg** - Bishop David officially ends his time as our Diocesan Bishop on March 31st. Bishop-Elect Greg will be ordained and installed as our new bishop on Saturday April 18th. Please keep both in your prayers during this time of transition and change.

**Sunday School Helpers and Eucharistic Ministers** - if you are interested in exploring either of these vital ministries at St Paul's please talk to Fr. Brian.

**Education for Ministry** - Later in the year we will be re-launching this amazing program focused on education for lay people in the Church. EFM is a 4 year program covering areas such as Church History, Biblical Studies, Theology and much more. If you would like to find out more, talk with Nancy Silva, (209)484-5710, who will be the Mentor for the program when it starts in Fall.

### **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, March 17th at 2:30 pm.

The price for seniors is \$15, including drinks.

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

# Chrism Mass & Renewal of Vows

March 31, 2026

11am

## St James Cathedral, Fresno

*During this liturgy, the priests, deacons and representatives of both the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin and the Sierra Pacific Synod gather around the Bishop, who bless the Holy Oils for use in the coming year.*

*This liturgy is also a key moment in which the unity of the bishop with their priests and deacons is manifested and renewed. During the liturgy, the priests and deacons of the diocese and synod renew their vow of obedience to the Bishop and their commitment to serve all Gods' people.*

*At the end of the Chrism Mass, the Holy Oils are brought back to congregations of the diocese for use in the coming year.*

*Presider: The Rt. Rev. Jeff Johnson, Bishop, Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA*

*Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Gregory W. Kimura, Bishop-elect, Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin*

*RSVP to: [canonanna@diosanjoaquin.org](mailto:canonanna@diosanjoaquin.org)*

*All laity are welcomed and encouraged to attend!*

*You are invited to bring a sack lunch for fellowship following the service.*

*Clergy: alb & red stoles*

## March 2026 Ministry Schedule

Dates	Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mar 8 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mar 29 <sup>th</sup> Palm Sunday
Clergy	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg
Acolytes	Nancy S. Joyce B.	Joyce B. Evelyn B.	Judy T. Jim P.	Nancy S. Alex S.	Judy T. Gabe T.
Eucharistic Minister		Linda L.		Linda L.	Joyce B.
Lectors	Stephanie H-W. Ann M.	Alex S. Nancy S.	Alex S. Theresa G.	Judy T. Linda L.	Stephanie H-W. Theresa G.
Intercessor	Peter K.	Joyce B.	Rosanne M.	Courtney S.	Alex S.
Ushers	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	Carolyn L. David L.	Rosanne M. Carolyn L.	Courtney S. David L.	Alex S. Claudine R.
Greeters	Carolyn L. Claudine R.	Lynelle H. David L.	Rosanne M. Carolyn L.	Courtney S. David L.	Alex S. Claudine R.
Vestry Rep.	Peter K.	Joyce B.	Rosanne M.	Courtney S.	Alex S.
Coffee Hour Host	Joyce/Sarah	Linda L.	Ann M.		Stephanie G.
Sunday School	Evelyn B.	Ann M.	Linda L.	Evelyn B.	Ann M.

# ***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

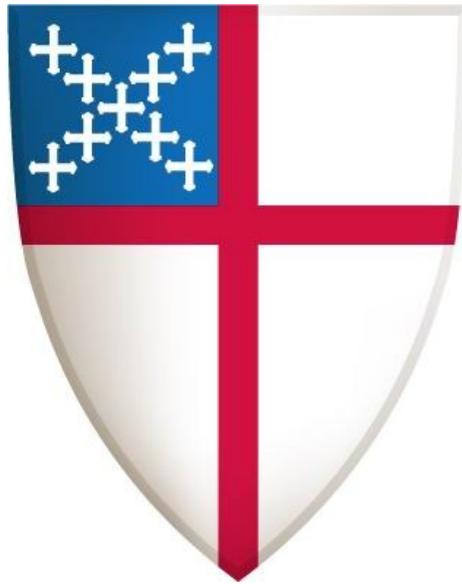
## **Vestry**

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/)

