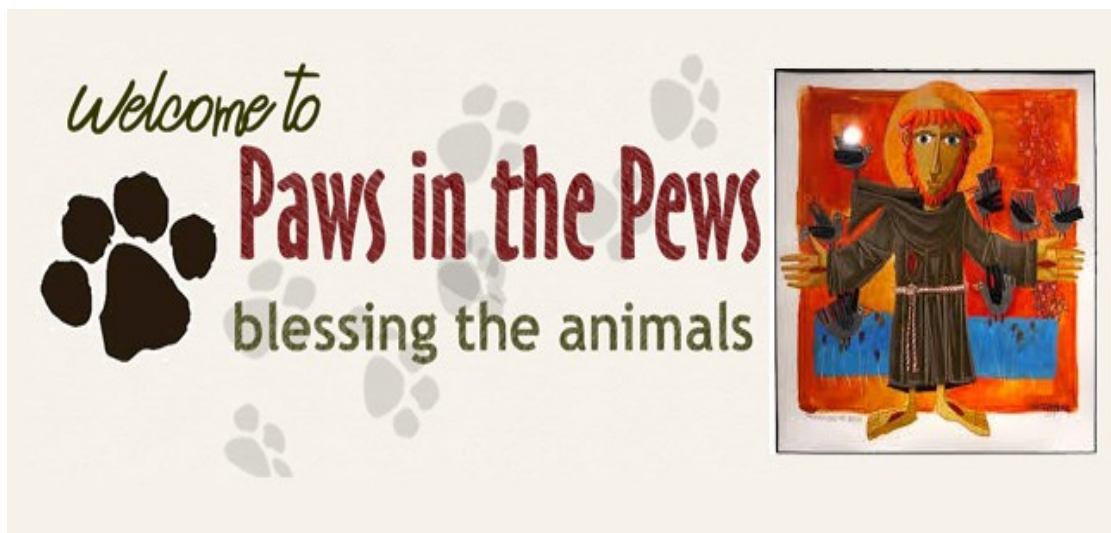


Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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

www.saintpaulsmodesto.org

***Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost
St. Francis Day, Blessing of the Animals
October 4, 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.

Liturgy for St Francis / Blessing of the Animals

*Resources adapted from The Episcopal Church Book of Common Prayer, Season of Creation Celebration Guide and Website, and A Great Thanksgiving Prayer for St Francis of Assisi by Paul Fromberg
(adapted from Thomas Richstatter)*

Prelude

Chuck Sheaffer

Processional Hymn: #372 Praise to the Living God

In the name of God, who creates all life,
In the name of the Christ, who redeems all life,
In the name of the Spirit, who renews all life,

Amen.

This is the day the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

The Gloria

Each line is sung by the Priest then repeated by all.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the highest

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the highest (x2)

To God be glory forever.

To God be glory forever.

Alleluia Amen!

Alleluia Amen!

Alleluia Amen!!

Alleluia Amen!!

Alleluia Amen!!!

Alleluia Amen!!!

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to Christ Jesus ...

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory Holy Spirit ...

The Collect

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Pause

Creating, Loving, Nurturing God,
may your people joyfully follow in the way of St Francis,
delighting in your creation and marvelling at its beauty
with simplicity, faith and joy;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

We sit for the first readings

The First Reading – Job 39:1-18

Do you know when the mountain goats give birth?

Do you observe the calving of the deer?

Can you number the months that they fulfil,

and do you know the time when they give birth,

when they crouch to give birth to their offspring,

and are delivered of their young?

Their young ones become strong, they grow up in the open;

they go forth, and do not return to them.

'Who has let the wild ass go free?
Who has loosed the bonds of the swift ass,
to which I have given the steppe for its home,
the salt land for its dwelling-place?
It scorns the tumult of the city;
it does not hear the shouts of the driver.
It ranges the mountains as its pasture,
and it searches after every green thing.
'Is the wild ox willing to serve you?
Will it spend the night at your crib?
Can you tie it in the furrow with ropes,
or will it harrow the valleys after you?
Will you depend on it because its strength is great,
and will you hand over your labour to it?
Do you have faith in it that it will return,
and bring your grain to your threshing-floor?
'The ostrich's wings flap wildly,
though its pinions lack plumage.
For it leaves its eggs to the earth,
and lets them be warmed on the ground,
forgetting that a foot may crush them,
and that a wild animal may trample them.
It deals cruelly with its young, as if they were not its own;
though its labour should be in vain, yet it has no fear;
because God has made it forget wisdom,
and given it no share in understanding.
When it spreads its plumes aloft,
it laughs at the horse and its rider.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121



My ___ help comes ___ from the LORD, the ma - ker of heav'n and earth.

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Second Reading – Acts 4:32-35

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was

not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gradual Hymn – #405 All Things Bright and Beautiful

The Gospel Reading – Lucas/Luke 12:13-21

Santo Evangelio de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, según Luca

Gloria a ti, Cristo Señor!

Uno de entre la gente le dijo a Jesús:

—Maestro, dile a mi hermano que me dé mi parte de la herencia.

Y Jesús le contestó:

—Amigo, ¿quién me ha puesto sobre ustedes como juez o partidador?

También dijo:

—Cuidense ustedes de toda avaricia; porque la vida no depende del poseer muchas cosas.

Entonces les contó esta parábola: «Había un hombre rico, cuyas tierras dieron una gran cosecha. El rico se puso a pensar: “¿Qué haré? No tengo dónde guardar mi cosecha.” Y se dijo: “Ya sé lo que voy a hacer. Derribaré mis graneros y levantaré otros más grandes, para guardar en ellos toda mi cosecha y todo lo que tengo. Luego me diré: Amigo, tienes muchas cosas guardadas para muchos años; descansa, come, bebe, goza de la vida.” Pero Dios le dijo: “Necio, esta misma noche perderás la vida, y lo que tienes guardado, ¿para quién será?” Así le pasa al hombre que amontona riquezas para sí mismo, pero es pobre delante de Dios.»

Someone in the crowd said to him, ‘Teacher, tell my brother to divide the

family inheritance with me.’ But he said to him, ‘Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?’ And he said to them, ‘Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.’ Then he told them a parable: ‘The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, “What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?” Then he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.” But God said to him, “You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?” So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon – Fr. Brian Dawson

The Blessing of the Animals

All animals are invited to bring their owners forward for a blessing

THE PRAYERS

Leader: Let us give thanks to God our Creator
for all the gifts so freely shared with us
and for the beauty and wonder of creation,
in earth and sky and sea;

All: We thank you, Creator God.

Leader: For the richness of the mountains, plains and rivers;

All: We thank you, Creator God.

Leader: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women;
All: We thank you, Creator God.

Leader: For all creatures that breathe, and move, and have life;
All: We thank you, Creator God.

Leader: For the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers and trees;
All: We thank you, Creator God.

Leader: For the trust you have shown in giving into our care these, our
 pets;
All: We thank you, Creator God.

Leader: That each pet here may be treasured with care;
All: We pray to you, Creator God.

Leader: That we may love and honor all your works, O God;
All: We pray to you, Creator God.

Leader: That we may continue to grow
 in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation;
**All: To the honor and glory of your name, now and forever,
 we pray to you, Creator God. Amen**

Prayers of Reconciliation

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God,
 against each other and against all Creation.

All: Merciful and sustaining God, we have sinned against you.
We confess our lack of gratitude for the beauty and bounty of
your creation: teach us to see that your earth sustains us and
all that lives. We confess that we have misused your earth: help
us to think again.

**We confess that we have been greedy and self-centered:
strengthen us in self-control.**

**We confess that we have taken the abundance of your world
for granted: give us a sense of urgency now for its protection.**

**Forgive and renew us through our Savior Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit, with whom you live and reign,
one God, now 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

**The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.**

We are encouraged to share signs of Christ's peace with those around us

Offertory Hymn –Many Are The Light Beams-Muchos Resplandores-see insert

The offerings are collected and prayed over, after which Fr Brian prays over the gifts of bread and wine:

Blessed are you, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
They will become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing.

Blessed be God for ever.

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.

Most High, all-powerful, good Lord, to you be all praise and glory.

We give you thanks with all your creatures:

With Brother Sun who gives us your light,
with Sister Moon and the stars of night,
with Brother Wind, and Sister Water
and Mother Earth who feeds and keeps us.

With them, O God, with the whole heavenly chorus,
and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope,
we sing this unending hymn of joy.

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 thank you God of heaven and earth
 for revealing your way to the lowly and least.
 For your coming in the crown of all creation, Jesus, your Son;
 who shares with us his easy yoke, and teaches us his gentle humility.
 We thank you, Most High, because in him the poor hear good news
 and the captive are set free.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at supper with his friends.
 He took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it,
 and gave it to them and said:

“Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you.
Do this to remember me.”

After supper he took the cup. Again he gave thanks and gave it to them,
saying: “Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink together, do this to remember me.”

So let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come in glory

All-powerful, most holy, most high God
as we remember the suffering and death of your Son;
his resurrection and ascension to your right hand
we praise you and we bless you.

We pray that you would send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and wine.
Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son
so that we may become One Body, and give you perfect praise.

God of life and love, make us your Church an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, may we sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

May we dwell with you forever together

with Mother Mary and all your holy people.

May we join our voices with Saint Francis

and with all your little ones throughout the ages;
giving you all praise and glory and honor, forever and ever.

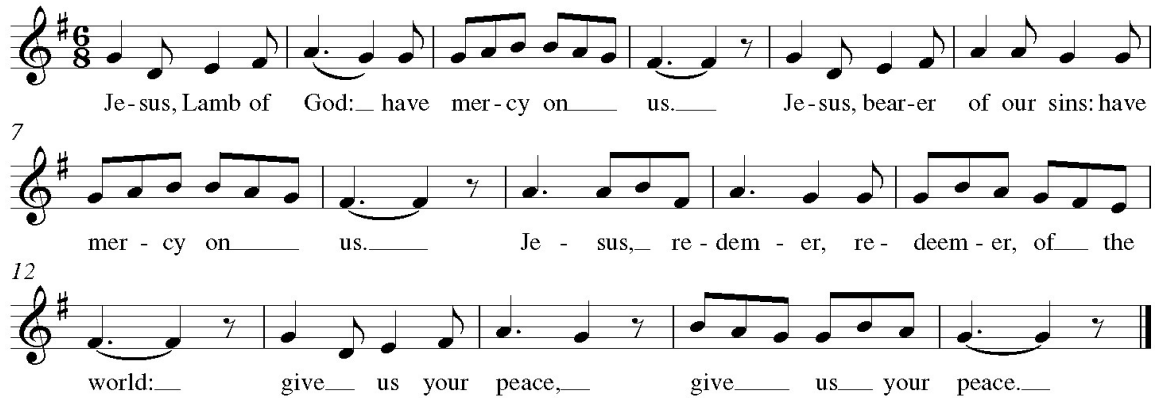
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

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 Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.



The Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in you hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Come for all things are now ready.

All are welcome at God's table. Please indicate if you would prefer a gluten free wafer and/ or grape juice.

If you would prefer a blessing please place your hands behind your back.

Communion Hymn: Levas #154 Taste and See

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

Let us pray together:

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.

The Blessing

Recessional Hymn: #448 O love, how deep, how broad, how high

Dismissal

On two feet, four or none at all we go now to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

Amen. We go in the name of Christ. Alleluia!

Postlude

Chuck Sheaffer

All music used with permission, CCLI #1374105

October Ministry Schedule

Dates	Oct 4th	Oct 11th	Oct 18th	Oct 25th
Clergy	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian Dn. Greg	Fr. Brian	Fr. Brian
Acolytes	A-Judy C-Alex	A-Joyce C- Carlos	A- Judy C-Evelyn	A- Nancy C-Gabe
Eucharis- tic Minis- ter	Ann Stephanie G.	Linda Joyce	Bobbi Nancy	Ann Linda
Lectors	Claudine Judy	Theresa Ann	Stephanie H- W. Nancy	Peter Linda
Interces- sor	Ann	Luis	Carolyn	Alex
Ushers	Ann David	Luis Linda	Claudine David	Carolyn Claudine
Greeters	Ann Lynelle	Luis Linda	Claudine Lynelle	Carolyn Claudine
Vestry Rep.	Ann	Luis	Carolyn	Alex
Coffee Hour Host	Stephanie G.	Joyce & Sarah	Bolig Family	
Sunday School	NO SUN- DAY SCHOOL	Evelyn		Ann



The flowers at the altar today
are given to
The Glory of God by Ann Mootz
In Memory of Allan Mootz

COMING UP AT ST PAUL'S

Season of Creation Celebration, September 1-October 4, 2026

The theme this year is “Living Water”, inspired by Ezekial 47:1-12, which describes water flowing from God’s sanctuary, bringing life and restoration to ecosystems and communities. The theme emphasizes ecological healing, hope, and the interdependence of humanity and nature. Look for more information in the coming weeks.

MoPride in the Park-Saturday, October 10

We will be sharing an information table with our brothers and sisters from St. Francis, Turlock. Be looking for details about times and how we may be part of this great annual event.

HELP NEEDED

Junior Warden Peter Krewko is looking for someone with a weed wacker and about half an hour of time to handle some weeds in a critical area of the grounds. If you can help please call Peter, 707-853-3604, or Linda in the church office, 209-522-3267.



Prayer and Praise

Remember those who have asked for our prayers

Bonnie, Ishmael, Mary, Bob, Howard, Annamary, Judy, Mike, Jose, Hennie, Kevin, Murray, Karen, Ellen, Jim, James, Ivy, Lindsay, Susie, Marlene, Phil, Nancy, Sharon, Al, Clara, Michael, Kelly, MaryAnne, Pat, Karen M., Laurence, Suzanne, Charlie, Debora, Ginny, Marcus, Frank, Trudy, Alison, Darlene, George, Betty, Gabe, Janet, Rick, Bill, Seema, Brooke

Those who have passed away:

Jaime Cruz

Nedra Voorhees

Donna Stephenson

Those in the Military:

CPT Sam Birch, USA

PO1st Class Johnny Olmos, US Coast Guard

LTC Nathaniel P. Wallace, USAFR

SSG Brandon Wegener, USAF

Leaders and Ministries of St. Paul's:

The Clergy, Vestry & Wardens, Food Distribution

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 Masztal deacongreg66@outlook.com
Finance Committee, Carolyn List carolynlist@sbcglobal.net
Stewardship Campaign, Courtney Smith.....courtneyvsmith@gmail.com

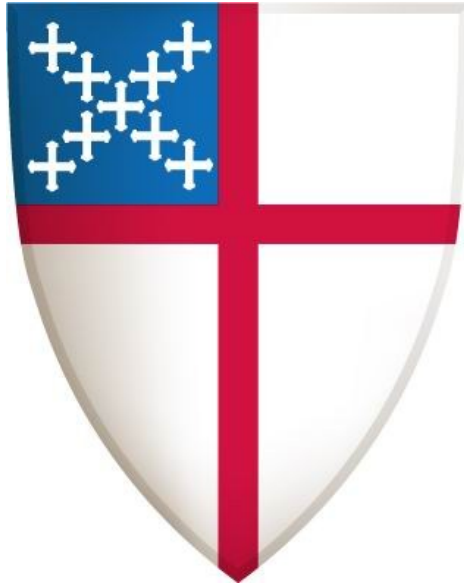
Vestry

Senior Warden: Courtney Smith (323) 652-1443.....courtneyvsmith@gmail.com
Junior Warden: Peter Krewko (707) 853-3604pmkjfc@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/>

