

# *Saint Paul's Church*

*(Episcopal/Anglican)*

*Brookfield, Connecticut*

*First Sunday of Advent  
December 3, 2017*



*Preacher & Celebrant  
The Reverend Joseph Shepley  
Rector*

**8:00 A.M. Worship Service**

**[www.saintpaulsbrookfield.com](http://www.saintpaulsbrookfield.com)**

**203-775-9587 (Office)**

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We extend a warm welcome to everyone who has joined us for worship this morning. We pray you experience the presence and love of Christ as we worship together! We invite you to join us after the service for coffee and fellowship in Crocker Hall, followed by The Rector's Forum, in the Guild Room at 9:30 A.M. Please join us!

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**Prelude**

**“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”**

**J. Mansfield**

**Opening Hymn**

**“Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending”**

**Hymnal, 57**

*Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

*People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

*Celebrant:*

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Lighting of One Candle on the Advent Wreath**

## Kyrie eleison

John Merbecke, 1549

Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us.

3  
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

### Collect of the Day (Celebrant and People)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### First Reading:

Reader: A reading from Isaiah. (64:1-9)

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 80: 1-7,16-18**

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; \* shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, \* stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 4 O LORD God of hosts, \* how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; \* you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, \* and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, \* the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
- 17 And so will we never turn away from you; \* give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
- 18 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; \* show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading:**

Reader: A reading from First Corinthians. (1:3-9)

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 Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

### **“O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light”**

O heavenly Word, eternal light,  
Begotten of the Father's might,  
Who in these latter days wast born  
For blessing to a world forlorn;  
Pour light upon us from above,  
And fire our hearts with ardent love,

That, as we hear thy truth today,  
All wrong desires may burn away.  
And when, as judge, thou drawest night  
The secrets of our hearts to try,  
To recompense each hidden sin  
And bid the saints their reign begin;

### **Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37**

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

Jesus said to his disciples, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake-- for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

### **“O Heavenly Word, Eternal Light”**

O let us not, for evil past,  
Be driven from thy face at last,  
But with thy saints for evermore  
Behold thee, love thee, and adore.

To God the Father, God the Son,  
And God the Spirit ever One,  
Praise, honor, might, and glory be  
From age to age eternally.

Words: Latin, ca. 7<sup>th</sup> C; Music: *Rockingham*

### **Sermon**

**The Reverend Joseph Shepley**

#### **Nicene Creed (Please Stand As Able)**

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 (You May Stand, Sit, or Kneel)**

*In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our bishops; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.

Pray for the Church.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.

Pray for justice and peace.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.

Pray for those in any need or trouble.

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him.

Pray that they may find and be found by him.

We remember the faithful departed this day in whose memory the altar flowers are given:

Caroline H. Bellesheim, Irene Gruza, Joseph and Caroline Hock, Gustave and Helen Johnson, Jane Johnson, and Patricia McKenna.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.

Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.*

### **Confession of Sin (Please Kneel)**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence.*

*Celebrant and People.*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: 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.*

### **Peace (Please Stand As Able)**

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People: And also with you.*

**Offertory (Please Stand As Able)**

**“The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns”**

**Hymnal, 73**

**Presentation**

**Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

**Great Thanksgiving (Please Stand As Able)**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* *And also with you.*

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* *We lift them to the Lord.*

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

**Sanctus**

**Hymnal, S129**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and  
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues (You may stand, sit or kneel)*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be

incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Saint Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

*People and Celebrant*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

## Agnus Dei

John Merbecke, 1549



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive in one kind is considered full communion. If you choose to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know as you kneel at the altar rail. For those who wish to intinct the Bread, by dipping it in the Wine rather than drinking directly from the Chalice, you may signify this choice by holding the consecrated Bread between your fingers. Please intinct the Bread in the small Chalice which will come before the larger Chalice. After you leave the altar rail, please know that we have healing teams in the hallway available to pray with you.*

## Communion Songs

“Thy Kingdom Come!” on Bended Knee”

Hymnal, 615

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Hymnal, 66

## Postcommunion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## Blessing



## Closing Hymn    “Jesus Came Adored by Angels”

Jesus came, adored by angels, came with peace  
from realms on high;

Jesus came for our redemption, lowly came on  
earth to die:

Alleluia, alleluia! Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy, when our hearts are  
bowed with care:

Jesus comes again in answer to our earnest heart-  
felt prayer;

Alleluia, alleluia! Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, bringing news of  
sins forgiven:

Jesus comes in sounds of gladness, leading souls  
redeemed to heaven;

Alleluia, alleluia! Now the gate of death is riven.

Jesus comes on clouds triumphant, when the  
heavens shall pass away;

Jesus comes again in glory; let us then our hom-  
age pay;

Alleluia, alleluia! Till the dawn of endless day.

Words: Godfrey Thring (1823-1903); Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

## Dismissal

Lay Reader:    Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People:        *Thanks be to God.*

## Postlude

## “Savior of the Nations Come”

**J. S. Bach**



### **Quilt Raffle**

Quilt Raffle tickets will be available 12/3, 12/10 and 12/17 in Crocker Hall after each service. All proceeds of this year's raffle will benefit the Youth Group. Please come see this year's beautiful quilt made by St. Paul's quilters.

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**Upon entering the church, please turn off your cell phone or switch it to a worship respectful setting. Please be sure to dispose of all food and drinks before entering the church. Thank You!**

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### **Christmas Giving Tree**

Annually, Saint Paul's adopts families from Brookfield who are financially struggling. Soon there will be a tree in the back of the church with gift tags attached listing items requested by the families. If you would like to bring some extra joy to the families, please take a tag or two from the tree. **The unwrapped (a change from past years) gifts are due back to church by Sunday, December 10th, with the tag attached (most important).** Please keep under the maximum limit of \$30 per gift. In addition to the individual families we will be working with there will also be tags for a holiday shopping table. This will provide small Gift items (up to \$10: crayons, markers, hats, mittens, ear phones, movie tickets, etc.) and holiday necessities (batteries, tape, wrapping paper, bows, and candy). Please find your tag number on the clipboard and write your name and phone number in the corresponding space. Thank you in advance for showering Christmas blessings on the families.

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### **Christmas Wreaths Are Here!**

The youth group is having it's annual Christmas Wreath Sale now! Wreaths are \$20 for one or \$17.50 each if you buy two or more. Please plan to pay for your wreath the day you order it, which is different from year's past. Wreaths are already here and ready for you to take home. Thank you for your support of this fundraiser for our 2018 summer mission trip.

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### **Behold the Lamb 2017 - Local Production**

Our annual production of Andrew Peterson's "Behold the Lamb of God" will be on Sunday, December 17th at 6pm here at St. Paul's. This free event is a great way to ready your heart for the Christmas season as it tells the story of the coming of Christ.

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### **Christmas Memorials**

If you would like to remember loved ones and friends with a beautiful poinsettia plant which will be used to decorate the church for the Christmas services, please use an envelope found on the back table for your donation. All memorials are due by December 17th in order to be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Winkley, at [203-775-3343](tel:203-775-3343) or [gailwinkley@yahoo.com](mailto:gailwinkley@yahoo.com).

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### **Prayer Servant Teams**

Prayer for any need or request is available at each service. After you have received communion,

please see one of our trained Prayer Servant Teams (with the Blue Name Badges) who are available at the open side door at the entrance to the Vesting Room. Prayer is available in the Vesting Room, Hallway or Back Room as space is available. Our Prayer Servants are ready to confidentially take your request and pray for you and with you. Should you wish to schedule a private prayer time, please let Fr. Joe or Mary Perry, Prayer Ministry Leader ([maryperry2@me.com](mailto:maryperry2@me.com)) know and we will work with you to schedule a convenient time. Your Prayer Servants today for Healing Sunday are 8:00 Pat Brought and Donna Cennamo 10:30 Barbara Hock and Walter VonEgidy.

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**Lessons and Carols: Save the Date!**

Our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 10 at 5:00 PM. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this beautiful Advent service which consists of Scripture readings about the birth of Jesus interspersed with the singing of traditional carols led by our choir. What a truly wonderful way to prepare your heart, mind, and voice for Christmas!

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**Christmas Pageant and Advent Brunch**

On Sunday, December 10th, during the 10:30 am service, the children of St. Paul's will be reenacting our annual Christmas pageant. We will be holding one more brief (30 minute!) rehearsal following the 10:30 am service on Sunday, December 3rd. If your child will be playing one of our main parts, please make sure that they attend this rehearsal so they feel prepared. All children, grades 2 and younger can simply show up the day of the pageant and participate. All children participating can gather in the Sunday School hallway by about 10 am the morning of the pageant. We can always use extra hands to help with costumes, to set up for the brunch and to prepare food to serve. Please email Nicole at [nmoconnors@gmail.com](mailto:nmoconnors@gmail.com) if you would like to help. Directly following the pageant service, we will be hosting our annual Advent brunch. The entire congregation is invited to come downstairs following the pageant to celebrate with all of the children

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**Synthesis CE Study Guide**

You may pick up a copy of the week's Synthesis CE Study Guide, as well as the following week's, for your personal use. They are located at the back of the church. Thank You!

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**All money to be credited to your 2017 account MUST be in the Parish Office by December 31st. Any money received after December 31st will be credited to your 2018 account. Thank you!**

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**Covenant Envelopes for 2018**

Covenant Envelopes for 2018 are in the back of the church. Please take yours and those of any friends who may be absent, as this helps us save on mailing costs. Please DO NOT use the 2018 Blue envelopes until the new year, and DO NOT use the 2017 Green envelopes after December 31, 2017. If you do not wish to use the covenant envelopes, as long as your gift can be identified, an account is established in your name and you will receive quarterly statements. If you have any questions, please contact Beth Miller, Financial Secretary, at 203-775-9587 or [Bethmiller.stpaul@gmail.com](mailto:Bethmiller.stpaul@gmail.com) Thank you.

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### Calendar for the Week

(We welcome and encourage parishioners to come to any of these ministries.)

Sun., Dec. 3	-	8:00 AM	-	<b>Traditional Eucharist</b>
		9:30 AM	-	Rector's Forum
		10:30 AM	-	Sunday School
		10:30 AM	-	<b>Contemporary Eucharist</b>
		12:00 PM	-	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Mon., Dec. 4	-	10:00 AM	-	Christian Caring
		7:00 PM	-	Stephen Ministry
		7:00 PM	-	Men's Bible Study
		7:00 PM	-	Lessons and Carols Rehearsal
Tue., Dec. 5	-	9:15 AM	-	Ladies Bible Study
		5:45 PM	-	Boot Camp
Wed., Dec. 6	-	10:00 AM	-	<b>Holy Eucharist and Healing</b>
Thu., Dec. 7	-	7:00 PM	-	Lessons & Carols Rehearsal
		7:30 PM	-	Mission Committee
		7:30 PM	-	Property Committee
Sat., Dec. 9	-	7:30 AM	-	Men's Prayer Breakfast
		10:00 AM	-	PraiseMoves
		10:00 AM	-	Jericho Food Pantry
		11:00 AM	-	St Paul's Quilters

**Next Sunday — Second Sunday of Advent  
Holy Eucharist at 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.**

The Reverend Joseph Shepley, Rector

### Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

### Saint Paul's Staff

Rector  
Wardens  
Seminarian  
Parish Office Coordinator  
Organist and Choirmaster  
Coord. of Contemporary Worship & Family Ministries  
Sunday School Administrators  
Sexton

The Reverend Joseph Shepley  
Mary Perry and David Williams  
Stephen Nagy  
Beth Miller  
Kirsten Peterson  
Patrick O'Connors  
Nicole O'Connors  
Doug Melody