

# *Saint Paul's Church*

*(Episcopal/Anglican)*

*Second Sunday of  
Advent  
December 10, 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, followed by The Rector's Forum, in the Guild Room at 9:30 A.M. Please join us!

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**Prelude**

**“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

**E. Broughton**

**Opening Hymn**

**“Prepare the Way, O Zion”**

**Hymnal, 65**

*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 Two Candles 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.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### First Reading:

Reader: A reading from Isaiah. (40:1-11)

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, \*you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people \*and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, \*for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, \*that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; \*righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, \*and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, \*and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, \*and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

**Second Reading:**

Reader: A reading from Second Peter. (3:8-15a)

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**“The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow”**

The Lord will come and not be slow, his footsteps cannot err;

Before him righteousness shall go, his royal har-binger.

Truth from the earth, like to a flower, shall bud and blossom show;

And justice, from her heavenly bower, look down on us below.

Rise, God, judge thou the earth in might, this wicked earth redress;

For thou art he who shalt by right the nations all possess.

## **Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8**

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

### **"The Lord Will Come and Not Be Slow"**

The nations all whom thou hast made shall come,  
and all shall frame  
To bow them low before thee, Lord, and glorify  
thy Name.

For great thou art, and wonders great by thy  
strong hand are done:  
Thou in thy everlasting seat remainest God alone.

Words: John Milton (1608-1674); Music: *St. Anne*, att. William Croft ((1678-1727), harm.  
William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

## **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:  
James and Dorothy Blake.

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)**

**“There's a Voice in the Wilderness Crying”**

**Hymnal, 75**

### **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**

**“Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”**

**Hymnal, 67**

**“Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless”**

**Hymnal, 343**

## **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**

**“On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry”**

**Hymnal, 76**

## **Dismissal**

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

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Postlude**

**“In Dulci Jubilo”**

**F. W. Zachau**



### **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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### **Quilt Raffle**

Quilt Raffle tickets will be available 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 Today, 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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### **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 Linda Pendergast and Donna Cennamo 10:30 Kathy Whipple and Dave Williams.

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

Our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held Tonight, 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**

Today, during the 10:30 am service, the children of St. Paul's will be reenacting our annual Christmas pageant. 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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**Bell Ringing**

Today Saint Paul's Kettle Campaign for the Salvation Army will be here. Please make a donation to help a neighbor in His name. Please feel free to "ring the bells" or to have your children do so! Checks may be made out to either the Salvation Army, or Saint Paul's with SA on the memo line. Thank you for your support of this special Christmas ministry.

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### Calendar for the Week

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

Sun., Dec. 10	-	8:00 AM	-	<b>Traditional Eucharist</b>
		9:30 AM	-	Rector's Forum
		10:30 AM	-	Sunday School
		10:30 AM	-	<b>Contemporary Eucharist/Christmas Pageant</b>
		12:00 PM	-	Advent Brunch
		5:00 PM	-	<b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b>
Mon., Dec. 11	-	7:00 PM	-	Men's Bible Study
Tue., Dec. 12	-	9:15 AM	-	Ladies Bible Study
		5:45 PM	-	Boot Camp
Wed., Dec. 13	-	10:00 AM	-	<b>Holy Eucharist and Healing</b>
		7:00 PM	-	Staff Meeting
		7:30 PM	-	Vestry Meeting
Thu., Dec. 14	-	7:30 PM	-	Music Night
Sat., Dec. 16	-	7:30 AM	-	Men's Prayer Breakfast
		10:00 AM	-	PraiseMoves

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

The Reverend Joseph Shepley, Rector

### Readings

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28; Psalm 126

### 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