

Saint Paul's Church

(Episcopal/Anglican)

Brookfield, Connecticut

*Third Sunday of
Advent
Healing Sunday
December 17, 2017*



*Preacher & Celebrant
The Reverend Joseph Shepley
Rector*

8:00 A.M. Worship Service

www.saintpaulsbrookfield.com

203-775-9587 (Office)

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!

Prelude	"On Jordan's Stormy Banks "	T. Birchwood
Opening Hymn	"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"	Hymnal,76

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 Three 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.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading:

Reader: A reading from Isaiah. (61:1-4, 8-11)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the LORD love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 126

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, * then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, * and our tongue with shouts of joy.
- 3 Then they said among the nations, * "The LORD has done great things for them."
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, * and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, * like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears * will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, * will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading:

Reader: A reading from First Thessalonians. (5:16-24)

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

Blessed be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
He visits and redeems us, he grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill his promise and bring his people peace.

He from the house of David a child of grace has given;
A Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes his herald, forerunner in the way,
The prophet of salvation, the harbinger of Day.

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8,19-28

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify

to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

“Blessed Be the God of Israel”

On prisoners of darkness the sun begins to rise,
The dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
He guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease.

Words by Michael A. Perry; Tune: Munich

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.

Litany of Healing

The Celebrant introduces the Litany with this bidding

Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.

A Person appointed then leads the Litany

God the Father, your will for your people is healing and salvation;
We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;
We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;
We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;
We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world;
Hear us, O Lord of life.

You are the Lord who does wonders:
You have declared your power among the peoples.

With you, O Lord, is the well of life:
And in your light we see light.

Hear us, O Lord of life:
Heal us, and make us whole.

Let us pray.
A period of silence follows.

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

The Celebrant concludes the Prayers:

Almighty God, giver of life and health: Send your blessing on all who are sick, and upon those who minister to them, that all weakness may be vanquished by the triumph of the risen Christ; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *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) “Herald, Sound the Note of Judgment”

Herald, sound the note of judgment, warning us of right and wrong,
Turning us from sin and sadness till once more we sing the song.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message! Christ, the Savior King, has come!

Herald, sound the note of gladness; tell the news that Christ is here;
Make a pathway through the desert for the one who brings God near.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message! Christ, the Savior King, has come!

Herald, sound the note of pardon those repenting are forgiven;
God receives his wayward children and to them new life is given.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message! Christ, the Savior King, has come!

Herald, sound the note of triumph; Christ has come to share our life,
Bringing God’s own love and power, granting victory in our strife.
Sound the trumpet! Tell the message! Christ, the Savior King, has come!

Words: Moir A. J. Waters (1906-1980); Music: *REGENT SQUARE*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

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 larger Chalice, please signify this choice by holding the consecrated Bread between your fingers as you approach the first and smaller Chalice. After you receive the sacrament, healing teams will be available at the Altar rail to pray with you.

Communion Songs

“Be Lifted Up”

Be lifted up, be lifted up.
As we bow down, be lifted up. (repeat)

Let the heavens rejoice, let the nations be glad.
Let the whole earth tremble, for you are God.
Come and worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

As we bow down, be lifted up, as we bow down, be lifted up.

Words and music by Paul Oakley ©2001 Thankyou Music ARR, UBP CCLI #33760

“Cannot Say Enough”

What can we say to describe
just a glimpse of your glory?
How can our words portray
but a thread of your majesty?
But still we praise our Savior

oh, in spirit and in truth
for we cannot say enough
about You.

Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

Words and music by Bart Millard, Jim Bryson, Mike Scheuchzer, Nathan Cochran,
and Robby Shaffer © 2001 Simpleville Music, CCLI #33760

“Fairest Lord Jesus”

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son;
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul’s glory, joy, and crown.
Fair are the meadows, fairer still the wood-
lands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring:

Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.
Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host:
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels heaven can boast.

Words: German composite; Music: *St. Elizabeth*

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 “Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding”

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.
“Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
“Cast away the works of darkness,
O ye children of the day.”

Wakened by the solemn warning,
From earth’s bondage let us rise;
Christ, our sun, all sloth dispelling,
Shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected,
Comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes with glory,
And the world is wrapped in fear,
May he with his mercy shield us,
And with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit
While unending ages run.

Words: Latin, ca 6th C; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, 1861 Music: *Stuttgart*, adapt.
and harm. William Henry Havergal

Dismissal

Lay Reader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

“O Innocent Lamb of God”

J. Pachelbel



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 today in order to be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletins. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Winkley, at 203-775-3343 or gailwinkley@yahoo.com.

Quilt Raffle

Quilt Raffle tickets will be available today 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!

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.

Behold the Lamb 2017 - Local Production

Our annual production of Andrew Peterson's "Behold the Lamb of God" will be tonight 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.

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) know and we will work with you to schedule a convenient time. Your Prayer Servants today for Healing Sunday are all who are available.

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!

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!

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 Thank you.

Calendar for the Week

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

Sun., Dec. 17	-	8:00 AM	-	Traditional Eucharist
		9:30 AM	-	Rector's Forum
		10:30 AM	-	Sunday School
		10:30 AM	-	Contemporary Eucharist
		6:00 PM	-	Behold the Lamb
Mon., Dec. 18	-	7:00 PM	-	Men's Bible Study
		7:00 PM	-	Stephen Ministry
Tue., Dec. 19	-	9:15 AM	-	Ladies Bible Study
		5:45 PM	-	Boot Camp
Wed., Dec. 20	-	10:00 AM	-	Holy Eucharist and Healing
Thu., Dec. 21	-	7:30 PM	-	Music Night
Sat., Dec. 23	-	7:30 AM	-	Men's Prayer Breakfast
		10:00 AM	-	PraiseMoves

**Next Sunday — Fourth Sunday of Advent/Christmas Eve
Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M.**

The Reverend Joseph Shepley, Rector

Readings

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38; Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

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