

Saint Paul's Church

(Episcopal/Anglican)

*Second Sunday of
Advent
December 9, 2018*



*Preacher & Celebrant
The Reverend Joseph Shepley
Rector*

10:30 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. Please join us!

Prelude

“Advent Pastoral”

J. Southbridge

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

“Nothing I Hold Onto”

I lean not on my own understanding
My life is in the hands of the maker of heaven
I give it all to You God
Trusting that You'll make
Something beautiful out of me

I will climb this mountain
With my hands wide open
There's nothing I hold onto
There's nothing I hold onto

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Children’s Sermon

The Reverend Joseph Shepley

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 Malachi. (3:1-4)

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: *Thanks be to God.*

Canticle 4

Robert Knox Kennedy (b. 1945)



Blessed be the Lord, the God of **Israel**; *he has come to his people and set them **free**.

He has raised up for us a mighty **savior**, *born of the house of his servant **David**.

Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our **enemies**, *from the hands of all who **hate us**.

He promised to show mercy to our **fathers** *and to remember his holy **covenant**.

This was the oath he swore to our father **Abraham**, *to set us free from the hands of our **enemies**,

Free to worship him without **fear**, *holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our **life**.

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most **High**, *for you will go before the Lord to prepare his **way**,

To give his people knowledge of sal-**vation** *by the forgiveness of their **sins**.

In the tender compassion of our **God** *the dawn from on high shall break up-**on us**,

To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of **death**, *and to guide our feet into the way of **peace**.

Glory be to the Father, and to the **Son**,* and to the Holy **Spirit**:

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall be**,*world without end. **A-men**.

Second Reading:

Reader: A reading from Philippians. (1:3-11)

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

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: Luke 3:1-6

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

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.

Prayers of the People (Remain Standing)

Watchful at all times, let us pray for strength to stand with confidence before our Maker and Redeemer. That God may bring in his kingdom with power and mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

Christ, have mercy.

That God may establish among the nations his sceptre of righteousness, let us pray to the Lord:

Christ, have mercy.

That we may seek Christ in the scriptures and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, let us pray to the Lord:

Christ, have mercy.

That God may bind up the brokenhearted, restore the sick and raise up all who have fallen, let us pray to the Lord:

Christ, have mercy.

That the light of God's coming may dawn on all who live in darkness and the shadow of death, let us pray to the Lord:

Christ, have mercy.

That, with all the saints in light, we may shine forth as lights for the world, let us pray to the Lord:

Christ, have mercy.

Free prayer may be offered at this time.

Let us commend the world, which Christ will judge, to the mercy and protection of God:

Christ, have mercy.

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) “Call Me Home”

You are the King of kings
Who sits upon the throne
You are the Lord of lords
I live for you alone

You are the Mighty One
You are the God who saves
You are the Morning Star
The light of each new day

So I will sing of your glory
And I will lift up your Holy Name

I will praise you when the morning light is here
I will praise you when the evening time draws
near
I will praise you when I'm feeling all alone
Until the day you call me home

You are the Prince of Peace
Who's coming forth to reign
You are the Counselor
You take away my pain

You are the Righteous Judge
You are the God of grace
You are the Lord of all
I give you all my praise

Oh one day I will stand and sing before Your
throne

But here on earth, I live to worship you alone

You are the Word of Life
The author of all truth
You are the Lamb of God
You died to make me new

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Presentation

Doxology

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

Praise Him above Ye heav'nly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Amen

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



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.

“There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying (Hymnal, 75)”

There’s a voice in the wilderness crying, a call
from the ways untrod;
Prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for
our God!

The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills
brought low;
make straight all the crooked places where the
Lord our God may go!

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up
to the heights and sing!
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of
their King.

Like the flowers of the field they perish, like
grass our works decay,
the power and pomp of nations shall pass like a
dream away;

But the word of our God endureth, the arm of
the Lord is strong;
he stands in the midst of nations, and he will
right the wrong.

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd, the
lambs he’ll gently hold;
to pastures of peace he’ll lead them, and bring
them safe to his fold.

Words by James Lewis Milligan; Music by Henry Hugh Bancroft, Tune: ASCENSION

“You Are My Peace”

I lay my burdens at Your feet
I'm letting go of all the things I can't control
In my frailty Lord I find Your strength
I'm depending on a love that won't let go

So I trust You, I trust You
I trust You, oh You are my peace

I don't have to be strong 'cause You are my strength

Oh You are my strength oh You are my strength
I don't have to hold on 'cause You don't let go
Oh You don't let go oh You don't let go

All you weary come and lay your burdens down

His yoke is easy there is rest to be found

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“Worthy of All Praise” (Please Stand)

One name above all names
Worthy of all our praise
We bow our hearts,
And lift our hands to you Lord

One song that we will sing
To praise the King of Kings
We bow our hearts,
And lift our hands to you Lord
To you Lord

We cry out to you and say, Abba Father
Holy is your name
All the earth proclaim

You are worthy of all praise
You are worthy of all praise

The host of heaven sing
All creatures of our King
We bow our hearts,
And lift our hands to you Lord
To you Lord

Holy, holy, Lord, You are holy

Worthy, worthy, Lord, You are worthy
You are worthy of all praise

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Postcommunion Prayer (Remain Standing)

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

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude

“Lord Christ, the Only Son of God”

J. G. Walther

Christmas Memorials

Remember your loved ones and friends with a beautiful poinsettia plant that will be decorating the church for the Christmas services. There are envelopes on the back table for this purpose. All memorials are due by Sunday, December 16th, in order to be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact Gail Winkley, at 203-775-3343 or gailwinkley@yahoo.com.

Lessons and Carols: Save the Date!

Our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 16 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! **Or better yet, if you like to sing, you are welcome to join our special choir for this service.** Rehearsals are on the following 3 Mondays from 7-9 PM: 11/26, 12/3, 12/10 and Thursday, 12/13. The only prerequisites are as follows: 1) you like to sing Christmas music, and 2) you like to be around people who like to sing Christmas music. No previous participation in the music ministry required! It may be just the thing if you've been looking for a small group to join for Advent! Please contact Kirsten Peterson for more details and to sign up: kirpeterson@comcast.net

Pray It Up!

Notice the Red and White prayer request cards in the pew? Each Sunday, fill out your request, put it in the red bowl on the table on the way to communion. Then take a card from the bowl either right then or after service. Pray for that request for one week. How comforting to know that your request is being prayed for and that you are praying for someone else's! You might just be praying for the person sitting next to you! Or, if you'd prefer - please send your request to St. Paul's at prayingnow2@gmail.com!

*

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!

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!

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 are 8:00 Donna Cennamo, 10:30 Dave Williams.

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 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.

All money to be credited to your 2018 account MUST be in the Parish Office by December 30th. Any money received after December 30th will be credited to your 2019 account. Thank you!

Covenant Envelopes for 2019

Covenant Envelopes for 2019 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 2019 goldenrod envelopes until the new year, and DO NOT use the 2018 blue envelopes after December 30, 2018. 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

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.

Please join us for St. Paul's Annual Christmas Pageant!

On Sunday, December 16th, the children of St. Paul's will be presenting their annual Christmas pageant during the 10:30am service. Children in second grade and below can simply show up that day, around 10am, to pick out a costume and follow along. Older students that have a specific part are asked to join us this coming Sunday, December 9th for a brief rehearsal immediately following the 10:30 service. We will also be hosting an Advent brunch following the pageant on the 16th. All are invited to attend and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Please see Nicole O'Connors or email her at nmoconnors@gmail.com if you are able to help with costumes, bringing food or setting out food that day.

Calendar for the Week

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

Sun., Dec. 9	-	8:00 AM	-	Traditional Eucharist
		9:30 AM	-	Rector's Forum
		10:30 AM	-	Sunday School
		10:30 AM	-	Contemporary Eucharist
		12:00 PM	-	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Mon., Dec. 10	-	7:00 PM	-	Lessons and Carols Rehearsal
		7:00 PM	-	Men's Bible Study
Tue., Dec. 11	-	9:15 AM	-	Ladies Bible Study
		5:45 PM	-	PrasiseKicks
		7:00 PM	-	Ladies Evening Bible Study
Wed., Dec. 12	-	10:00 AM	-	Holy Eucharist and Healing
		7:00 PM	-	Staff Meeting
		7:30 PM	-	Vestry Meeting
Thu., Dec. 13	-	7:00 PM	-	Lessons and Carols Rehearsal
Sat., Dec. 15	-	7:30 AM	-	Men's Prayer Breakfast
		9:15 AM	-	PraiseKicks
		10:00 AM	-	PraiseMoves
		11:00 AM	-	St. Paul's Quilters

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

The Reverend Joseph Shepley, Rector

Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Canticle 9; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Saint Paul's Staff

Rector
Wardens
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
Beth Miller
Kirsten Peterson
Patrick O'Connors
Nicole O'Connors
Doug Melody