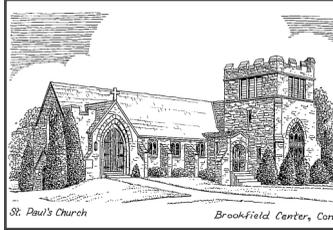


# Saint Paul's Church

(Episcopal|Anglican)

Brookfield, Connecticut

*First Sunday after  
Christmas  
December 30, 2018*



"Celebrating 233 years in the Spirit"

*Preacher & Celebrant  
The Reverend Joseph Shepley  
Rector*

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

*When you enter church, talk to God. When you worship, let God talk to you. After church, talk to each other.  
Please be mindful of others' need for silence before the 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!

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**Opening Hymn**

**"Angels From the Realms of Glory"**

**Hymnal, 93**

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.*

## **Gloria**

Celebrant and people:

Glory to God in the Highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

## **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, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## **First Reading:**

Reader: A reading from Isaiah. (61:10-62:3)

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. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People: Thanks be to God.*

## **Psalm 147**

- 1 Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
- 2 The Lord rebuilds Jerusalem; \*he gathers the exiles of Israel.
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted \*and binds up their wounds.
- 4 He counts the number of the stars \*and calls them all by their names.

- 5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; \*there is no limit to his wisdom.  
6 The Lord lifts up the lowly, \*but casts the wicked to the ground.  
7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; \*make music to our God upon the harp.  
8 He covers the heavens with clouds \*and prepares rain for the earth;  
9 He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*and green plants to serve mankind.  
10 He provides food for flocks and herds \*and for the young ravens when they cry.  
11 He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;  
12 But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, \*in those who await his gracious favor.

**Second Reading:**

Reader: A reading from Galatians. (3:23-25; 4:4-7)

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night” (Verses 1-3) Hymnal, 94**

**Gospel Reading: John 1:1-18**

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

People: *Glory to You, Lord Christ.*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his

own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **“While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night” (Verses 4-6) Hymnal, 94**

### **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)**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Universal Church;

*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

We remember the faithful departed this day in whose memory the altar flowers are given:  
Donald and Betty Gardner.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

*The People may add their own petitions.*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.*

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

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

*Silence.*

*Priest 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)**

**“Lo How A Rose e’re Blooming ”**

**Hymnal, 81**

### **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 gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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.

*Celebrant and People*

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.*

*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 prayer teams in the hallway available to pray with you.*

### **Communion Songs**

**“Of The Father's Love Begotten”**

**Hymnal, 82**

**“What Child is This”**

**Hymnal, 115**

### **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**

**“Joy to the World”**

**Hymnal, 100**

### **Dismissal**

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

People: Thanks be to God.



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### **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](mailto:prayingnow2@gmail.com)!

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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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### **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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### **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 are 8:00 Donna Cennamo, 10:30 Walter VonEgidy.

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

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### **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](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. 30	-	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>
Mon., Dec. 31	-	9:00 PM	-	New Year's Eve Party
Tue., Jan. 1	-	New Year's Day —Parish Office Closed		
		10:30 AM	-	<b>Holy Eucharist –Holy Name</b>
		5:45 PM	-	PraiseKicks
Wed., Jan. 2	-	Free Coffee Wednesday		
		10:00 AM	-	<b>Holy Eucharist and Healing</b>
Thu., Jan. 3	-	7:30 PM	-	Property Committee
		7:30 PM	-	Mission Committee
		7:00 PM	-	Compline
Fri., Jan. 4	-	7:00 PM	-	House Blessing
Sat., Jan. 5	-	7:30 AM	-	Men's Prayer Breakfast
		9:15 AM	-	PraiseKicks
		10:00 AM	-	PraiseMoves

### Next Sunday — Epiphany

**Holy Eucharist at 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.**

The Reverend Joseph Shepley, Rector

### Readings

Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12; Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

### 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