

*Transforming
Lives Through
Jesus Christ*

SWORD POINTS

November 28, 2024

www.SaintPaulsBrookfield.com

(203) 775-9587



✠ **Happy
Thanksgiving**

† With the End in Mind

Happy New Year! That is, a New Church Year. The four-week liturgical season of Advent begins this Sunday in many denominations of Christianity. We also begin the 3rd year in a 3 year cycle of appointed readings from Scripture. These four weeks of Advent are a time of soulful preparation through self-reflection, repentance, and the expectant waiting for the Nativity, the birth, of Jesus. It is a time for us to start over, to unburden our hearts from the weight of worldly worries, and to renew our commitment to a regular pattern of prayer, worship, and sincere Christian action. It is time to remember to answer the call to *increase and abound in love for one another*, to restore our faith, and to be ready for *that day* that will come for us all. If we are not *alert, that day* may arrive *unexpectedly, like a trap*, and catch us unprepared. Too often we are caught up in the earthly distractions of the tinsel and trappings, the busy and the bustling of celebrating as if THAT DAY, the one in which we are each called on account, will never happen.

In this season, the word advent is from the Latin *adventus* which means coming, and we will mark each week by the lighting of a candle in an Advent Wreath with a prayerful reflection at the beginning of the service. Each candle represents a theme from the readings of that week. Some people will also use an Advent Calendar or wreath at home to mark each day of the week with a special prayer or meditation on the theme. Advent is the opportunity to be more intentional about preparing for the arrival of Jesus, our Savior.

This week's theme is *Hope*. In yet another year that the lives of millions and the planet itself have been upended and decimated across the world by torrential rains, earthquakes, horrific fires, and the devastating violence wrought by humans, it does give pause and perhaps a sharp inhalation of breath and wonder about what could be next. The readings for this day may cause some fear and trepidation as if they hit "too close" to our own time. In every generation some think "THIS IS IT" as they believe they can interpret the *signs*. The apocalyptic images in the Gospel are those with which the followers of Jesus would recognize from Zechariah and Daniel in the Hebrew/Old Testament and Jesus used them to make his point about being ready. It didn't come to pass in that time, nor has it in the millennia since, obviously. And yet, we of faith believe that it most certainly will and as we do not know *the day or the hour* [Matthew 25:13], keeping ourselves prepared isn't about fear, but rather it is about faith. Each of us will meet our Maker whether the Earth falls in our time or not. Christ **will** come again, and/or we will get there before he comes here - will we be ready either way? Never have we needed hope or self-preparation more than now.

As in every liturgical season of the Church, each of our readings gives us insight and instruction to ponder and enlighten us for the week ahead. This week Jesus tells us that his *words will never pass away no matter what else happens*. Through prayer and attention to our call, we will be ready to *stand before the Son of Man*. Our Hope truly is in the name and substance of the Lord, and, in our willingness to turn the thoughts and actions of our lives toward the light of God's presence now and going forward.

It's definitely not easy to get and stay on the correct course, especially at this time of year with all the false glitter that obscures our inner vision and diverts us from our good intentions. But our path forward begins to clear when we are sincere in our desire to dedicate our lives to Christ, and made easier being actively involved in faith-filled communities, earnest in preparation for his return. "Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness." We light this week's candle of Hope to brighten the way ahead and to know that we begin with the end in mind.

And when these things
begin to come to pass,
then look up, and lift
up your heads; for
your redemption
draweth nigh.
Luke 21:28 KJV



† Transforming Stewardship

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.”

LUKE 21:28

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, be alert and use this time to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It’s never too late.



Potential Tax Savings - If you meet the following requirements, your normal donation to Saint Paul's can result in a tax savings for you. This program is called "A Qualified Charitable Distribution." The two requirements are: 1) The contributor must be 70 years and 6 months old. 2) A retirement account must already be in place. This can be an IRA or a 401K account. For further information contact Jim Miller at (203) 426-4022 or Chuck Allen at stpaulstreasurer@charter.net.

† *This Week at St. Paul's*

Thu, Nov 28
Sat, Nov 30

Thanksgiving Day

St. Andrew, Apostle

- 7:30 am - **John 21:12** Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford
- 8:00 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Guild Room
- 9:00 am - PraiseMoves ([Zoom](#))

Sun, Dec 1

The First Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am - **Traditional Holy Communion** ([YouTube Live](#))
- 9:30 am - Adult Class, Guild Room
- 10:30 am - Sunday School, Classrooms
- 10:30 am - **Contemporary Holy Communion** ([YouTube Live](#))
- 7:00 pm - Recovery & Self-Reflection, Guild Room ([Zoom](#))

Mon, Dec 2

- 7:00 pm - Men's Bible Study, Crocker Hall ([YouTube Live](#))
- 7:00 pm - Lessons & Carols Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Tues Dec 3

- 9:30 am - Ladies Tuesday AM Bible Study, Guild Room
- 7:00 pm - Scout Troop #5

Wed, Dec 4

- 8:00 am - PraiseMoves ([Zoom](#))
- 7:00 pm - Ladies Evening Zoom Bible Study ([Zoom](#))
- 7:30 pm - Finance Committee, Guild Room

Thu, Dec 5

- 8:00 am - PraiseBarre ([Zoom](#))
- 9:30 am - Iron Sharpens Iron Discussion Group, Guild Room
- 7:30 pm - Property Committee, Guild Room
- 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Sat, Dec 7

- 7:30 am - **John 21:12** Group, Theo's Downtown Diner, New Milford
- 8:00 am - Men's Prayer Breakfast, Crocker Hall
- 9:00 am - PraiseMoves ([Zoom](#))

Sun, Dec 8

The Second Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 am - **Traditional Holy Communion** ([YouTube Live](#))
- 9:30 am - Adult Class, Guild Room
- 10:30 am - Sunday School, Classrooms
- 10:30 am - **Contemporary Holy Communion** ([YouTube Live](#))
- 7:00 pm - Recovery & Self-Reflection, Guild Room ([Zoom](#))

Check our website daily for schedule updates.





The Priest-in-Charge WEEKLY

Fr. Nate, our Priest-in-Charge is distributing a weekly e-mail to communicate things directly from his desk to yours. **Connection, communication, and care** are among the highest priorities of his new ministry, and he wants to make sure there are regular touch points between us. If you would like to receive "*The Priest-in-Charge Weekly*" and **already receive weekly e-mails from St. Paul's**, you don't have to do anything - you're already included on the list! If you would like to receive "*The Priest-in-Charge Weekly*" and **DO NOT receive weekly e-mails from St. Paul's**, or if you want to opt out, write Fr. Nate at priest@saintpaulsbrookfield.com and let him know.

† Just a Shoot

Judaism, like Western Christianity, is a connective religion. This means that individuals do not have to carry the burden of salvation alone. We are saved by our link to others in our faith: we're all in it together. For the Jewish people this is hereditary. God promised to bless Abraham and his descendants. This explains why there are so many genealogies in the bible - Abraham was the father of Isaac, and so on. The most important family tree was that of King David. The "just" or honorable "shoot" would be part of that tree. Jeremiah predicts this and points to Jesus.



† Quilt Drawing



Tickets are being sold each Sunday during coffee hour for these beautiful Christmas quilts. All the proceeds will benefit Father Nate's discretionary fund. The tickets will be available after each service and the drawing will be held on Sunday, December 22nd. Tickets are \$5 each or 5 for \$20.



† Transforming Saints of God

Saturday, November 30th

Saint Andrew the Apostle

Most references to Andrew in the New Testament simply include him on a list of the Twelve Apostles, or group him with his brother, Simon Peter. But he appears acting as an individual three times in the Gospel of John. When a number of Greeks (perhaps simply Greek-speaking Jews) wish to speak with Jesus, they approach Philip, who tells Andrew, and the two of them tell Jesus (Jn 12:20-22). (It may be relevant here that both "Philip" and "Andrew" are Greek names.) Before Jesus feeds the Five Thousand, it is Andrew who says, "Here is a lad with five barley loaves and two fish" (Jn 6:8f). And the first two disciples whom John reports as attaching themselves to Jesus (Jn 1:35-42) are Andrew and another disciple (whom John does not name, but who is commonly supposed to be John himself -- John never mentions himself by name, a widespread literary convention). Having met Jesus, Andrew then finds his brother Simon and brings him to Jesus. Thus, on each occasion when he is mentioned as an individual, it is because he is instrumental in bringing others to meet the Savior. In the Episcopal Church, the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew is devoted to encouraging personal evangelism, and the bringing of one's friends and colleagues to a knowledge of the Gospel of Christ.

Just as Andrew was the first of the Apostles, so his feast is taken to be the beginning of the Church Year. The First Sunday of Advent is defined to be the Sunday on or nearest his feast.

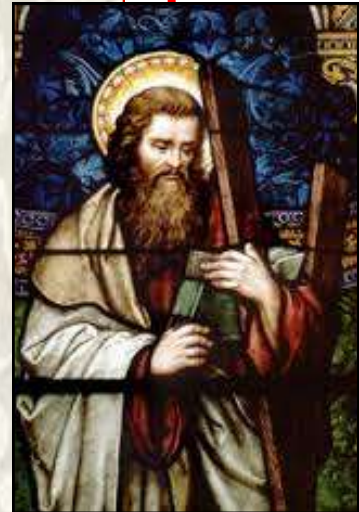
Several centuries after the death of Andrew, some of his relics were brought by a missionary named Rule to Scotland, to a place then known as Fife, but now known as St. Andrew's, and best known as the site of a world-famous golf course and club. For this reason, Andrew is the patron of Scotland.

When the Emperor Constantine established the city of Byzantium, or Constantinople, as the new capital of the Roman Empire, replacing Rome, the bishop of Byzantium became very prominent. Five sees (bishoprics) came to be known as patriarchates: Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, and Byzantium. Now, the congregation at Rome claimed the two most famous apostles, Peter and Paul, as founders. Antioch could also claim both Peter and Paul, on the explicit testimony of Scripture, and of course Jerusalem had all the apostles. Alexandria claimed that Mark, who had been Peter's "interpreter" and assistant, and had written down the Gospel of Mark on the basis of what he had heard from Peter, had after Peter's death gone to Alexandria and founded the church there. Byzantium was scorned by the other patriarchates as a new-comer, a church with the political prestige of being located at the capital of the Empire, but with no apostles in its history. Byzantium responded with the claim that its founder and first bishop had been Andrew the brother of Peter. They pointed out that Andrew had been the first of all the apostles to follow Jesus (John 1:40-41), and that he had brought his brother to Jesus. Andrew was thus, in the words of John Chrysostom, "the Peter before Peter." As Russia was Christianized by missionaries from Byzantium, Andrew became the patron not only of Byzantium but also of Russia.



It is said that Andrew was crucified on a Cross Saltire -- an 'X' -shaped cross. His symbol is a Cross Saltire, white on a blue background. This is accordingly the national flag of Scotland.

written by James Kiefer



† The Ancient-Future Promise

[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#); [Psalm 25:1-9](#); [1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#); [Luke 21:25-36](#)

The late Robert Webber, in his Ancient-Future book series, developed the concept of refreshing our worship by looking back at the early Church and the Bible, including the Old Testament. We are not to seek an ancient form of worship to venerate a particular time or practice, but to allow each epoch to inform our worship experience. Webber always maintained that biblical worship emphasized the corporate nature of the Church and its concern for justice and acts of mercy. Webber taught us how to worship by using the historical and biblical church as an analogy of how God would have us worship, rather than a set-in-stone pattern for worship.

An analogy is a comparison based on a similarity in some respect between things that are otherwise quite different. In fact, the more similar one object is to another, the less useful it is to help us understand the unfamiliar object. Of course, the key to understanding the analogy is our knowledge of the object being used to explain the unknown. We take what we have not yet experienced fully and try to explain it by comparing it to something we have experienced. For example, we approximate the experience of weightlessness by being submerged in water or we try to explain the Trinity by talking about water, steam, and ice.

Jesus used analogies to teach human beings about God and his kingdom. In our Gospel reading from St. Luke, Jesus tells us that the events surrounding his return in glory will be like a fig tree putting out leaves (21:29-31). The image we are given is common to the experience of his audience. But the kingdom is not a plant. In fact, it is quite different, except for a particular aspect. Altogether, however, this image helps us understand something about the kingdom.

You could see the whole Bible in this manner. Rather than treating the Bible as 66 different books, or even as a story in two volumes, it could be thought of as a unified story composed of a series of analogies through which human beings might come to a working knowledge of God and his love. From the story of creation, through the call of the patriarchs, the Exodus, and the prophets, to the Incarnation, we are presented with finite events and experiences that help us obtain knowledge about our infinite Father. Each analogy, however, is given in the context appropriate to the experience of the people. The story of the Bible is the story of God pointing us toward the fulfillment of his eternal promise. God spoke that promise when he said, "I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be my people" (Lev. 26:12).

For Jeremiah, the task was to describe to the people, who were in exile, how God would make his promise a reality. To do so, the prophet pointed the people back to the greatest leader ever known in Israel - King David. David was the analogy used to describe the coming Christ. He was not only their greatest ruler, but he was a descendent of Abraham, the one chosen and anointed by God, the just and wise king who ruled the united kingdom, the king who saved Israel from the Philistines, and the one who gave her stability and security. The One to come will be like David - but much, much more. He will fulfill the divine promise. He will be God with us. He will live with us. He will call us his people. And all this he will do for all eternity. His presence and our experience will be greater and grander than anything we have ever dreamed or can even contemplate. We are to expect One who is like David, but as different from David as the sun is from a match.

Look It Up:

[Mark 13:28-29](#).

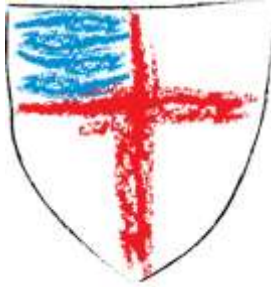
Think About It:

What analogies to the return of Christ can we discern in our contemporary experience?

- by Patrick Twomey, *The Living Church*, 2024



*Fig tree leaf
| Στέλιος Δ/
Flickr*



† **Ih-pis-kuh-puh l / Dik-shuh-ner-ee**

(Episcopal Dictionary)



† **Thanksgiving Day**

/ˌθæŋksˈɡrɪv.ɪŋ / deɪ /

Thanksgiving Day - A national holiday and day of thanks. Thanksgiving Day is celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday in November. This custom is based on the celebration of three days of prayer and feasting by the Plymouth, Massachusetts, colonists in 1621. There was also a Thanksgiving celebration with prayer by members of the Berkeley plantation, near what is now Charles City, Virginia, in 1619. The first national Thanksgiving Day was celebrated in 1789. Under President Abraham Lincoln, Thanksgiving Day came to be celebrated annually on the last Thursday of November. Thanksgiving Day was celebrated on the third Thursday of November in the three years 1939-1941 under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. However, the Thanksgiving Day commemoration was moved back to the fourth Thursday in November by Congress in 1941.



Thanksgiving Day is a major holy day and a national day in the Prayer Book calendar of the church year (pp. 16-17, 33). The Proposed Prayer Book of 1786 included “A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the Fruits of the Earth, and all the other Blessings of his merciful Providence.” The first American Prayer Book (1789) replaced the four national days of the 1662 English book with propers for Thanksgiving Day. The collect for Thanksgiving Day gives thanks to God the Father for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. It asks that we may be faithful stewards of God's great bounty, providing for our own necessities and the relief of all who are in need (BCP, p. 246). Hymns for Thanksgiving Day in The Hymnal 1982 include “Praise to God, immortal praise” (Hymn 288), “Come, ye thankful people, come” (Hymn 290), and “We plow the fields, and scatter” (Hymn 291). The Hymnal 1982 Accompaniment Edition, Vol. 1, provides musical settings for a Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church (S 391; see BCP, pp. 578-579) and a Litany of Thanksgiving (S 392; see BCP, pp. 836-837). The Litany of Thanksgiving may be used on Thanksgiving Day in place of the prayers of the people at the eucharist, or at any time after the collects at Morning or Evening Prayer, or separately.

† **Advent Adult Series**

What are you doing this Advent to prepare for Christ's coming? Consider joining us for a challenging and informative video based series entitled “John the Baptist: Prepare the Way for the Lord.” For two thousand years Christians have turned to the story and message of John the Baptist in leading up to Christmas. In this video series, Adam Hamilton explores the Advent themes of John's life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts and lives for his coming. The class starts at 9:30 am in the Guild Room.



† Advent Tells Us Christ Is Near

“Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. ‘Christ is nigh,’ it seems to say.” We loved hearing this Advent hymn as a child. “Christmas is coming!” it told us. We could not wait. But we had to wait, even while something of the spirit of Christmas spilled over into the weeks before.

“The kingdom of God has come near,” Jesus proclaimed (Mark 1:15). One can still hear a breathlessness in that message. The ways of God are so near that they can be anticipated now. The new time is already begun. The kingdom is not way off in a distant heaven nor in a faraway future. It is upon us and among us, even while its fullness is yet to be realized.

“Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day,” the hymn continues. “Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,” calls out the prophet (Mark 1:3). It is time to get things straight. It is a time of judgment. *Judgment* may seem like a harsh word, but who would want to live in a world where evil is not judged and the good not defended and cherished?

A lot is happening during the Advent season, and a lot is about to happen. This is a solemn time of waiting and expectation, of hope and also fear. Are we ready for this coming? Are we already now beginning to live by the ways of justice and God's love? Are we ready to greet the One who says, “See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work.” Are we able to call out with the Seer, “Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!” (Revelation 22:12, 20)? In Advent we pray, not without trepidation, for the return of the Lamb that was slain and to hear the voice from the throne saying, “See, the home of God is among mortals. God will dwell with them as their God; they will be God's peoples, and God will be with them” (Revelation 21:3).

Advent may seem a welter of messages about already, almost, and not yet. Jesus has come, is near, will come. The kingdom is nigh, is begun, is coming. All this can sound mysterious and even confusing, especially to the linear-minded. But then, what else should we expect? This is about *God*. This is about the God who is the creator of innumerable galaxies and in whom we live and move and have our being. This is the God who is beyond all understanding, who yet draws near and even enters into human life - Alpha and Omega, who was and is and is to come. How can we do more than begin to know this presence? How can we be other than in fear and longing, in wonder and thanksgiving?

“Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding.” It is our task as preachers and readers of the Word of God, standing before the bright eyes of children and the cautious eyes of grownups, amid all the pageantry and gladness, the hopes and heartbreaks of our lives, to catch expectation and awe in our words and to tell again of the nearing God.



HOW DO PEOPLE START ATTENDING CHURCH?

A Friend Invited Me - 86%

Organized Visitation - 6%

Invited by the Pastor - 6%

Advertising - 2%

SERVE

As a witness to
God's bounty.

GIVE to your
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH





† About the Service

We have been blessed by being here. Now, at the end of the service, we are reminded that God takes loving delight in blessing us abundantly. This is a final reminder that the Eucharist is not an end unto itself, but is nourishment for all that we do beyond this place.

The Blessing

Following the Postcommunion Prayer, the Celebrant pronounces God's blessing in the name of the Holy Trinity, and sends us out.



† Weekly Thought for Reflection

from Fr. John Morrison

“But in the midst of all the ancient history in Augustine’s *The City of God*, the contemporary reader will discover a shock of recognition. Consider, for example, the following passage, which demonstrates Augustine’s knack for unveiling the psychology of human sinfulness:

For why is it that you put the blame on the Christian era when things go wrong? Is it not because you are anxious to enjoy your vices without interference, and to wallow in your corruption, untroubled and unrebuked? For if you are concerned with peace and general prosperity, it is not because you want to make decent use of these blessings, with moderation, with restraint, with self-control, with reverence. No! It is because you seek an infinite variety of pleasure with a crazy extravagance, and your prosperity produces a moral corruption far worse than all the fury of an enemy.

People who are indignant in the face of hardship because they want to enjoy their vices undisturbed, who are obsessed with prosperity so that nothing can interfere with their mad pursuit of infinite varieties of pleasure - is Augustine describing ancient Romans or contemporary Americans?"



Gene Edward Veith, "*St. Augustine's City of God and the Postmodern Pilgrimage*" in *Journey to the Celestial City*, p. 33

† Original Mayflower Compact

There are more than 190 independent nations in the world. Whether dictatorships or democracies, nearly all have written constitutions, but that of the United States is by far the oldest. This is something we can too easily take for granted, but it really marked a pivotal turning point in history and the way nations came to govern themselves.

How do you suppose the founding fathers ever thought of having a written Constitution? The idea of a written contract between the people and their government came from a tiny band of fifty Christians called Pilgrims that sailed to America in the Mayflower in 1620. The Pilgrims believed many of the Church of England's traditions were not Biblical. Since both King James and the state church persecuted many critics as criminals, the Pilgrims became Separatists and fled first to Holland, then to America. They planned to land in Virginia, where they had a charter from the King to govern them, but



Atlantic storms carried them far north to Cape Cod. Since their charter was not valid in that region, they needed a new government. And so on November 21, 1620, the



Pilgrims drew up and signed the Mayflower Compact (which is actually dated the 11th of November because Britain was still using the Julian calendar). It said: *"For the glorie of God and advancement of ye Christian faith, we do... ..covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politick...to enact,... and frame... just and equal laws...for the general good of the Colonie, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience."*

Several of the men aboard did not sign. Did they believe the document was illegal?

The compact was modeled after the church covenant that the Pilgrims had drafted and signed in 1607 when they had first separated from the English Church and fled to Holland. For the next fifty years, the Mayflower compact served the Pilgrims well, and it became an important precedent for the idea of a written American Constitution at the Convention of 1787.

† Thanksgiving Origins

Agricultural festivals are of great antiquity, and common to many religions. Among the Jews, the three pilgrimage feasts, Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles, each had agricultural significance. Medieval Christianity also developed a number of such observances, none of which, however, were incorporated into the Prayer Book.

Our own Thanksgiving Day finds its roots in observances begun by colonists in Massachusetts and Virginia, a tradition later taken up and extended to the whole of the new American nation by action of the Continental Congress.



† *Art in the Christian Tradition*

Spectrum,

Photograph by Dylan Arnold in 2017,
Taken with Canon EOS 6D, 24-105mm, 20secs at f/11, ISO 100,
© Dylan Arnold Photography



Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. It is a time for looking back, in order to look forward. We celebrate the birth of Christ our Lord two thousand years ago, but we also live in expectation of His Second Coming. So Advent and Christmas are not just celebrations of things past and gone, but it are a preparation for what is to come.

Over the next weeks, the nights are getting longer, darkness sets in, but in our cities and streets, Christmas lights will be switched on. Candles will be lit. We mustn't be tempted to fast-forward to the party, the light of Christ on December 25th. Maybe this year let us be quiet in the darkness during Advent and truly prepare. Advent tells us that the world lay in darkness before the Light of the World was born. Even the liturgy of the four weeks to come is slightly stripped back. We don't sing the 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo' which will return on Christmas Eve, as it comes from Luke Chapter 2, when the angels declare to the shepherds that the Messiah is born.

The artwork today is a light painting. It is a photography genre that has been growing over the past years, with cameras becoming increasingly more advanced in being able to shoot at night. The photographer artists move vivid streaks of light set against pitch-black environments to create unusual, unpredictable effects when the shutter of the camera is held open for a long time. Our photograph here had an open shutter for more than 20 seconds. These long exposure works turn the light sources brought into the darkness into beautifully crafted works.

The Advent wreath will be lit, one candle a week. Light will gradually enter our churches and homes... all of us looking eagerly for the adventus or 'arrival' of the Light of Christ.



† Helping Our Neighbors

Here is an update about St. Paul’s ongoing food-related ministries serving our community:

Drive Thru Food Collection - occurs every other Wednesday from 11 am - noon. We have now held 121 food drives since April 22, 2020! Last time our trucks delivered to Brookfield Social Services and the Jericho Partnership in Danbury.

Our next food collection, will be Wednesday, December 11th and will support the Bethel Community Food Pantry, and the Jericho Food Pantry in Danbury.

Thank you all for your ongoing generosity and to the many volunteers who have helped to load the trucks and deliver food to the pantries.

Next Drive-Thru Food Collection Wednesday December 11th



*Help us,
Help others
have a Happy
Thanksgiving*

11 am to Noon

If you would like to request Altar flowers for a particular Sunday in Memory of a friend or loved one, please fill out an envelope located in the back of the church or send an email request to dszen@yahoo.com or contact David Szen.



Remember, LORD,
your great mercy and love,
for they are from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my
youth and my rebellious ways;
according to your love
remember me, for you,
LORD, are good.
Psalm 25:6-7



† Signs in the Heavens

This week's Gospel is a parallel to that of the feast of Christ the King. Jesus predicts the destruction of Jerusalem. He develops the idea further, to include a description of the end of the world. He teaches that there will be cosmic signs in the sky to herald these events. Jesus adds the idea that the "Son of Man" (a phrase that means "human") will be seen in the heavens, coming on a cloud. The book of Acts--also by Luke--begins with an angelic prediction of the same event. We can't be sure of the nature of these "signs". They may refer to actual physical events involving planets and the sun. Equally possible is the explanation that Jesus is talking about the "powers of heaven" and political governments, doomed to fail.



"All the ways of the LORD are _____ and faithful for those who keep the demands of his covenant."
[Psalm 25:10 NIV](#)

† Lessons and Carols: Save the Date!

Our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 15 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 three Mondays from 7-9 pm: Nov 25, Dec 2, Dec 9 and Thursday, Dec 12. 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.



† Ladies Tuesday Morning Bible Study

The Women's Tuesday morning Bible Study meets every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11 am in the Guild Room. They are currently studying Proverbs to discuss and uncover the foundation of wisdom, mark out the paths that make us wise, and points us to the ultimate source of all true understanding: Jesus Christ

All are welcome to join in person or through Zoom. The link is available on our website, or contact Mary Beth Durkin durkin.mb@gmail.com for the Zoom link and further information.



† Wednesday Service Growing in Popularity

Our mid-week Wednesday morning 10 am Holy Eucharist with healing prayer has been growing consistently. With live music and a brief homily, this service is just what you need to sustain you through the week. Come join us and check it out or watch on YouTube Live.

||| A THIRD OF US

† Praying for the 1/3 of our world that are still unreached with the Gospel.

Mwani

Country: Mozambique | Population: 154,000 | Language: Mwani | Main Religion: Islam | Evangelical: 0.03%

Mwani tradition holds that just over 1,000 years ago, Arab traders came to the east coast of Africa to trade and take slaves. Entire people groups along the coast, including the Mwani, became Muslims since Arabs were not allowed to take Muslims as slaves. To be a Mwani is to be a Muslim. They go to the Madrassa (Islamic school) and learn to read the Quran in its original Arabic form, but many do not understand its meaning. Despite being able to read Arabic, most Mwani are illiterate in their own language and only speak a little of the national language of Portuguese. Most Mwani live on islands close to the coast in northern Mozambique. They live in poverty, making their living from fishing, water transportation, and trading. Pray for the Bible to be completed in their heart language. Pray for a Gospel breakthrough among the Mwani.



† Transforming Saints of God

Thursday, November 28th

Kamehameha and Emma of Hawaii

King and Queen, 1863 and 1885

Within a year of ascending the throne in 1855, the twenty-year-old King Kamehameha IV and his spouse, Emma Rooke, embarked on the path of altruism and unassuming humility for which they have been revered by their people. The year before, Honolulu, and especially its native Hawaiians, had been horribly afflicted by smallpox. The people, accustomed to a royalty which ruled with pomp and power, were confronted instead by a king and queen who went about, “with notebook in hand,” soliciting from rich and poor the funds to build a hospital. Queen’s Hospital, named for Emma, is now the largest civilian hospital in Hawaii.

In 1860, the king and queen petitioned the Bishop of Oxford to send missionaries to establish the Anglican Church in Hawaii. The king’s interest came through a boyhood tour of England where he had seen, in the stately beauty of Anglican liturgy, a quality that seemed attuned to the gentle beauty of the Hawaiian spirit. England responded by sending the Rt. Rev. Thomas N. Staley and two priests. They arrived on October 11, 1862, and the king and queen were confirmed a month later, on November 28, 1862. They then began preparations for a cathedral and school, and the king set about to translate the Book of Common Prayer and much of the hymnal.

Kamehameha’s and Emma’s lives were marred by the tragic death of their only child, a four-year-old son, in 1862. Kamehameha seemed unable to survive his sadness, although a sermon he preached after his son’s death expresses a hope and faith that is eloquent and profound. His own death took place only a year after his son’s, in 1863. Emma declined to rule; instead, she committed her life to good works. She was responsible for schools, churches, and efforts on behalf of the poor and sick. She traveled several times to England and the European continent to raise funds and became a favorite of Queen Victoria’s. Archbishop Longley of Canterbury remarked upon her visit to Lambeth: “I was much struck by the cultivation of her mind . . . But what excited my interest most was her almost saintly piety.”

The cathedral was completed after Emma died. It was named St. Andrew’s in memory of the king, who died on that saint’s day. Among the Hawaiian people, Emma is still referred to as “our beloved Queen.”



† Greeters Needed

Greeting people in a warm way makes them feel good about their presence in church.

At St. Paul’s, we are always looking for people who feel called to serve in this important ministry. If you are interested in becoming a greeter, please contact Pam Szen (prszen@gmail.com) or David Szen

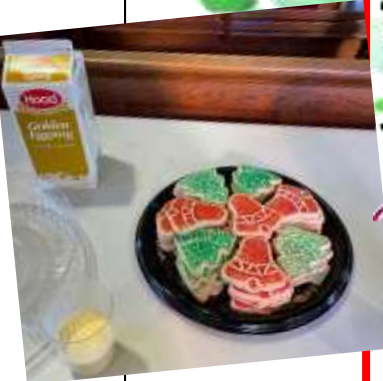




Hanging *of the* Greens

† Greening of the Church

Please join us for the "Greening of the Church" on Saturday, December 14, at 10 am. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy Christmas cookies, egg nog and fellowship as we listen to Christmas music and share in this traditional time of decorating the church. Thank you.



† Christmas Memorial Flowers

Anyone wishing to remember loved ones and friends with a beautiful poinsettia plant that will be decorating the church for the Christmas services, please use an envelope found on the back table for this purpose. All memorials are due Sunday, December 18 in order to be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact David Szen, 917-226-9136 or dszen@yahoo.com



**Available at church starting
on Sunday, December 1st**
**Sign up on clipboard \$30
each; 2 for \$50**
**CHRISTMAS
WREATH
SALE**
**Proceeds support Jericho
Partnership Food Pantry**



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

1M any have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled[a] among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 With this in mind, I myself have carefully

Our Men meet weekly study on Monday nights. This time they're dissecting the Gospel of Luke. Join them each Monday night at 7 pm in Crocker Hall. All the studies are available live on YouTube.

† Ladies Evening Bible Zoom Study

All women and their friends are invited to a new zoom study - St. Paul's letter to the Romans - Chapter 8!

We have decided to focus our attention on chapter 8 this Fall and will be using a study guide by Timothy Keller, called *Romans 8-16 For You*. (Just pages 7-55 on Chapter 8.) In his introduction, Timothy Keller, a renowned Bible scholar and teacher tells us "The book of Romans is the most sustained explanation of the heart of the gospel, and the most thrilling exploration of how that gospel goes to work in our hearts....(it teaches us) how does faith in the gospel of Christ actually lead to change in real life?" (p7)

Join us this Fall on Wednesday nights 7-8:00 by Zoom, to ask your questions and enjoy fellowship with other Christian women as we share our experiences with each other from the comfort of our own homes. If you have time, please prayerfully read Romans chapter 8 ahead, and note your questions. If you wish you can buy the study guide [here](#). Any questions or to get on the zoom link email, contact Carol Wheeler at 203-525-0011 or cmeadwheeler@hotmail.com.

EDITED FROM THE STUDY BY
**TIMOTHY
KELLER**
THIS IS FOR YOU
TO READ, EXCITING YOU
ABOUT GOSPEL CHANGE.
THIS IS FOR YOU
TO FEEL, HELPING YOU
MEDITATE ON GOD'S
WORD DAY BY DAY.
THIS IS FOR YOU
TO LEAD, EQUIPPING YOU
TO TEACH THE BIBLE TO
OTHERS. THIS IS
**ROMANS 8-16
FOR YOU**



Name Tags - Remember how awkward you felt when you first came to St. Paul's because you didn't know anyone or when you visit a different church? Name tags help. So, please be courteous to your fellow parishioners, to newcomers, Fr. Nate and guests by extending a warm welcome to them and by wearing your name tag. And remember to wear them to coffee hour as well.

† Illuminating the Scriptures

The Adult Class "Illuminating the Scriptures" meets on Sundays between services starting at 9:30 in the Guild Room.



† Socks & Toiletries for the Homeless

As the temperature drops and the seasons change remember homeless people are on their feet all day, and the only pair of socks they own are very likely to be threadbare. Once again, this year we are collecting socks and toiletries for the men's homeless shelter throughout the winter months. Place donations in the bins in the back of the church or Crocker Hall.





Camp Washington

ADVENT AFTERNOON AT CAMP WASHINGTON

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2024 | 3-6 PM AT CAMP WASHINGTON

Join us for a family friendly afternoon of fun, crafts, cookies, music, worship, and dinner!

Come for an afternoon getaway at Camp, pause in the busyness of the Advent season.

Come alone, bring your family, bring a friend.

No cost to attend, a free-will offering will be collected at dinner to benefit The CW Campership Fund- providing need based financial aid for youth and adult programs at CW.



Register now at campwashington.org or call us at 860.567.9623

† **The Giving Tree Is Back!**

The St. Paul's family will again partner with Brookfield Social Services to help families in need through their Holiday Program.

The program will be accomplished through the use of gift cards.

Please take a tag or tags from the Giving Tree in the back of the church, and return the purchased card along with the tag by December 8th. Tags should be placed in the "mail box" near the tree. There will be small envelopes available to place your card and tag in. There will be no sign up sheet. We are relying on everyone to return the gift cards before December 8th. This will provide time for Social Service to distribute the cards to families, and time for families to shop.

Thank you to all who have been so generous in supporting the Thanksgiving Program this year. Many will continue to be blessed by your support through the "Giving Tree" program.



Psalm 122:6

Pray
for the
peace
of
Jerusalem;

May they prosper that love you.



Website Links - Usher, acolyte, lector, intercessor, and lay reader schedules are published monthly on our website at [saintpaulsbrookfield.com / parish ministries / acolytes-lay-readers-lectors-intercessors / downloads](http://saintpaulsbrookfield.com/parish-ministries/acolytes-lay-readers-lectors-intercessors/downloads). Our parish member directory is posted on our website at [saintpaulsbrookfield.com / about / member directory / downloads](http://saintpaulsbrookfield.com/about/member-directory/downloads).

† **Sunday School Info!**

ATTN: PARENTS OF ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Bring your Sunday School students to the classrooms by 10:30. Children will be returned to the sanctuary in time for Communion.



† **“Open Table” Coffee Hour**

We are adding something new to our Coffee Hour Ministry! Occasionally, you will see OPEN TABLE written in one of the Coffee Hour slots. This means that anyone from Saint Paul's is invited to feel free to leave a food item on the table in Crocker Hall as a donation to that particular Coffee Hour. That's it!! Just something different occasionally and nothing else to do! We look forward to your participation and donation on that particular designated Sunday. Thanks all!
Mary Allen, Coffee Hour Coordinator, 203-775-6633 or chamla@charter.net.



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Dec 1st 8 am - Heather Melody 10:30 am - Jack Collins
Dec 8th 8 am - Sandy Chadwick 10:30 am - Simon's
Dec 15th 8 am - J Miller / N Rekart 10:30 am - Pageant Parents



COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED

Contact Mary Allen at 203-775-6633 or chamla@charter.net.





JESS RAY

Thurs., Feb. 6, 2025 | 7:00 P.M.

Tickets \$20

www.communitycoffeehouse.org



Community Coffeehouse | 7 Madison Ave. | Danbury, CT 06810 | (203) 748-4972

† Mark Your Calendars

We invite you all to mark your calendar for this year's Christmas Pageant at the 10:30 am service on Sunday, December 15th. We will be asking around all major parts in the next couple of weeks. If your child is interested in playing a larger role in the pageant, please email Julie Astbury at grandmaloveshb@gmail.com. All other children can simply show up at 9:30 am on the day of the pageant to participate!



† Salvation Army Kettles Here Next Sunday

St. Paul's Parish has been an ardent participant with the Salvation Army for over 25 years. Through our town wide efforts, every church, for one weekend, hosts a "Kettle & Bell" to collect donations for the Army. The Social Services Department in our Town, vets those who have "critical and urgent needs" that cannot be met through their regular funding. All funds administered are clearly identified as coming from the Christian Salvation Army.

St. Paul's can be proud of our contributions and mission to meet the worldwide and local needs of the Salvation Army.



MISSION STATEMENT

"The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian Church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination."

† Our Daily Bread

The "Our Daily Bread" booklets for December, January & February are now available at the back of the church. Our Daily Bread contains a scripture verse and meditation for each day.



After-Service Prayer Teams - We now have prayer ministers available after each service to meet with people in the first pew. This is in addition to the Wednesday prayer offered at the altar and Healing Sunday prayers at the altar. Please feel free to come forward to ask for prayer for yourself or others.



THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



December 1, 2024 – Advent 1 (C)
First Week of Advent: Saying “Yes” to the Journey

As Advent begins this week, we invite you to orient yourself to the coming of Jesus at Christmas through the practices of *Journeying the Way of Love*. This journey begins by saying “yes” to God’s call to birth new life into the world—a call that is both powerful and gentle, a call that will, if fully embraced, grow beyond our imaginations, spilling out of ourselves and into our family, friends, community, and the whole world. Over the course of this holy season, we invite you to respond to that call using these daily practices, and encourage you to offer them to your friends, family, and neighbors.

For more Advent resources related to the Way of Love, visit episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove. There, you’ll find links to the full Advent curriculum *Journeying the Way of Love*, as well as *Living the Way of Love in Community*, a nine-session curriculum for use anytime.

Sunday, December 1

WORSHIP

Read Luke 21:25-36. How do the symbols of the Advent season help you understand the story of Jesus? Where do you see them in your worship today?

Monday, December 2

PRAY

Pray along with the Collect for Advent 1, found on page 211 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Set a timer for three minutes to sit in silence and hear what God might be saying back to you.

Tuesday, December 3

TURN

Read Isaiah 58. How does this reading challenge you to think about feasts and festivals differently? How might this lesson change the way you celebrate or recognize this holy season?

Wednesday, December 4

BLESS

Call or write a letter to a family member with whom you would like to have a closer relationship. Make plans in the new year to chat on the phone or meet over Zoom or in person. Let them know how much you love them and look forward to knowing them better.

Thursday, December 5

REST

Put your phone on airplane mode and leave it in a dresser drawer for an hour or two. Whatever happens in that time, you can handle later. Give this time to yourself and Jesus, to rest and recharge for the week ahead.

Friday, December 6

GO

Go out into your neighborhood today. Where is God at work? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate that good work and name God’s presence in your community.

Saturday, December 7

LEARN

Read Luke 1:59-80. When Zechariah’s speech returns, he praises God. If you lost the power to speak for nine months like Zechariah did, what would be your first word of praise? Share this with your family, friends, and on social media.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Christopher Goodman opens presents on Saturday. **George Blass** celebrates on Monday. **Isa Kronberg, Buni Kovacs & Lisa Richardson** blow out candles next Wednesday. **Have a blessed day everyone!**



RFB WMA
Presents
COFFEE WITH JESUS
From the Heart

Row 1:

- Lisa:** Carl, how about you say grace before our big Thanksgiving Day feast?
- Carl:** You know I'm not good at that kind of thing, Lisa. I get embarrassed and sound stupid.
- Kevin:** You're just thanking God, Carl, and we'll be agreeing with you quietly.
- Joe:** Some of you will be judging me quietly.

Row 2:

- Lisa:** I confess, I've sometimes laughed inside when Carl prays in public.
- Carl:** Joe, this is your area of expertise: maybe you can lead?
- Kevin:** It should be everyone's area of expertise if I'm doing my job right.
- Joe:** Maybe we can all just say, "Thank you, Lord, for friends, family and food" on the count of three. Ready? One.. two...

Row 3:

- Lisa:** Wait! Should we also add that we pray for the less fortunate and those without family during this time?
- Carl:** Can we just enjoy this time of fellowship and thanksgiving without dragging everyone down with that stuff, Lisa?
- Kevin:** Let's go with Kevin's simple idea, but let's make it from the heart... and if you want to keep in mind Lisa's kind suggestion...
- Jesus:** Food's getting cold, guys.

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† This Sunday's Readings

(Click on the red links for the readings)

God's Promise Fulfilled

Jeremiah 33:14-16

In this prophetic lesson from the Hebrew scriptures the Lord's promise to the house of Israel and the house of Judah is reaffirmed, foreseeing the arrival of a messianic figure, a righteous branch who will execute justice and save the people. This passage may have been added to the Book of Jeremiah a century or so later. A sure confidence in God's deliverance sounds forth, and Christians have interpreted the passage as a prophecy regarding Christ.

Psalms 25:1-9

A prayer for forgiveness and guidance and an expression of trust in the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

In this New Testament reading the apostle Paul expressed gratitude to God for his disciples in Thessalonica and tells these followers of his prayers for them. He has heard a good report of their faith and love and their concern for him. He prays that he will soon see them again, and asks that they may grow in love and be established in holiness, in preparation for the coming of the Lord.

Luke 21:25-36

In our gospel lesson Jesus tells his disciples of the awe-inspiring crisis to come, which they may also recognize as the beginning of the time of their redemption. The heavens and earth will bear fearsome witness before the appearance of the heavenly judge, the Son of Man. As the budding fig tree foretells the advance of summer, so can all this calamity be recognized as a preparation for the drawing near of the kingdom of God. The believer is to be alert, fixed on Christ's words and teachings and prepare for the coming of the Lord.

Luke 21:25-36

If God's will were to be imposed on earth, at God's sole initiative, and over-riding the earth's built-in processes for change, then we would see that what is needed is not a few minor tweaks here and there; cataclysmic over-turnings are needed. Fainting from fear changes are needed.



† Sermon Shorts

“Until All Is Resolved.” To replay all our sermons, audio and videos follow this link for the [Sunday Sermons](#). Check out our [Sermon Archives](#) as well.



† Your Prayers Are Requested For...

It is such an intimate time when praying for the health and well being of others and such a privilege. As the church worldwide celebrates the beginning of its New Year, let us turn our minds and hearts to the larger community of which we are a part, as we pray others:

.....Harlan Jessup, Jan Brochu, Ed Licence, Gail Winkley, and other parishioners convalescing in extended care facilities.
.....Christ Church, Ansonia; St. Paul's, Bantam; Christ Church, Bethany.

.....Revival at St. Paul's and the greater Danbury area.
.....Postulants & candidates for Holy Orders; the Commission on Ministry & its members.

.....For the Peace of Jerusalem. - *Psalm 122:6*

.....Clayton Ferry, Barbara Hock, Jim Megura, Peter Scalzo, Sr., Peter Scalzo, Jr., Doris, Karen, Beverly Hall, Robert, Roger, Fred, Cynthia, Valerie, Heidi Pinheiro, Donna Cennamo, Dale Mitchell, Larry, Ruth, Rob Duckett, Blake, Nick Marcalus, Bill Bennett, Lenore, Susan Morrison, Elana and Veronika continued healing.

.....the people of [Ukraine](#); the people of the [Portuguese Republic](#); the people of [Chile](#); the bishop, clergy and laity of the Diocese of Kinshasa - Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo; and our sister and brother members of the [Protestant Methodist Church of Benin](#).

.....For renewal of prayer in our lives: that God will help us to quiet our minds and hearts, listen to the movement of the Spirit in our lives, and enlighten us to live the Gospel more fully.

.....St. Thomas, Bethel and the [Bethel Community Food Pantry](#), which is the recipient of our food basket collections for the month of December.

.....[New Hope Baptist Church](#), Danbury, an church partner of the Jericho Partnership.

.....Our missionaries, Will & Becky McLaughlin and their family, and their ministry in Cambodia; and for all missionaries: that God will inspire the message that they offer, help them to recognize how they can best serve their communities, and sustain them in times of loneliness.

.....[Self-Dedication](#).

.....For all who are traveling this week: that God will guide them on their way home or back to school, preserve them from harm, and help them arrive without delay.

.....For the one third of humanity that does not have access to the gospel, for zealous preachers of the word, that by the Holy Spirit, they that they would become strong in their faith, grow in numbers and be a light to those around them.

.....That we have the courage to share our faith story with others and accompany them on their journey.

.....For the gift of patience: that God will teach us how to wait and allow God's plan to unfold in our lives and our relationships.

.....[Peace Among the Nations](#).





A new candle is lit each week



"Advent in 2 Minutes"

What is Advent all about? How is Advent different than Christmas? In this video, Busted Halo explains the significance of this special season in the Church and why the experience of waiting, hope, and preparation is still so important in our lives today.



Just For the Joy of It!

(And Christian Fellowship)

UPON ARRIVING IN THE NEW WORLD THE PILGRIMS DISCOVERED A STRANGE NEW BIRD.



THEY PLUCKED OFF THE FEATHERS, COOKED AND SERVED THEM.



IT WAS HORRIBLE.

NEXT TIME WE TRY THE MEAT.



Random Fact of the Week!

Did you know ... that, ice eggs, also known as ice balls, are a rare phenomenon caused by a process in which small pieces of sea ice in open water are rolled over by wind and currents in freezing conditions and grow into spheroid pieces of ice?



HEY! I WEIGH EXACTLY 3.14 POUNDS!



PUMPKIN PI

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WHAYLAND 10-27

Find us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter

Find Us On Instagram

Watch us on YouTube

Ecclesiasticus 43:27 - We could say more but could never say enough; let the final word be: 'He is the all.' - 30 -