

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"Historic Key West's Church"

December 25, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Morning Prayer

The Episcopal Church &
We, here at St. Paul's, Welcome You!

Our Vision and Mission...

St. Paul's Church is a magnet drawing all people to the spiritual, cultural and re-creational heart of the community. We aspire to this vision by our mission to know that we are Christ's body in the world, revealing the love of God.

We remind ourselves of the words in scripture wherein God said,

"... my house shall be a house of prayer for all people."

So today we pray that when you come through the doors of the sanctuary you will be greeted by love of God abiding in our hearts and minds. Your presence is a blessing to us today.



Wexford Carol
Solo, Dean Warden

arr. Richard Walters

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3

The Invitatory and Psalter

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Alleluia.

Psalms 95:1-7

Alleluia. To us a child is born:

Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

*Alleluia. To us a child is born:
Come let us adore him. Alleluia.*

Psalm 119: He *Legem pone*

- 33 Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes, *
and I shall keep it to the end.
- 34 Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; *
I shall keep it with all my heart.
- 35 Make me go in the path of your commandments, *
for that is my desire.
- 36 Incline my heart to your decrees *
and not to unjust gain.
- 37 Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; *
give me life in your ways.
- 38 Fulfill your promise to your servant, *
which you make to those who fear you.
- 39 Turn away the reproach which I dread, *
because your judgments are good.
- 40 Behold, I long for your commandments; *
in your righteousness preserve my life.

Waw *Et veniat super me*

- 41 Let your loving-kindness come to me, O Lord, *
and your salvation, according to your promise.

- 42 Then shall I have a word for those who taunt me, *
because I trust in your words.
- 43 Do not take the word of truth out of my mouth, *
for my hope is in your judgments.
- 44 I shall continue to keep your law; *
I shall keep it for ever and ever.
- 45 I will walk at liberty, *
because I study your commandments.
- 46 I will tell of your decrees before kings *
and will not be ashamed.
- 47 I delight in your commandments, *
which I have always loved.
- 48 I will lift up my hands to your commandments, *
and I will meditate on your statutes.

Zayin *Memor esto verbi tui*

- 49 Remember your word to your servant, *
because you have given me hope.
- 50 This is my comfort in my trouble, *
that your promise gives me life.
- 51 The proud have derided me cruelly, *
but I have not turned from your law.
- 52 When I remember your judgments of old, *
O Lord, I take great comfort.
- 53 I am filled with a burning rage, *
because of the wicked who forsake your law.
- 54 Your statutes have been like songs to me *
wherever I have lived as a stranger.
- 55 I remember your Name in the night, O Lord, *
and dwell upon your law.
- 56 This is how it has been with me, *
because I have kept your commandments.

Heth *Portio mea, Domine*

- 57 You only are my portion, O Lord; *
I have promised to keep your words.
- 58 I entreat you with all my heart, *
be merciful to me according to your promise.
- 59 I have considered my ways *
and turned my feet toward your decrees.

- 60 I hasten and do not tarry *
to keep your commandments.
- 61 Though the cords of the wicked entangle me, *
I do not forget your law.
- 62 At midnight I will rise to give you thanks, *
because of your righteous judgments.
- 63 I am a companion of all who fear you *
and of those who keep your commandments.
- 64 The earth, O Lord, is full of your love; *
instruct me in your statutes.

Teth *Bonitatem fecisti*

- 65 O Lord, you have dealt graciously with your servant, *
according to your word.
- 66 Teach me discernment and knowledge, *
for I have believed in your commandments.
- 67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, *
but now I keep your word.
- 68 You are good and you bring forth good; *
instruct me in your statutes.
- 69 The proud have smeared me with lies, *
but I will keep your commandments with my whole heart.
- 70 Their heart is gross and fat, *
but my delight is in your law.
- 71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted, *
that I might learn your statutes.
- 72 The law of your mouth is dearer to me *
than thousands in gold and silver.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

First Reading

Zechariah 2:10-13 NRSV

A Reading from the Book of Zechariah.

Thus said the Lord of hosts: Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the Lord. Many nations shall join themselves to the Lord on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. The Lord will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all people, before the Lord; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Song of Zechariah

Benedictus Dominus Deus
Luke 1:68-79 (Canticle 16)

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 salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon 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 to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Second Reading

1 John 4:7-16 NRSV

A Reading from the First Letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love

one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

You are God *Te Deum laudamus*
(Canticle 21)

You are God: we praise you;

You are the Lord: we acclaim you;

You are the eternal Father:

All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,

Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.

The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.

The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;

Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,

the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free

you did not shun the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death

and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.

We believe that you will come and be our judge.

Come then, Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Suffrages

Versicle. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

Response. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.
V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;
R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;
R. For we put our trust in you.
V. In you, Lord, is our hope;
R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect of the Day

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Prayer for Mission

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

Solo In the Bleak Midwinter Harold Darke
 Dean Warden, solo

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. *Romans 15:13*

Readers: Joseph Lyles
 Dean Warden
Organist: Tim Peterson

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