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Sunday - 5:00 PM
Monday – 12:30AM, 1:00 PM & 11:00 PM**

Welcome



St. Paul's
Episcopal Church

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
December 14, 2025

MORNING PRAYER: RITE II
8:00 & 9:30 AM

Music notations for 9:30 service only.

**In the name of Christ,
we are truly delighted to worship together.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Gathering

Whether worshipping in person, online or tv, we are One in Christ. *Please place your offering in the basket as it is passed during the offertory, or give [online](#). You may also scan the [QR CODE](#) located on the back page of the bulletin to make a donation.*

Hymn 76 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry Winchester New

Words of Welcome

Opening Sentence

BCP, p. 75

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together. *Isaiah 40:5*

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Third Sunday Of Advent

Leader: Dear Friends in Christ, today is the Third Sunday of Advent on which we celebrate the joy of God in Christ. Jesus dwells among us that his joy may be in us, and that our joy may be complete.

As we light three candles on the Advent wreath, let us prepare our hearts to claim the joy which Jesus promises.

THREE candles are lit.

ALL: Be our light in the darkness, O Lord: Shed your eternal light upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives bless you and our worship give you glory; for the love of our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

-adapted from The St. Nicholas Center Advent Customary and Evening Prayer, BCP, page 123.

CONFESSION & DECLARATION OF PARDON

BCP, p. 79

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *AMEN.*

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

BCP, p. 80-81

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People: **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.**

The following Antiphon is said before and after the Invitatory Psalm (Jubilate).
Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.

JUBILATE: PSALM 100

BCP, p. 82

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Our King and Savior now draws near: Come, let us adore him.

PSALM 146:4-9 *Sung by the cantor at the 9:30.*

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the LORD their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The LORD sets the prisoners free;
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; *
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The LORD loves the righteous;
the LORD cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The LORD shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

**Officiant and People: 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

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful

heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Canticle 14 *A Song of Penitence*

BCP, p. 90

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, *

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
and of all their righteous offspring:

You made the heavens and the earth, *
with all their vast array.

All things quake with fear at your presence; *
they tremble because of your power.

But your merciful promise is beyond all measure; *
it surpasses all that our minds can fathom.

O Lord, you are full of compassion, *
long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

You hold back your hand; *
you do not punish as we deserve.
In your great goodness, Lord,
you have promised forgiveness to sinners, *
that they may repent of their sin and be saved.
And now, O Lord, I bend the knee of my heart, *
and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned, *
and I know my wickedness only too well.
Therefore I make this prayer to you: *
Forgive me, Lord, forgive me.
Do not let me perish in my sin, *
nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.
For you, O Lord, are the God of those who repent, *
and in me you will show forth your goodness.
Unworthy as I am, you will save me,
in accordance with your great mercy, *
and I will praise you without ceasing all the days of my life.
For all the powers of heaven sing your praises, *
and yours is the glory to ages of ages. Amen.

SECOND READING

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

At 8:00: Spoken

At 9:30: Hymn 437 Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! *Birmingham*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him *
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, *
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, *
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,

The promise he made to our fathers, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.*

THIRD READING

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Homily

Hope McGrath

The Apostles Creed

BCP, p. 96

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

BCP, p. 97

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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.

SUFFRAGES B

BCP, p. 98

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

R. 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 upon 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.

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

A COLLECT FOR THE RENEWAL OF LIFE

BCP, p. 99

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning; Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A COLLECT FOR MISSION

BCP, p. 100

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

St. Paul's Prayer List

Bulletin page 12

The Peace

The Offertory

*Please place your offering in the basket as it is passed, or give [online](#). You may also scan the **QR code** on the back page of the bulletin to make a donation. **Please STAND as you are able as the gifts are brought forward in procession to the altar.***

Offertory Sentence Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Text: 14th Century German Hymn

Translated by Catherine Winkworth (1827 - 1878)

A spotless Rose is blowing
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter
And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might
The blessed babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Said in unison

BCP, p. 101

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

The Dismissal

BCP, p. 102

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

The Grace

BCP, p. 102

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. **Amen.** *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Hymn 67

Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

Birthdays, Anniversaries & Life's Milestones

Announcements

Postlude

Declamation on Psalm 42

Craig Phillips



THE ST. PAUL'S PRAYER LIST

Today, we pray for St. Stephen's, Bloomfield; St. George's, Bolton; Trinity, Branford; Those who advocate at the local, state, national, or global level for the poor, the lonely & the oppressed. For Swords to Plowshares; Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil; for our Presiding Bishop Sean and our Bishops Jeffrey and Laura.

We pray for peace and justice in our world, especially places of war and conflict. We pray for peace in Gaza, Israel, Sudan, Yemen, Ukraine, and Russia. We pray for other concerns mentioned silently or aloud...

We offer other thanksgivings mentioned now silently or aloud...

We pray for those in any need or trouble, especially for Brian Johnson, Roger Haynes, Shawn Winberg; and for those named now silently or aloud...

We pray for the departed: For those named now silently or aloud.....

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME – and thank you for your presence and prayers today. Thank you to Darlene James for volunteering to play the 8:00 Prelude: Meditation on Conditor Alme (Creator of the stars of night) by Rowley and Offertory: E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come by Manz, arranged for flute and organ by Brunelle; and thank you to Helen Stowe for playing the flute. Thank you to Sharon Turlis (8:00 & 9:30 officiant) and to Hope McGrath for preaching at both services today. Thank you to Stephanie Crump (8:00 crucifer), Maura Ryan (8:00 1st reading), Patti Cullen (8:00 2nd reading/intercessor), MaryLiz Williamson (8:00 3rd reading), Gene Gervais (8:00 usher), Helen Stowe (9:30 crucifer), Carol Gervais (9:30 1st reading), Denise Adamczyk (9:30 2nd reading), Zac Boulter (8:00 3rd reading), Helen Stowe (9:30 intercessor), Tammy Napoli (9:30 usher) and Samantha Martinez (cantor). Thank you to the Tech team for tech support.

Advent Adult Forum - This year during Advent all of the Sunday gospel readings are from the Gospel According to Matthew. The Adult Forum will read, study, and discuss these readings on three Wednesdays (12/3, 12/10, 12/17). We'll learn a bit about the background of Matthew's gospel and consider how the assigned readings help us on our Advent (and life!) journeys. The Forum meets on Wednesdays via Zoom at 7:00 p.m., and all are welcome to join. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Foster at foster9092@gmail.com. Here is the Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84046492740?pwd=eWlWZ0tuZGVZeU5Rng1ekZvV0hSZz0>.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas Memorials – deadline is TODAY, December 14 - Christmas is a special season to remember your loved ones. And what better way to honor their memory than with a Christmas memorial flower. If you would like to make a donation to the Christmas memorials, please submit a form with the names of those you would like remembered along with your check payable to St. Paul's Flower Fund in the amount of \$35.00. The deadline is December 14th. Please be sure to include your name, address and phone number. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Rogalski at 203- 678-4824 or srogal156@comcast.net.

If you would like to make a special offering for Christmas, you are welcome to make a gift to the church for the season. There are envelopes at the entrances to the sanctuary.

Annual Reports due - Committee Chairs and others who wish to submit information, please have your annual reports in to the Parish Office by Tuesday, January 6th. The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 25th, 2026.

Volunteers needed for the Wallingford Emergency Shelter - This year the Wallingford Emergency Shelter will be open during the cold weather months. It continues to be run by Columbus House, and during the weeks when Choate is in session, they will be providing the dinners. The shelter needs help during the weeks Choate is closed for vacation, and **St. Paul's has signed up to help out on January 2 and 3 as well as March 20 and 21.** We will provide the dinner and also food for bag lunches for the next day. We will need people to help with some cooking, serving, and cleaning up. If you are interested in helping on one or both of those dates, please sign up on the sheet on the easel at church or email Amy Foster at foster9092@gmail.com.

In addition, if you are available at other times to transport food from Choate to the shelter, please contact Amy for more details.

The Wednesday Fellowship and Joy Club - We meet at noon to worship, share a bag lunch and then join in playing some simple games and conversation. Usually ends by 2pm.

Rector's Discretionary Fund - The Church has a small fund to help members in times of need, and we need to replenish it from time to time. On the first Sunday of the month, we will use any loose offering (offerings other than pledge income) to fund the account. There is also a new category for online giving for donations to the Discretionary Fund. It is especially appropriate to make small donations as gifts of thanks, and we often receive gifts for weddings, baptisms, or to give thanks for a loved one.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The church will be open for prayer & reflection Wednesdays from 10AM-1PM.

Contact information for the Rev. Greg Welin – You may reach me in the office on most Wednesdays and Thursdays. It would be best to make an appointment to see me if you can. My email is rector@stpaulswallingford.org. In the event of an emergency, you may call my cell phone at 203 206 4802.

The Parish Office Hours–The parish office is open to the public on Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:00AM-2:00PM. Please email or call the office at (203) 269-5050 to arrange any additional times to meet. Calls, emails and other matters will generally be addressed during business hours of 9:00-3:00 Tuesday-Friday.



Christmastide 2025 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Wednesday, December 24: The Eve of the Nativity

- 4:00 PM** Family Pageant Service with Holy Eucharist
9:30 PM Choral Prelude with St. Paul's Choir,
flute & string quartet
10:00 PM Candlelight Service with Choir &
Carols & Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 25: The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Single service at 9:30AM Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 28: The First Sunday After Christmas

- 8:00 AM** Holy Eucharist, Rite I and
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
No Nursery or Church School.

Sunday, January 4: The Second Sunday After Christmas

- 8:00 AM** Holy Eucharist, Rite I
9:30 AM Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Nursery & Church School resume.

CONTACT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH



Drawing of St. Paul's Church by Dan Lyon

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Wallingford” YouTube channel,

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Scan the QR code to make a donation.

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