

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

St. Paul's is an affirming and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. All are welcome, no exceptions!



**Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2017, 8:00 A.M.
Rite I**

The Holy Eucharist Rite I
The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

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The Collect of the Day

Second Sunday of Advent

Merciful God, who sent thy messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

We sit to hear the lessons.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand for ever.

Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

See, the Lord GOD comes with might,

and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,

and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

- 1 You have been gracious to your land, O LORD, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.
- 2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.
- 8 I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.
- 9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.
- 10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.
- 11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.
- 12 The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.
- 13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

The Second Lesson

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Prayers of the People for The Second Sunday of Advent

Intercessor As heralds of God's good tidings, let us lift up our voices with strength this day praying to the One who comforts, restores, and heals.

Silence

In your mercy

People Lord, save us.

Intercessor Let us pray for your church. You have given us the gift of the Messiah so that your church may be steadfast and true. Give us strength to follow your Son until all have come to repentance and are reconciled by his. Strengthen our leaders, especially Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeff our Diocesan Bishop, and our priest, Ed. * For the congregations of Western North Carolina, for our companion Dioceses of Renk in the South Sudan and Southeast Mexico; and for the ecumenical relationships between the churches in full Communion with the Episcopal Church: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Church of North India; Church of South India; Church of Pakistan; Church of Bangladesh; the Old Catholic Churches; the Philippine Independent Church; the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar; and the Moravian Church in America, Northern and Southern Provinces..

Silence

In your mercy,

People Lord, save us.

Intercessor Let us pray for all leaders and people of the world. You have created one human family to live in righteousness and peace. Give us the wisdom to order our common life according to your loving purposes that your glory may be revealed and all people shall see it. We pray especially for our president, Donald, our governor, Bruce, and our mayor, Jerry.

Silence

In your mercy,

People Lord, save us.

Intercessor Pray for the peace of this community. We pray for peace in this place for safety in our homes and streets, for the prosperity of our neighbors, and for the health of family and friends. For all who live in worry or fear,

Silence

In your mercy,

People Lord, save us.

Intercessor Let us pray for those who are sick, who suffer need, who are exiled or in danger. You have made us for a holy purpose, to comfort and care for each other. Give us compassion to love our neighbor and patience to care for those in. We pray also for those facing new challenges. We pray especially for Marilyn, Dorothy, Margaret, Patty, Kathy, David, Merrill, Michele and family, Rene, and Rosemarie.

Silence

In your mercy,

People Lord, save us.

Intercessor We remember before you not only our cares, but also our joys. For those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Betsy Pool, Pam Kombrink, Jan Bach, Mechelle Goodenough, Denise Solder, and Martin Mounts, and those celebrating anniversaries, especially Terry and Jackie Dickow.

Silence

In your mercy,

People *Lord, save us.*

Intercessor We remember those who have come to their eternal rest; help us to comfort those who grieve their loss.

Silence

In your mercy,

People *Lord, save us.*

Intercessor For all those needs still unnamed but placed before you now.

(The people may add their prayers either silently or out loud.)

Silence

In your mercy,

People *Lord, save us.*

Intercessor Ever-living God, one day in your presence is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. Make us one with the saints, who have found their eternal home in you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

**Every week we will pray for a different international church in the Anglican Communion as part of the Anglican Cycle of Prayer. We also will pray weekly for churches and ministries in the Diocese of Chicago and our Companion Dioceses as part of the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer.*

Confession of Sin

Form 2, Page 331

The Peace

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The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

The Offertory

Eucharistic Prayer II

Form 2, Pages 340-343

The Lord's Prayer

Page 336

The Breaking of the Bread

Agnus Dei

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Prayer of Humble Access

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*The Episcopal Church invites all Christians to receive communion. The host is placed in your open hands; please assist in guiding the chalice to your lips, or dip the host in the wine. **We have gluten free hosts available, ask the priest at the rail.** It is acceptable to receive only the bread or the wine. If you would rather not receive communion, you are invited to come to the rail for a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will say a prayer for you.*

The Post Communion Prayer

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The Blessing

Priest: Let us go forth in the name of Christ

People: *Amen.*

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church

DeKalb, Illinois, Diocese of Chicago

Member of the Episcopal Church

Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Second and Fourth Sundays: 8:00 A.M. (spoken)

Sundays: 10:30 A.M. (with music)

Child care for infants & young children is available

Sundays 9:15 A.M. - 11:45 A.M. in the Nursery.

Christian Education Classes for All Ages

Children and youth meet in the St. Timothy Center;

2nd Sunday in September - 3rd Sunday in May. 9:30 A.M.

Adults meet in the conference room year-round, 9:15 A.M.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

900 Normal Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115

Parish Office: 815-756-4888 Email: parishoffice@stpaulsdekalb.org

Website: <http://www.stpaulsdekalb.org>

Parish Office Hours: Mondays-Thursdays 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

The Reverend Edward T. Bird, IV, Rector, Email: revedbird@stpaulsdekalb.org

Susan King, Administrative Assistant

Lorraine Langer, Director of Music Ministries

Kathleen Johnson, Organist Hannah Buckle, Pianist

Our Wardens and Vestry

Peggy Newby, Senior Warden, Freyja Rasmussen-Johns, Junior Warden,

Pat Brown, Treasurer, Julie Stubblefield, Gretchen Schlabach,

Brad Smith, Linda Lorbach, Marv Kombrink

This Week at St. Paul's

Today, Sunday December 10th, 2017, Second Sunday of Advent		
The Holy Eucharist Rite I	8:00 A.M.	Sanctuary
Nursery and Child Care	9:15-11:45 A.M.	St. Timothy Ctr.
Adult Sunday School	9:15 A.M.	Conf. Room
Children's Sunday School	9:30 A.M.	St. Timothy Ctr.
Choir Rehearsal	10:15 A.M.	Parish Hall
The Holy Eucharist, Rite II (with music)	10:30 A.M.	Sanctuary
Children's Christmas Party	11:30 A.M.	Parish Hall

This Week - December 10th, 2017 through December 17th, 2017			
Wed	Dec 13	Children's Waiting Room	3:00 P.M. Parish Hall
Thu	Dec 14	Instrumental Rehearsal	5:00-6:00 P.M. Sanctuary
Thu	Dec 14	Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:00-6:30 P.M. Parish Hall
Thu	Dec 14	Adult/Youth Choir Rehearsal	7:00-9:00 P.M. Parish Hall
Sun	Dec 17	Nursery and Childcare Available	9:15-11:45 A.M. St. Timothy Ctr
		Adult Sunday School	9:15 A.M. Conf. Room
		<i>No Children's Sunday School</i>	
		Choir Rehearsal	10:15 A.M. Parish Hall
		The Holy Eucharist, Rite II	10:30 A.M. Sanctuary
		Coffee and Fellowship	11:30 A.M. Parish Hall
		Vestry Meeting	12:15 P.M. Conf. Room

Announcements

Welcome! If you are worshipping here for the first time, please sign our guest book. You are welcome to join us for refreshments after the service in the Parish Hall.

Children's Christmas Party

Please join us **today, December 10th**, following the 10:30 a.m. worship service for our annual Children's Christmas Party. All are welcome to partake of the fun and fellowship as we decorate the Parish Hall trees with ornaments and crafts. Stay for pizza!

Send your Christmas flower memorials and thanksgivings by December 17

We are accepting donations for Christmas flowers now through December 17th. Please write "Christmas Flowers" in the memo of your check and be sure to include your dedication. Look for the Christmas Flower envelopes and place these in the collection plate. Suggested donation is \$25-\$30.

Safe Passage Gifts

Once again we are collecting donations for Safe Passage, our local Domestic Violence Prevention Agency. St Paul's has contributed to them at Christmas for many years. This year, as last, we will give funds to them so they can purchase gift cards and use them where needed. If you would like to participate please write a check to St Paul's by Dec 17th, list "Safe Passage" in the "Memo" line and we will forward the total to Safe Passage. It will become part of your donation record to St Paul's. If you prefer to write a check directly to Safe Passage, we will forward that also.

Christmas for Church Family Members

Dear Members of St. Paul's - We'd like to brighten Christmas for the Sitzes-Piper family this year (Gail, Lonnie & Jennifer). We have size information for each of them. Please contact Maureen Gerrity for more information - mtgbcm@yahoo.com or 815-895-8084.. Wrapped gifts should be delivered to the Fellowship Hall by Sunday, Dec. 17. Thank you!

St. Nicholas "Mighty Boxes"

"Mighty" boxes for collecting coins to benefit children's ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem are available today. A coin a day in the "Mighty" Box reminds us of the true reason for the season--the arrival of the Christ child for the healing of the world. We will gather in the Mighty Boxes on Sunday, January 7th when we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany.

Food Pantry Collection is Today, December 10th

Parishioners are reminded that next Sunday, December 10th, will be Food Pantry Sunday. Please place your donations in the baskets provided. No glass jars, please. **Contributions may be made at any time during the month, not just today.** We hope that everyone will participate, even in a small way.

Prayer List

If you would like to add someone to be prayed for in The Prayers of the People, you can fill out one of the blue sheets available on the table near the Narthex and give it to the ushers. Or call or email the Parish Office. Names will appear for six weeks, but can be continued if the need continues.

Talking to the Community

We are hoping to send out press releases on the activities at St. Paul's on a regular basis. Please let the Parish Office know of any ideas you have to speak about the parish activities and members.

St. Paul's is an affirming and inclusive Christian community!

Striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, gender expression, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we! All are welcome, no exceptions!

For more information about St. Paul's

Go to our website, www.stpaulsdekab.org - to hear the Sermons, Announcements, Schedules, Mars Hill Newsletter, etc. The Church of St. Paul is on Facebook and Twitter! Like our page and sign up to follow us to get the latest updates on what's going on!

Citations

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Cover: Holy Spirit Catholic church, www.newadvent.org

Prayers of the People and Household Prayers. Long, K. B. (2013). *Feasting on the Word: Liturgies for Year B*. Westminster John Knox Press: Louisville, Kentucky.

Household Prayer: Morning

Lord, how I love this season of new beginnings, the opportunity to turn toward you and start again. Empower me to be a messenger of good news, and a leveling influence along the way, as I seek to be one with you in smoothing out the rough places I encounter.

Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening

Lord, you have comforted me throughout this day and rescued me from my exile. Where I have flourished, I give you thanks; where I have erred, I ask your forgiveness. Protect me through the night that I may rest in your realm of peace where righteousness makes a home. Amen.