



**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**  
The Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2025 • 10am

*Welcome to St. Paul's! We are grateful for your presence in worship and look forward to welcoming you into this life we share through the love of Jesus Christ! Please don't forget to silence your devices as our worship service begins.*

*Families are welcome to sit anywhere they would like, including in our dedicated children's area in the Chapel, which features self-directed activities and books. An all-gender restroom and a ladies' room are located in the Parish Hall on the Occidental Avenue side of the church campus. Children's Chapel activities also take place in that building on Sundays featuring those group offerings. Our worship service is live-streamed on St. Paul's YouTube Channel, where we welcome online friends to pray with us.*

*All are warmly invited to participate in Holy Communion at St. Paul's. If you prefer not to receive the wine, simply cross your arms over your chest as the Eucharistic Minister greets you saying, "the Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation." Thank you for sharing the light of your presence with our community! May God's presence be very near to you in this holy season!*

**Prelude**

*Variations on the Magnificat, Joseph Bonnet (1884-1944)*

*All stand to sing*

**Processional Hymn**

*"O come, O come, Emmanuel," Veni, veni, Emmanuel*



1. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh;
2. O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny
3. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen wide our heaven - ly home;
4. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,



1. dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
2. that trust thy might - y power to save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave.
3. make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
4. that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em-man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

**Opening Acclamation**

**Celebrant** Blessed are you, holy and living One.

**People** **You come to your people and set them free.**

## A Prayer for Illumination

Holy One, whose coming we await, you invite us into the light of your presence: Illumine the dim places of our hearts and in our world. We long for your reign of mercy, justice, and compassion. Draw near to us and strengthen us to strain in hope toward your redemption. **Amen.**

## Advent Scripture

Psalm 27: 1, 5, 14

The Lord is my light and my salvation;  
whom shall I fear?  
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?  
God will hide me in safe shelter  
in the day of trouble;  
God will conceal me under the cover of his tent;  
he will set me high on a rock.  
Wait for the Lord;  
be strong, and let your heart take courage;  
wait for the Lord!

*All are invited to sing the Kyrie during the lighting of the Advent wreath.*

## Kyrie Eleison

*The St. Helen's Service, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange (b. 1971)*

Lord, have — mer - cy,

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have — mer - cy,

Christ, have — mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy,

Lord, — have — mer - cy.

*p*

## The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

*The people are seated. Children are invited to process out to participate in Children's Chapel in the Parish Hall.*

## The First Lesson

Isaiah 35: 1-10

### A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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.

*After the reading, the reader says*

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
People **Thanks be to God.**

O Clavis O Key of David

*O Antiphon, 6<sup>th</sup>-Century Chant*

*Cantor sings REFRAIN. All sing REFRAIN.*



Cantor sings the *O Antiphon* chant in Latin:

*O Clavis David,  
et sceptrum domus Israel:  
qui aperis, et nemo claudit;  
Claudis, et nemo aperit:  
Veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris,  
Sedentem in tenebris et umbra mortis.*

O Key of David,  
and scepter of the house of Israel:  
You open and no one closes;  
You close and no one opens:  
Come and deliver us from the chains of prison,  
We who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

*All sing REFRAIN.*

The Second Lesson

James 5: 7-10

A reading from the Letter of James

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.

*After the reading, the reader says*

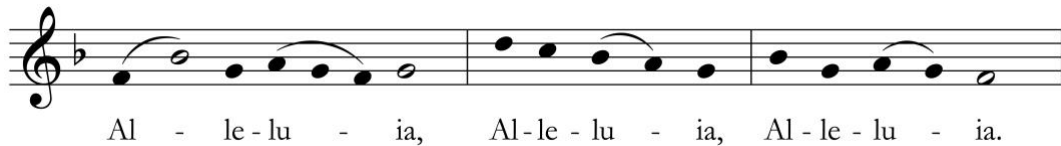
Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
People **Thanks be to God.**

*All stand.*

Alleluia

based on an *O Antiphon*, 6<sup>th</sup>-Century Chant

*Cantor sings ALLELUIA. All sing ALLELUIA.*



*Cantor* Come and deliver us; We who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

*All sing ALLELUIA.*

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 11: 2-11

**Reader** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People** **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.”

*After the Gospel, the reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The people are seated.*

Sermon

The Rev. Susanna Singer

*All stand to say*

## The Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## The Prayers of the People

*Hear Our Prayer*

O Lord who has created and loved us and who calls to us be still and wait. Heed our prayers as we say, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Help us to hear and to accept gratefully your call to be God's people, ignoring the glory and favor of this world in favor of the glory of the kingdom of God. In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. We also pray for St. Lucy's, East Bay in the Diocese of California.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Turn us away from our fears and division and teach us to embrace your promise, that ours might be a nation of hope and generosity.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes to the majesty of your creation and strengthen our resolve to preserve its abundance for the sustenance of all future generations.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lead us to where your loving presence is most needed and help us to be your agents of love to our neighbors.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enter into the lives of all who suffer, that they might draw strength from your presence. Especially we ask for your healing powers in the lives of Janet Bock, Rodney Gehrke, Michael Kimball, Sonny Liu, Ray Loughrey, Jen Norman, Katy Pessner, Linda Pittman, Jim Prescott, Parker Quickert, Craig Tam, and John Coltrane Taumoepeau.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Deal tenderly with those who are grieving and with those whose wounds from loss are reopened at this time of year. May we feel the assurance of your promises that we will be reunited in your glorious presence in the new age.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, in the face of Christ we see the fullness of your love for us, help us to be the people you created us to be and to live fully in the light of your countenance. All this we ask in the name of Lord, Jesus Christ who with You and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, One God, now and always.

**Amen.**

### The Confession

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

### The Absolution

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### The Peace

May the God of peace make you whole and holy, ever ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and then are seated.*

### Announcements

# Offertory Anthem

*Go and tell John*, Spiritual, arr. Larry Fleming

*Go. Go and tell him.*

*Go and tell John what you have seen. Go and tell John what you have heard.*

*Go and tell John what you have seen and heard, let all you with ears now listen.*

*The blind receive their sight. The lame walk, and the deaf hear once again.*

*The dead are raised up, good news preached to the poor, and blessed are they who believe in me.*

*Go and tell John.*

~ Matthew 11: 4, 5

*All stand to sing*

## Presentation Hymn

“People look East,” *Besançon Carol*

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the  
 2. Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more  
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the  
 crown - ing of the year. Make your house  
 seed is plant - ed there: Give up your  
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the  
 fair as you are a - ble, trim the  
 strength the seed to nour - ish, that in  
 hour when wings are fro - zen God for  
 hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look  
 course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look  
 fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look  
 East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the rose is on the way.  
 East and sing to - day: Love the bird is on the way.



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words followed by blank lines for breath or emphasis. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests, connected by slurs and beams. The first staff is for the Celebrant, and the second is for the People. The third and fourth staves are for the Celebrant and People respectively, with the People's part starting on a lower line.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

The \_\_\_\_ Lord be \_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_ you. And \_\_\_\_ al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*

Lift \_\_\_\_ up your \_\_\_\_ hearts. \_\_\_\_ We lift \_\_\_\_ them to \_\_\_\_ the Lord. \_\_\_\_

*Celebrant*

Let us give thanks \_\_\_\_ to the Lord \_\_\_\_ our God.

*People*

It is right \_\_\_\_ to give God thanks and praise. \_\_\_\_

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*All sing*  
Sanctus

*The St. Helen's Service, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange*

*mp*  
Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

6 *cresc.* *mf*  
God of pow-er and might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-

9 *f* *mf* *f*  
san - na, ho-san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the

13 *mp*  
high-est. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,

16 *p* *mf* *f*  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, ho - san - na, ho-

20 *mf* *f*  
san - na in the high-est, ho - san - na, ho-san - na in the high - est.

*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer, giving thanks for God's work of redemption through Jesus Christ and consecrating the bread and wine for Holy Communion. The people join in sacramental witness, speaking to the mystery of God's saving grace.*

...Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues with prayers of thanksgiving and concludes with this phrase of invitation to the Great Amen.*

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Most Blessed One, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer *All are invited to sing*

Our Fa - ther who art in heav'n, hal-low'd be thy name. Thy

king-dom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heav'n. Give

us this day our dai - ly bread. And for -

give us our tres-pas-ses, As we for - give those who tres-pass a - gainst us.

And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion,

But de - liv - er us from e - vil.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the Bread. A period of silence is kept. All are invited to sing.*

### Agnus Dei

*The St. Helen's Service, Joanna Forbes L'Estrange*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world, Lamb of  
God, you take a-way the sin of the world. Have mer-cy on us, have  
mer-cy on us, have mer - cy. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world, Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world,  
grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

### Invitation to Communion

*The Celebrant lifts the bread and wine saying,*

The gifts of God for the people of God. If you feel drawn to this table, let nothing keep you away.

*All who are drawn to Christ are welcome to receive communion at St. Paul's. Please follow the usher's invitation to receive the bread (gluten free wafers available upon request) and wine at the altar rails. If you would like a blessing instead of the Eucharist, please cross your arms over your chest.*

### Communion Anthem

*E'en so, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come, Paul Manz (1919-2009)*

*Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins,  
Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might saved be.  
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord!  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming soon!  
E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come, And night shall be no more;  
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, For Christ will be their All!*

~ Revelation 1, 22; adapt. Ruth Manz (1919-2008)

## Postcommunion Prayer

## Common Worship

*All stand as the Celebrant invites,*

Let us pray.

**We give you thanks, O God, for these heavenly gifts; kindle in us the fire of your Spirit that when your Christ comes again we may shine as lights before his face; who is alive and reigns now and for ever. Amen.**

## The Blessing

O God, you have set before us a great hope that your kingdom will come on earth, and have taught us to pray for its coming. Make us ready to thank you for the signs of its dawning, and to work as we wait for that perfect day when your will shall be done on earth as it is in heaven. As we await Christ's coming in glory, may the eternal God enfold us with love, fill us with peace, and lead us in hope. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Savior, and Holy Spirit be with you this day and always.

**Amen.**

*All are invited to sing*

Hymn 640

“Watchman, tell us of the night,” *Aberystwyth*

## Dismissal

As we await our coming Savior, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

*All remain standing until the procession has departed.*

## Postlude

*Präludium in g*, BuxWV 149, Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

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