



ADVENT
CHRISTMAS
EPIPHANY
2025-2026



St. PAUL'S
Episcopal Church

FROM OUR RECTOR

Life in community shimmers with gifts of love God reveals through human kindness and care. We savor all that is present—with us and for us—as we participate in creating joyful experiences that expand our understanding of beloved community at St. Paul's.

I pray our hearts rejoice as we reflect on the gifts God inspires us to share every day:

- **Nurturing the next generation**, connecting us in stories and rituals that form us to lead with love, like bringing a child-sized cross for a junior acolyte to carry.
- **Sharing experience, strength, and hope** as we walk with another who is facing a challenge, so that together we can feel love's warmth.
- **Living daily acts of mercy and compassion** that show God's faithful presence with all people in the human family who are familiar with vulnerability and lack.
- **Mobilizing courage** that empowers us to magnify Christ's mission of making peace, equity, and justice for all who live on society's margins and especially for those who are afraid and confused in these tumultuous times.

Love makes a home with us. The Spirit of Love lives in us. Love delights in the faith with which we offer our gifts to be blessed at God's table. Here, Christ elevates us all, blessing us so that we, in turn, become "gifts of God" offered in generous compassion to uplift all who hunger and thirst for the Love that transforms all things.

May the grace of our life together in the Body of Christ be the gift we rejoice to share, everywhere Love leads us,



THE REV. SARAH C. STEWART





Season of Advent



We pray, “O Come, Emmanuel,” as we enter this time of waiting and preparing. God’s promise to be with us kindles hope. What sacred gifts come to you in waiting?



ADVENT

"New Eve" by Peter Garrison



As a mother and a singer, who feels neither magnified nor mighty, I struggle in my journey of faith every day. Singing Mary's Magnificat in Evensong services does something gentle to my soul. I begin to believe that a broken soul like mine could magnify the Lord.

My spirit has readily rejoiced in God my Savior because my God regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. His mercy is on all that fear Him. He has filled the hungry with good things.

CORNELIA DING

Community T'ai Chi
Dec. 10 | 5pm

Jeff Madonich will guide our gentle and grounding warm-up exercises. Beginner and experienced levels are welcome for this gathering, a perfect prelude to the community potluck and Blue Christmas experience.

Soup & Salad Potluck
Dec. 10 | 6pm

Come enjoy the comfort of a simple supper shared with friends. Bring a soup, salad, bread and cheese, or fruit. Pairs well with T'ai Chi and St. Paul's Blue Christmas service.

Blue Christmas Service
Dec. 10 | 7pm

This quiet evening offers space to acknowledge the complexity of our emotions amid this sometimes difficult season through readings, reflections, rituals, and music.

Advent Lessons & Carols | Dec. 7 | 4pm

The service of Advent Lessons and Carols carries us from darkness to the light of seeing God among us. Carols for congregation and choir alternating with lessons of the prophets include all in a dramatic candlelight procession to the good news of the Gospel of Luke.



Guest percussionist Ahmad Yousefi will accompany the choir on congos for André Thomas's arrangement of the spiritual *Keep your lamps*, and snare drum and tambourine for John Gardner's *Tomorrow shall be my dancing day*.

ADVENT



Advent Giving Tree now through Wrap Up | Dec. 21



Advent Festival | Nov. 23 | 11:15am

Advent Wreaths. Design your own fresh Advent Wreath.

Candle-Lighting. Learn to light our tall altar candles.

Parol-making. Decorate your own Filipino lantern.

Frost Cookies. And eat them, too!

Color your Advent Calendar. Open up to the invitation to move prayerfully through this season.

Seasonal Sharing. Personalize containers to gather family prayers and sacred intentions to share, save, and spend your energies in life-giving ways in the coming year.

This year, we are helping six families who are Samaritan House clients living in surrounding communities.

Choose food and gift tags from the Giving Tree on Nov. 23, Nov. 30, and Dec. 7.

All gifts and food items except perishables need to be turned in no later than Sunday, Dec. 14.

On Sunday, Dec. 21, starting at 8:45am in Foote Hall, St. Paul's Advent elves will be busy sorting food and wrapping gifts. Please sign up to help (our goal is to be done by the 10am service).

At 11:15am, those who sign up to make deliveries to the families will meet in Foote Hall to load cars and be off to spread joy on behalf of St. Paul's community.

To sign up to help with gift wrapping, food sorting, and/or deliveries: see the sign-up board in Foote Hall on Sundays after all services or contact [Tish Busselle](#).

Don't want to shop? Financial assistance is welcome so that the Advent elves can purchase needed gifts and food. Donate by sending a check to St. Paul's with Giving Tree noted on the check or use St. Paul's online donation system (www.stpaulsburlingame.org/support), making a note that the donation is for St. Paul's Giving Tree.



Season of Christmas

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In the mystery of Christmas, God became human for our sake. What gifts do you open yourself to receive? What gifts do you share? How can these gifts offer joy to the world?



CHRISTMAS

The Circle's Christmas Tea | Dec 6 Foote Hall | 1:30 - 4pm

This annual celebration delights in the caring and creative gifts of community. The Circle's Boutique will open at 1:30pm. Tea will be served at 2pm.

Christmas caroling reminds me of joyous childhood memories and singing together around the fire pit with friends, creating renewed spiritual connection with one another. It's a lovely tradition that brings to light the spirit of the Christmas season amidst the chaos of the world.

Judy George

Preacher Series: The Rev. Susanna Singer, "What are we waiting for?"

Dec. 14 | 8am & 10am, in Community

Conversation with Beth Stokes at 11:15am

Episcopal Community Services has decades of experience addressing the complex issues that cause people to fall into homelessness. Come with your questions and concerns as we reflect on the needs of some of our most vulnerable neighbors, and how we can help them.

We love the tradition, the memories, the songs. We want to share it with others and our next generation.

Jenny Lau

Christmas Caroling on the Labyrinth Dec. 17 | 6 - 7:30pm

Gather together to sing carols dearly loved by so many. Hot chocolate will be served after an hour of singing. With joyful anticipation, we can't wait to sing with you!



Christmas

with the Choir of St. Paul's



Christmas Concert
Dec. 21 | 4pm



The 10th Annual Christmas Concert with the Choir of St. Paul's echoes the song of the angels with Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* from 18th-century Italy and the world premiere of *O this fluted marvel* by Indian-American composer Shruthi Rajasekar and poet Mia Ayumi Malhotra.

Program highlights also include . . .

Captivating music by Black American composers Florence Price, William Dawson and Moses Hogan and beloved Christmas carols from Germany, England, and Wales.

Rising star soloists include cellist Haruka Ota, baritone Dmitri Nezvin, and young trebles from the choir.

Tickets go on sale at 10am on Thanksgiving Day!
www.Christmas2025ChoirofStPauls.eventbrite.com

CHRISTMAS

The pageant has always been connection, joy, and storytelling for me. From kindling my faith as a small child playing roles with my friends, to co-directing the pageant with one of those people, I've consistently maintained my excitement and passion about the story of Jesus' birth.
Lincoln

The Christmas pageant at St. Paul's holds such a big place in my heart, and continues to be a source of holiday joy for me. I have been a part of the pageant since I was 5, and feel I have grown in my own faith through the telling of Jesus' story each year. My fondest memory has been spending time with the kids and people in the pageant, especially my good friend Lincoln who I've known since kindergarten. I look forward to doing the pageant this year, and next year until I graduate.
Livi

Christmas Lessons & Carols
Dec. 28 | 11am

Decorate for Christmas
Dec. 23 | 9:30am

Help the Altar Guild
decorate the church!

Christmas
Pageant
Dec. 24 | 4pm

Children prepare to share the story of Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve. Teens Livi and Lincoln direct (teach & organize) this "production," and children ages 13 and younger are assigned pageant roles. Adult mentors supervise weekly rehearsals. Contact Jocelyn if your child wants to participate and receive the rehearsal schedule.

Christmas Eve
Service
Dec. 24 | 10pm

Hear once more a young chorister sing "Once in royal David's city" and join in singing "Silent Night" by candlelight with the Choir of St. Paul's and chamber orchestra. An instrumental prelude begins at 9:45pm.

Christmas Day
Service
Dec. 25 | 11am

Celebrate Christmas Day in a joyful Eucharist with carols for choir and congregation.

On the Fourth Day of Christmas, join in a congregational celebration of Christmastide that savors traditional Scriptures and seasonal carols.



Season of Epiphany



This Light guides us home by another way.
Where is Christ leading you to unexpected
constellations of wonder and belonging?





EPIPHANY

Feast of the Epiphany

Jan. 4 | 10am

Join in a festive service that begins with the procession of the three kings and enjoy King Cake at Hospitali-tea.



What's Up with Church?

Jan. 11 | 11:30am



Eucharist comes into focus in our next session. What vintage comprises our sacramental wine? How many cups do we really use? Who creates St. Paul's pillowy "bread of heaven"? What is consecration? Who gets the "holy leftovers" after a service? If "breakfast with Jesus" has been your Sunday habit for decades and if you found your way to communion only recently, your questions are warmly welcome in this conversation. Bring your family and friends to explore these sacred traditions!

Midwinter Sound Bath with Logos Sound Journey

Jan. 13 | 7 - 8:30pm



What better gift could we bring than a symphony of soothing sounds to ring in resilience, peace, and well-being in 2026?

Your own mat, blankets, and pillows will create physical comfort during this immersive experience. Register early and invite your friends and family!

Sign up online at tinyurl.com/Logos-Events.

Apply coupon code SP2026 at check out to save 100% off the regular registration cost!

Contact Rev. Sarah with any questions.

Register early and invite your friends and family!

EPIPHANY



Jesus for Everyone Small Group

Jan. 14

5:30pm Meal, 6pm Conversation

Future Wednesdays: Feb. 11 & Mar. 11

Can we welcome Jesus' life and values to grow in us? All are invited to the conversation as Amy-Jill Levine's *Jesus for Everyone Not Just Christians* inspires our small group experience with simple supper. Come for any stand-alone session or all three!

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service with Peninsula Multifaith Coalition Jan. 19 | 4pm

This annual tradition honors the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy in a unique day of serving side-by-side with people of many cultures and faiths in our wider community. Project signs ups begin in December. Participants are invited to gather at St. Paul's to deepen friendships before or after the projects. Stay tuned for details!



Preaching Series: The Rev. Rebecca Edwards Jan. 25 | 8am & 10am 11:15am Community Conversation



Everyone can play a role
in healing the wounds
of foster care

Co-founder of Braid Mission, an organization that supports foster youth through intergenerational teams of volunteers, the Rev. Rebecca Edwards has ministered within and beyond the Episcopal Church for 14 years. From leadership of Big Brother Big Sister in her hometown of Chattanooga to ongoing ministry with young people, Rev. Rebecca's wisdom continues to guide Braid's model, which holds that all children deserve to be surrounded by adults who encourage and empower them and that volunteers need supportive community to thrive.

Marcia McCowin Concert | Jan. 25 | 4pm



The Annual Marcia McCowin Concert arose from the visionary sparkle of Marcia McCowin, who designated an estate gift to St. Paul's Burlingame to highlight the work of women composers and poets. Dr. McCowin (1952-2020) was a Professor of Clinical Radiology at UCSF, a generous supporter of Music at St. Paul's, and an inspiration to all who knew her.

The 2026 concert program features the cantata *Lobgesang* (Song of Praise) by Fanny Hensel, performed by the Choir of St. Paul's and the New Century Chamber Orchestra.

The program also includes a discussion with Indian-American composer Shruthi Rajasekar and poet Mia Ayumi Malhotra on their collaboration in the anthem "O this fluted Marvel," premiered at the Christmas concert. The portraits shown here were commissioned from Dutch artist Margit van der Zwan, and are displayed as part of the composer timeline in the choir room.



Shruthi Rajasekar will be visiting St. Paul's throughout this weekend, including a workshop with St. Paul's Choristers on hymn composition.

Read more about this award-winning young musician at www.shruthirajasekar.com.



EPIPHANY



**St. Paul's Sunday
& Annual Meeting**
Feb. 1 | 11:15am

Celebrate God's love at St. Paul's with a rousing 2025 year in review. **Reflect** on the generous ways people contribute to the vitality of our community. Elect new members to the Vestry, Diocesan delegates, and Trustees. Relish highlights and strategic priority updates from leadership, including the vestry-approved Operating Budget for 2026. **Anticipate** seminal milestones & parish-wide celebrations yet to come!

Scouts Sunday | Feb. 8 | 8am & 10am services

Help us honor Scout Troop 28!

Chartered by and operating out of St. Paul's, Troop 28 is a vibrant, active Scouting community dedicated to helping youth develop leadership, outdoor skills, and a lifelong spirit of service. Scouts engage with the local community through volunteer projects, civic events, and environmental stewardship—building character and friendships along the way. Hands-on learning and teamwork help each Scout to grow in confidence and responsibility while discovering the rewards of giving back.

Committee Chair Cam Daly recently shared about 2025 adventures that drew Troop 28 to explore some of California's most beautiful spots, including:

- camping and hiking ten miles
- through Pinnacles National Park.
- exploring the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk during an overnight trip.
- enjoying a classic group campout at Memorial Park.
- participating in the Trail to First Class event at Boulder Creek Scout Reserve.

Next up: a backpacking trip to Point Reyes!



THEN THERE'S LENT

**Shrove Tuesday
Community Night**
Feb. 17 | 6pm

Enjoy a “pancake breakfast for dinner” with neighbors and friends as we prepare for our Lenten fast. Burn palms to create ash, a sign of God’s love on the eve of Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday
Feb. 18

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Ashes on the Go
7:30 - 9am

Share prayers and ashes with morning commuters with Bill Phillips and Rev. Sarah during this community outreach morning at Burlingame Cal Train station.

Service Times
12:15pm, 4:45pm & 7pm

Make a holy start to the season of Lent with Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes. *Special Family Service from 4:45-5:15pm.*

Lenten Retreat
Mar. 7 | 9am - 4pm
Mar. 8 | 11:15am - 12:30pm

St. Ignatius believed that God communicates directly with each of us. And he also recognized that not all of our thoughts, feelings, and desires come from the Holy Spirit—some are holy; others stem from different sources.



Exercising a Contemplative Faith
March 7-8, 2026 | St. Paul's Burlingame

Sign up using the QR code.

Our sacred challenge is to decide which inner stirrings come from God and which do not. Discernment of Spirits is how Ignatius described this process of sifting our experiences.

Drawing on this 500-year-old tradition of Ignatian spirituality, which celebrates our deeply connected relationship with God and neighbor through prayer and contemplation, this weekend-long quiet experience will include guided times of practice with Ignatian discernment techniques, including journaling, imaginative prayer, and the Examen.

**3rd Annual Youth Choir
Festival West**
Feb. 27 - Mar. 1

St. Paul's Choir School will travel to Seattle to join with the youth choir of St. Mark's Cathedral, Seattle in the Washington state premiere of “O this fluted marvel” by composer Shruthi Rajasekar and poet Mia Ayumi Malhotra.



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*Mark your calendars for the
Annual Meeting on February 1!*

Sunday Worship Schedule

8am Holy Eucharist in the Chapel

10am Holy Eucharist with Choir, live streamed on YouTube

1pm Holy Eucharist in Tongan language (December 7, 14 (Christmas Pageant))

Office Hours

Monday: 10am-12pm, 12:30pm-3pm

Wednesday & Thursday: 12:30pm-3pm

Friday: 10am-12pm

Clergy and Staff | info@stpaulsburlingame.org

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The Rev. Sarah C. Stewart, Rector