

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

www.stpaulspgh.org

Christmas Eve – December 24, 2020 • 4:30PM
Celebrating and Preaching: The Reverend Noah H. Evans
Assisting: The Reverend Laura DiPanfilo

Know that God loves you, no exceptions.
You are always welcome at God's table at St. Paul's.

St Paul's is a spiritual home and welcoming community to people of all ages, generations, educational backgrounds, financial means, abilities and disabilities, races, ethnicities and nationalities, without regard to sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, with many different family and religious backgrounds. Some of us are lifelong Episcopalians; some were raised in other Protestant denominations or in the Roman Catholic Church; some are new to the Christian faith; some are not quite sure what they believe. There is a place here for you.

WELCOME!

Prelude: Two settings of Greensleeves

Fantasia on Greensleeves
What Child is This?

Two settings of In Dulci Jubilo

In Dulci Jubilo, BuxWV 197
In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 751

Ralph Vaugh Williams (1872-1958)

Dorothy Wells (1926-2008)

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Doug Starr, Organ

Welcome and Greetings

Invitatory: Once in Royal David's City

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, Music: Henry Gauntlett
Sung by Eva Hendricks

A Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: On this Christmas Eve, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

Presider 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,
trial, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Prsider

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-15 *(Read by Gretchen Crane)*

A Reading from Genesis

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, `You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, `You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Here Ends the Reading.

Music: The Holly and the Ivy

Sung by Michael Plaskett

Traditional English Carol

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-15 *(Read by Jan Toth)*

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Here Ends the Reading

Music: What Child is This?

**Text: William Chatterton Dix, Music: GREENSLEEVES
Sung by Madigan Balfe**

The Third Lesson

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2- 7*(Read by Jacob Vito)*

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Here Ends the Reading

Music: O Come, All Ye Faithful**Performed by Paul Golebie***Adeste fideles***The Fourth Lesson**

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 52:7-10*(Read by Steve Perryman)*

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Here Ends the reading.

Music: Go, Tell it On the Mountain

Traditional Spiritual

Sung by John Sozansky

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

(Read by Jack Horrigan)

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Here Ends the reading.

Music: O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

Sung by Michele Baum

The Sixth Lesson

Luke 1:39-56

(Read by Kathleen Davies Hendricks)

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Here Ends the reading.

Music: Mary’s Song

Text: Ann Carter, Music: NEW BRITAIN

Performed by Christin Cooper

The Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:1-20 (*Read by Jack Brownfield*)

A Reading from the Gospel According to Luke

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Here Ends the reading.

The Homily

The Reverend Noah H. Evans, Rector

Music: For Unto Us a Child is Born

**G. F. Handel (1685-1759), arr. John W. Schaum
Jan Littrell, piano**

Collects for Christmas

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

Announcements and Greetings

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music: God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

Traditional English Carol, arr. M. Harvey

Dawn Paulus, cello

Prayers of the Congregation

The Great Thanksgiving, *Eucharistic Prayer B*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People 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.
Celebrant

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, the mother our Lord, St. Paul the Apostle all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

The Lord's Prayer

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God.

A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (Written St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

Post Communion Prayer—said together

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Post Communion Music: "Silent Night, Holy Night"

Hymnal 111

Led by Christin Cooper

Join us in lighting a candle in your home while singing this hymn

Silent night, holy night, all is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Blessing

Dismissal

The worship is ended, the service begins.

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Closing Hymn 87 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!

Postlude: Toccata on Mendelssohn (Hark the Herald)

Doug Starr, organ

David Cherwien (b. 1957)

Music Notes:

The Kings College Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. Yet that celebrated event was not the first celebration of Lessons and Carols. It was actually sung first on Christmas Eve 1880, at Truro Cathedral thirty-eight years earlier! A mythos has emerged from that first celebration. It was said that Christmas Eve was selected for this service because it would “get the men out of the pubs early so that they would not be drunk for the midnight service”! The true source of the liturgy was Truro bishop, the Rt. Rev. Edward White Benson, who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1883. Regardless of where this liturgy originated, the Anglican Communion has made great use of Lessons and Music as similar service formats now exist for Advent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost. Imitated world-wide since the 1918 Kings College celebration, the backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, have remained virtually unchanged and is heard worldwide via annual broadcasts. Christmas Lessons and Music is a capstone worship experience at St. Paul’s as we hear the word read and sung by our choirs, sing carols, and enjoy the glorious message of the season.

We deeply appreciate the hard work and dedication of our parish musicians who have presented marvelous worship music, not only in this Advent and this Christmas season but, throughout this period of pandemic isolation. Worship music brings us together.

**Remember St. Paul's in Your Will
Consider the Endowment Fund
Visit www.stpaulspgh.org/endowment/**

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A clergy person will either answer or call you as soon as possible.*

Welcome to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church! Ministers, The Entire Congregation

The Rev. Noah H. Evans, Rector
The Rev Laura Di Panfilo, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Jean Chess, Deacon
Douglas Starr, Director of Music and Arts
Christin Cooper, Music Assistant for Children
Ariel Wicker, Parish Administrator
Monica Miller, Financial Administrator
Andrea Kamouyerou, Director of Engagement
Kristen Morgan, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
Matt Wachtler, Head Sexton
Eileen Sharbaugh, Nursery School Director
The Rev. Luke Zerra, Youth Minister
The Rev. Ted Babcock, Priest Associate
The Rev. Charles L. Fischer III, Priest Associate
The Rev. Catherine A. Munz, Priest Associate

Vestry

Ginny Barnicoat, *Senior Warden*
Geoff Hurd, *Junior Warden*
Jan Toth, *Treasurer*
Frank Horrigan, *Clerk*
Gina Brownfield, Meghan Clark, Kathleen Davies Hendricks, Mark Lamendola,
John Sheehan, Ell Vines, Karen Melvin, Leigh Coogan