



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22, 2024

Eight o'clock in the Morning

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

We are glad you are here. No matter who you are, no matter where you come from, and no matter where you are on the journey of life — you are welcome in this church.

We hope you will find Saint Paul's to be a place of refreshment and renewal, where you experience the presence of the risen Christ. We have been serving Christ in this location for over two hundred seventy years. The monuments in our church and the graves in our churchyard reflect the conflicts and complexities of our nation's and our city's history. While our building is old and beautiful, our mission is contemporary and forward moving. Here you will find a people very much connected with the questions and struggles of modern life and faith and of following the way of Jesus.

TO ALL OUR VISITORS & GUESTS

About Worship

If the liturgy (worship) of the Episcopal Church is unfamiliar, then we hope you will find this information helpful.

You are welcome in the Episcopal Church, and so the first and best resource we offer are your neighbors in the pews. Just say, "I'm visiting," and they will gladly help.

The worship of the Episcopal Church is rooted in the practices of ancient Christianity. The structure of our services, the architecture of our building, the music, our physical postures, and participatory responses ALL hold rich meaning about our beliefs and are intentional expressions of our relationship with God.

- In this bulletin you will find:

Responses spoken by the people are printed in bold italics.

Directions for the people are printed in italics.

- We encourage families with children to sit at the front of the Nave so that children can easily see and hear the liturgy. We are delighted to offer activity bags for families to help keep little hands busy and engaged during worship services. Feel free to pick one up at the entrance!
- Episcopalians customarily pray either standing or kneeling, so please do what you find most comfortable.
- Notify an usher if you require an assisted listening device or any other assistance.
- Restrooms are located in the parish hall. An usher will direct you.

About Receiving The Holy Communion

ALL who come in faith are invited to receive Holy Communion at Saint Paul's.

- During communion, the people form two short lines in the center aisle, sorting themselves according to how they would like to receive. Those who come to the "pulpit side" (east) will be given bread and offered a common cup of wine from which to drink. There is no intincting/dipping on the pulpit side of the altar rail. For those on the lectern side (west, the big eagle), the minister will dip the bread in the wine for the people, and offer a piece of bread that has already been "intincted." All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please, no one may dip their own bread in the wine.
- For those who may prefer not to receive communion at the main altar, a communion station is provided on the main floor to the right of the center aisle. Here, the minister will dip the bread in the wine for you. If you are unable to receive at either station, the clergy will bring the bread and wine to your pew. Please notify an usher before the service begins.
- To receive a blessing without receiving Communion, cross both arms over your chest, palms on your collar.
- If your children are in the nursery, you are invited to bring them to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

Connect with Us

We invite you to share your contact information on a connect card, located in each pew. Hand it to one of our clergy after church. Please feel free to fill out as much or as little information as you'd like so we can connect with you.

Celebration of The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

The Word of God

Our Service Begins in the Book of Common Prayer

The Opening Acclamation:

Celebrant Blessed be God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

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Kyrie eleison

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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

We beseech thee, Almighty God, to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation, that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

You, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 80:1-7

Prayed responsively by whole verse

- 1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
- 2 ***In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, ****
stir up your strength and come to help us.
- 3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

- 4 ***O LORD God of hosts, ****
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
- 5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
- 6 ***You have made us the derision of our neighbors, ****
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
- 7 ***Restore us, O God of hosts; ****
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle

Hebrews 10:5-10

When Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)."

When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Holy Gospel

Luke 1:39-55

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

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."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

The Sermon

The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn

The Nicene Creed

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The Prayers of the People

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The Confession and Absolution

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The Peace

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The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Parish Greetings & Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Presentation of the Offering

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People ***And of Thine own have we given Thee.***

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer II

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The Lord's Prayer

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The Breaking of the Bread

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Agnus Dei

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Prayer of Humble Access

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The Communion

All who come in faith are welcome at the Lord's table.

The Post-Communion Prayer

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The Blessing

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The Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn

Stan Taylor

Nancy Trefz, Ian McQueen, Mary Lynn Ford, Barbara Coleman

Charlie Tudor

Preacher and Celebrant

Eucharistic Minister

Altar Guild

Vestry Person of the Day

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; especially, Robin Merriman, Cindy Taylor, Bob Pate, Dorine Smith, Karen Davidson, Elise Weston, Perry Smith, Bill Clark, Samm Fusselle, Anne Way, Gayle Jolley, Martha Hawkins, Joni Vanover, Jeanne Lindsey, Sandra Mashburn, Katie Delaigle, Lois Hand, Ann Kilpatrick, Ricie Eubanks, Sam Hunter, Linda, Margaret Lodi, Sandy, Kisha Seals, Joy Somers, Connie Duke, Jan-Blaise MacEachern, Bob Crosby, Martha, Mary Ann Fruge, Linda Parker, Wanda Bell, Sevealyn Smith, Lisa Holland, Linda, Debbie Stankus, Lowell Dorn, Dick and Linda Rosenlieb, Lianna Treitler, David Hawkins, Gil Klemann, LAJeffery, Gerreanda, Nina, Amari, Christian, Andrena, Marianna Simmons, Ronnie Allen, Roy Simkins, David Lentz, Joe Bremen, the McCollugh family, Shirley Harrison, Wes Cooper, Kelly, The Lopez family, Stovall Walker, Araminta Barnes, the McCall family, Kim Montgomery, Cee Cee, Gail, Maggie deSouza, Phillip O'hara, Kellee Lauderdale, Lance Eatman, Teigan Smith, Edna Brown, Ron and Linda Carnne, Aggie MacEachern, Janna Moore and the Moore Family.

For those serving our country at home and abroad; especially, Julian James, Sam and Lara Powell, Joe Way, Jonathan Flanagan, Jim Ring, Bennett Ivey, Zach Nevard, David Helms, Isaac Mikell.

FALL STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The majority of our pledges have now been offered, and God once again reminds us of his faithfulness. The 2025 pledge total to date is \$811,000 (from 135 donors) With two or three dozen outstanding and/or potential pledges, our budget could easily close in on \$900,000. If you haven't made your pledge yet, please take a few moments to do so now; you can submit an online pledge using the QR code to the right or simply call or stop by the church office. Thank you from the stewardship committee and all those dependent on our stewardship of God's gifts.



PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following this service at 9:00 AM, McDonald's biscuits for breakfast in Tyler Hall. Then, 9:30-10:30 AM, in the Berlin Room, our Advent Sunday Forum of Howard Thurman's great work, *Jesus and the Disinherited* concludes.

5:30 PM —All ages are invited to meet at Saint Paul's for intergenerational caroling together. Wear your festive apparel and bring your jingle bells! Meet in the church parking lot by the playground for caroling instructions. We will caravan to the various caroling locations to parishioner homes.

5:30 PM—EYC (Episcopal Youth Community, grades 6-12) will join the carolers to spread some joy and end the evening off-site for our final EYC celebration of 2024. Friends are always welcome! For more information contact Aubrey Hinkson at ahinkson@saintpauls.org.

Monday, December 23, 9:30 AM, join the Flower Guild as we Green the Church for Christmas with wreaths, greenery, and poinsettias. The ornaments will be placed on the trees in the Narthex. Contact Laurie Montgomery for more information at lauriefm628@gmail.com

Christmas Schedule—“O come, all ye faithful” Our Christmas Eve Service with all three of the parish choirs, brass, & drums is offered at 4 PM. The Nursery will be open for the 4 PM service. The 10 PM service features the Saint Paul's Choir with brass and drums and will also be broadcast live on WGAC. Christmas Day Eucharist with Carols in the Chapel will be held at 10 AM.

Schedule Updates - Christmas Week: No Compline, December 25, returning 1/1/25; ***No Mid-Week Eucharist***, Dec. 26, returning 1/2/25; ***No Lectio at Lunch***, Dec. 26, returning 1/2/25.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, 11 AM, Sunday, December 29. Join us along with your families and out-of-town guests in this beautiful celebration during Christmastide. The Saint Paul's and Canterbury Choirs will join readers from the congregation to observe this beloved liturgy of our Anglican heritage. Eucharist will not be celebrated at this service, but will be celebrated at the 8 AM service and again at the 5:30 PM Celtic Evening Prayer & Communion service.

Schedule Updates - Sunday, December 29: Continental Breakfast 9-10:30 AM; ***Canterbury Choir*** will sing at Lessons and Carols and will rehearse at their standard time 9:25 AM. Fr. Bidy will lead an all ages class for ***Children and Youth*** 10-10:30 AM. ***No Adult Forum.***

Year end gifts— Offerings or Special Gifts of cash/check must be dated and postmarked no later than December 31, 2024, to qualify as 2024 charitable contributions. Please note, the Parish Office will be closed at noon December 24 and remain closed December 25-27.

Confirmation Classes Begin January 5th. Six classes Sundays, January 5 - February 16; 12:20 PM, in Tyler Hall. This class prepares confirmands for confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation of baptismal vows on the Bishop's visit (February 23). Lunch will be offered. Contact Fr. Bidy (ebiddy@saintpauls.org) to express your interest or for more information.

Youth Confirmation: Students in grades 9-12 who have not been confirmed are encouraged to contact the clergy to let them know of your interest.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism on Saturday, January 12, 2025, on the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. All who wish to be baptized are invited to contact Fr. Eric at ebiddy@saintpauls.org.

Twice a year the parish will begin a new prayer list: January 1 and July 1. Of course, it is fine for a name to remain on our list for an extended period of time; we ask that you simply email the parish office (mailbox@saintpauls.org) to let us know you'd like a name (new or continuing) to be added to our new list.

You are invited to join Saint Paul's parishioners, family, and friends on a mission trip this summer to Ecuador. Please prayerfully consider joining us as we reach out to people in need and serve as the hands of Christ. An information sheet is available in the *Weekly Postings*. If you would like additional information about Quito, Ecuador, the mission work, and trip details, please contact Gene or Rose Helmich at ehelmich21@comcast.net, or call 803-640-3405. The deadline to join the trip is January 31, 2025.

The Vestry Nominating Committee is seeking candidates whom you believe would make outstanding Vestry members for Saint Paul's. If you'd like to suggest someone, including yourself, please contact retiring Junior Warden, Erick Montgomery at erickdmontgomery@gmail.com. Vestry responsibilities and criteria for nominations are included in Friday's *Weekly Postings*.

Name tags allow us to get to know each other and be a welcoming community to all. If you need a name tag or have just misplaced yours, email the parish office (mailbox@saintpauls.org) or ask an usher for the yellow form to request a name tag.

More information about these announcements and other events is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*, including registration and contact information. A copy is available in the Narthex and on our website; or join our email list by signing up on the website or contacting the parish administrator, at mailbox@saintpauls.org.

Make a gift—“All that we are and all that we have comes from God. In gratitude, we honor him by giving of ourselves and our gifts to care for his world.” Gifts can be made using the QR Code to the right, on-line at saintpauls.org/giving, or by mail to Saint Paul's Church, 605 Reynolds St., Augusta, GA 30901. Thank you for your generosity.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:45 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST Rite I
9:00 AM - 10:45 AM	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST - TYLER HALL
9:25 - 10:00 AM	CHILDREN/YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSALS
9:30 - 10:30 AM	CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS
10:00 - 10:45 AM	CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	HOLY EUCHARIST Rite II
Following the 11:00 AM Service	LEMONADE ON THE LAWN
5:00 - 7:00 PM	EYC (EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY)
5:30 - 6:15 PM	CELTIC EVENING PRAYER & COMMUNION WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING
6:30 - 6:45 PM	SIT & WAIT (A CONTEMPLATIVE SERVICE)

Nursery care offered in the Children's Ministry Center (CMC) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM.
The 11 AM service is broadcast on Facebook and YouTube at Saint Paul's Church-Augusta
and by radio at WGAC 580 AM Radio and 95.1 FM Radio. Listen live on-line at <http://wgac.com>

VESTRY

Kitty Gordon, Sr. Warden	Erick Montgomery, Jr. Warden	Will Rice, Treasurer
Bryan Hawkins, Chancellor	Julie Badger, Clerk of the Vestry	

Vestry Term Expires 2025

Bryan Hawkins
Ian McQueen
Rex Teeslink

Vestry Term Expires 2026

Stacy Nuessle
Charlie Tudor
Mary Porter Vann

Vestry Term Expires 2027

Kathleen Chandler
Patsy Davis
Melissa Friedman

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Altar Guild – Catherine Stuckey	Acolytes – Meg & Donald Horton
Buildings and Grounds – John Robertson	Creation Care – in transition
Daughters of the King – Suzanne Pursley-Crotteau	Endowment – Monty Osteen
Eucharistic Visitors – Ellen Nesbitt	Finance – Cameron Nixon
Facebook – Stacy Nuessle & Aubrey Hinkson	Flower Guild – Barbara Register & Laurie Montgomery
Flower Delivery – Barbara Register & Margaret Scott Penix	History – in transition
Hospitality and Parish Life – Eric Friedman	Interior Design – Julie Badger
Invite, Welcome, Connect – Patsy Davis	Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers – Carolyn Dolen
Linen Guild – Tricia Nixon	Newcomers and Greeters – Summer Bell
Nursery Grandmother's Guild – Coleman Graham	Outreach – Marilyn Grau
Pastoral Care Ministry – Ellen Nesbitt	Stewardship – Kitty Gordon
Ushers – Nick Uros & Rex Teeslink	

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Eric Biddy, Rector	ext. 205	ebiddy@saintpauls.org
The Rev. Kimberly E. Dunn, Asso. Rector	ext. 204	kdunn@saintpauls.org
The Rev. Dr. Bill Dolen, Assisting Priest		
The Rev. Erwin Veale, Assisting Priest		
Aubrey Hinkson, Director of Children & Youth Ministries		ahinkson@saintpauls.org
Keith Shafer, Director of Music	ext. 215	kshafer@saintpauls.org
Elisabeth Price, Parish Administrator	ext. 225	mailbox@saintpauls.org
Norm Nieminen, Parish Accountant	ext. 206	nnieminen@saintpauls.org
Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware, St. Nicholas Choir		songbird95@hotmail.com
Sarah Pritchard, Music Associate Emerita		
Hillary Bryant, Greg Maxie, TJ Wilson, James Wheeler, Sextons		
Mark Albertin, Wright Montgomery, Audio Visual		



Saint Paul's Church is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia.
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