



St. Paul Lutheran Church

9:30a Service of Worship

Pastor ~ Reverend Ashley Nicolls

1st Sunday of Advent | November 27, 2022

Welcome!

May God's grace continue to overflow to and through you.



Welcome to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

We hope you will use this bulletin during the week to have a song to sing, prayers to pray and give comfort, whether you are worshipping in person or from home on your electronic devices.

Please know that although not all of us are physically together to worship, our Lord is still with us. We give thanks for those who do attend in-person, but also the technology that allows us to share the bulletin, record the service of worship and post to our website.

Our Tuesday Community Meal and Saturday Food Pantry are important outreaches into the community. Please continue to support these ministries as you are able.

Remember the Community Prayer Cross outside near the road. You are welcome to leave a prayer request there or in the box in the narthex and it will be brought out to the cross.

Your offerings are appreciated for our ministries. They can be made via online giving, given on Sunday morning, mailed to the church or dropped off during our normal office hours

Monday-Friday • 9a-12noon.

May God bless you and give you peace.

Assisting In Worship

Assisting Minister

Judy Carnal

Reader

Earleen Ashbrook

Acolyte

Marty Hillerich

Sound

John Beyer

Mike Scherr

Camera Operator

Debi Rado

Screen Operator

Sue Scherr

Ushers

Hank and Judy
Roberts, Jan Kruse

Greeters

Barry Smith

Welcome/Announcements

Prelude

“Come, Come Emmanuel”

Ann Krentz Organ

St. Paul Ringers

Advent Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: God of mystery and miracles, Your Word brings light into the dark places of our lives; Your presence gives us strength to endure when we are pushed beyond our own strength. You find us in our lostness and, with love beyond our imagining, you lead us home. All this you offer in and through Jesus Christ.

Response: Yet, we resist you. We resist loosening our tight grip on our lives. We hesitate to trust you for you may lead us where we do not want to go. You know the places in our hearts and in our minds where we are well-defended against your intrusions.

Pastor: In this season of longing, grant us grace and forgiveness to bring all that we are to you, O Christ, all the broken places, all the lost wanderings, all the weariness from trying to live lives that are pleasing to you.

Response: Hold them all in the fullness of your love.

Pastor: Receive forgiveness in Jesus' name for he is born in you. Your home, your life, your joy is all found in the Lord of light and love. **Response: Amen.**

~ adapted from Christine Jerrett, and posted on **Christine Jerrett: Reflections on being the Church in God's new creation.** <http://christinejerrett.wordpress.com/>

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra-el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

Response: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Gustav Holst

St. Paul Singers

Scripture ~ Psalm 122

¹I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord.”

²**Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

³Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;

⁴**to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the Lord.**

⁵For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.

⁶**Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**

⁷Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

⁸**For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**

⁹Because of the house of the Lord our God, I will seek to do you good.”

Scripture ~ Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel ~ Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th chapter.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord. **Response: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon ~ Pastor Ashley Nicolls

Hymn of the Day

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788
Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

Confession of Faith for Advent

Assisting Minister: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith together.

Response: We believe in God, creator of the earth, origin and destiny of us all. We believe in Jesus the Christ—God coming to us in the fragile promise of a baby yet unborn—who emerges as the herald of hope, God's laughter in the face of despair. Plunged into death and hell, he broke free the captives, and is leading the way to the land of promise where justice and peace will flourish. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who plants in us the seed of truth, brings us to birth as the body of Christ, and empowers us to confront and transform all that is corrupt, degrading and deceitful. We believe in the coming reign of God. Announced by the Baptist, it has drawn near to us in Jesus, and will be completed in the glorious union of earth and heaven, when all who have passed through the world's deep sorrow will be raised from the waters, robed in righteousness, and gathered into the joyous fulfillment of God's desire. For the coming of that day on this day, we work and pray: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Adapted from Nathan Nettleton, and posted on his [Laughingbird](#) website.

Prayers of the Church

Assisting Minister: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

A brief silence.

Assisting Minister: God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy.

Response: Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work.

Assisting Minister: God, in your mercy, **Response: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift.

Response: Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals.

Assisting Minister: God, in your mercy, **Response: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God of peace, you judge the nations.

Response: Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth.

Assisting Minister: God, in your mercy, **Response: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life for everyone.

Response: Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care.

Assisting Minister: Be especially with those we name now aloud or in our hearts.
(pause)

Assisting Minister: God, in your mercy, **Response: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God of community, you are present when we gather in your name.

Response: Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission.

Assisting Minister: God, in your mercy, **Response: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God of promise, your goodness is everlasting.

Response: We give thanks for the lives of the faithful who now rest in you. We trust that you will bring us into the company of all the saints with rejoicing.

Assisting Minister: God, in your mercy, **Response: hear our prayer.**

Assisting Minister: God of our longing, you know our deepest needs. By your Spirit, gather our prayers and join them with the prayers of all your children. In Jesus' name we pray. **Response: Amen.**

The Peace

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always. **Response: And also with you.**

Offering

(The collection plates will be brought forward at this time.

Offering plates can still be found at the back of the sanctuary if you did not place your offering in the plates when you came in.

Online giving at www.stpaulsarasota.org is also available.)

Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister: Eternal God, you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior.

Response: Amen.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

Pastor: My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Holy Communion

Pastor: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

(Those who want to partake of Christ's body and blood through the bread and wine/grape juice in their seats may lift up their elements at this time).

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Response: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your love and teach us to pray.

Response: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God, who has come to save you.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: Those who wish to remain at their seats to partake of Christ's body and blood in the bread and wine/grape juice may do so now. The body and blood of Christ is given and shed for you. Take and eat. Take and drink. Those who wish to come forward to the altar may do so at this time.

Song During Communion at the Altar Rail

Tune: Breath of Heaven

Bread of heaven
Hold me together
Be forever near me
Bread of heaven

Bread of heaven
Lighten my darkness
Pour over me your holiness
For you are holy
Bread of heaven

Bread of heaven
Bread of heaven

Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace now and forever. **Response: Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Assisting Minister: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Response: Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.

Response: Amen.

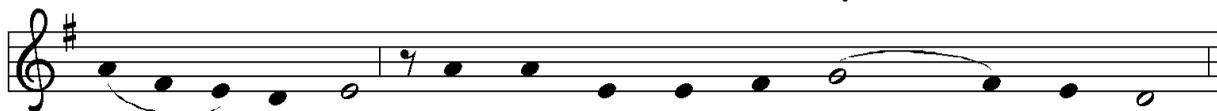
Sending Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Verses 1 & 2



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things
3 O come, O come, O Lord of might, as to your tribes on
4 O come, O Branch of Jes - se, free your own from Sa - tan's



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;
Si - nai's height in an - cient times you gave the law
tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell your peo - ple save,

Refrain

un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joice! Re-joice!
 in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
 and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalteriolun Cantionum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
 Music: VENI, EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
 Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Christ is near. **Response: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: And all God's children say, **Response: Amen**

Postlude

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

Setting by Paul Manz

John Ferreira

Attendance for last Sunday: 64 in-person; 57 views (as of 11/21/22)

Flowers are given by Ethel Hamilton in memory of husband Bruce's birthday and by Irene Felicetti in memory of Louise Kreps and Hazel McCurdy.

Eternal Candle is given by Don and Marty Hillerich in thanksgiving for all St. Paul volunteers.

St. Paul Mission Statement

As a Holy Spirit-led family of God, we are called through baptism to proclaim and bear witness to God's reconciling grace in Jesus Christ to all so that by joyfully sharing God's Word and encouraging each other to service for the sake of others, our lives together make a difference for Christ and His kingdom.

Please remember in your prayers...

All those serving in the U.S. Military. The homeless in our neighborhood, our city, our nation and the world. The Florida Bahamas Synod Office of the Bishop Staff: Bishop Pedro, Assistants to the Bishop Pastors Khader, Rob C., Rob R., and Deacon Connie, Specialists Kim, Brittney, and Stephen, Support Staff Tina, Yuliet, and Ileana. SURE – Sarasota United for Responsibility and Equity, Community Meal and Food Pantry guests. Our members, especially, George and Marilyn Hutfilz, JoAnn Jordan, Ashtyn Keifer, and Charles Kistner. Our preschool teachers and students especially, Xavier, Isla, Augustina, Ms. Sydney and Ms. Tiffany.

<p>Members Beetle Family John Beyer Henry Blosser Susan Burmaster Sue Fisher Bob Fong Jane French Carolyn Masters Cecilia Morvick Jean Panthana James Paulsson John and Hannah Puckhaber Rado Family Colleen Ryan Susy Scholl Brenda Smith Dave and Betty Snowton Ginger Webb Karin Zukowski</p> <p>Homebound Members Sharyn Brodnax Donna Casala Charles Kistner June Manselle Virginia McQuaig Michael Reiter Carole Wilson</p> <p>Friends and Family Debbie – <i>friend of Scherrs</i> Ian – <i>son of Michele Hilton</i> Kayla – <i>niece of J. Roberts</i> LaShonda – <i>friend of J. Beyer</i> Ramona – <i>friend of Irene Felicetti</i> Susan & Jim – <i>friends of Cindy Paxton</i> Steve – <i>friend of Irene Felicetti</i> Clinton Allen – <i>friend of Jim Paulsson</i> Geri Bandauski – <i>sister of Dave Snowton</i> Joyce Benton – <i>sister of H. Roberts</i></p>	<p>Karla Benton – <i>niece of the Roberts Buete and Pearson family– family of Brian McCulley</i> Caroline Burmaster – <i>sister-in-law of Susan Burmaster</i> Kathleen Cannon – <i>friend of Puckhabers</i> Alice Chanover – <i>friend of Puckhabers</i> Jessica Clements – <i>friend of Kathie Snyder</i> Mike Cunningham- <i>friend of H. Roberts</i> Cody Eddleman – <i>husband of John Beyer</i> Lily Gibson – <i>niece of Susy Scholl</i> David Jackerson – <i>son of Susy Scholl</i> Kate Kretschmann- <i>family of Lindy Lindemann</i> Jim & Kathleen Logan – <i>brother and sister-in-law of Judy Carnal</i> Kenny Manselle—<i>son of June Manselle</i> Ginny Marraccini – <i>sister of Kathie Snyder</i> Shirley and Dan Martin - <i>friends of Susy Scholl</i> Marsha McKinney- <i>former member</i> Nora McQuaig – <i>daughter of Ginny McQuaig</i> Pam Mills – <i>sister of Daniel Mills</i> Kaye Mulgrew – <i>sister of Nancy Parmakian</i> Becky Nobles – <i>friend of Lindy Lindemann</i></p>	<p>Linda and Jim Norris – <i>family of Doris Schlotterback</i> Karen Paulsson – <i>sister of Jim Paulsson</i> Terry Panthana – <i>niece of Jean Panthana</i> John Popielarsky – <i>friend of Ethel Hamilton</i> Manny Rivas – <i>friend of Cindy Schlotterback</i> Candy Reimer – <i>godmother of PrAshley</i> Brian & Tommy Schlotterback—<i>sons of Doris Schlotterback</i> Cynthia Lu Scholl – <i>sister of Susy Scholl</i> Rob Scianni – <i>Scianni’s son</i> Clint Shantz- <i>former member</i> Donna Shepherd - <i>sister of Gail Seyfarth</i> Joan Simone – <i>friend of the Puckhabers</i> Bethany Smith – <i>Smith’s daughter</i> Timothy Smith—<i>grandson of Ginny McQuaig</i> John Strahan –<i>uncle of JoAnn Jordan</i> Noel Studenwalt – <i>Smith’s nephew</i> Donna Van Ness – <i>niece of Missy Craig</i> Elaine & Mark Vanderweight-<i>friends of Jim Paulsson</i> David Weinberger – <i>friend of Puckhabers</i> John and Janet Welther – <i>family of Ethel Hamilton</i> Dottie Lynne White – <i>sister of Susy Scholl</i> Judith Wismer – <i>community meal guest</i> Carl Zimmerman – <i>friend of Jan Kruse</i> Amy Zuccarello—<i>daughter of Dcn. Michele Hilton</i></p>
---	--	--

St. Paul Lutheran Church

and Early Childhood Learning Center

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
and the Florida-Bahamas Synod, established 1955
2256 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, Florida 34239
Phone: 941.955.6479 Fax: 941.955.8600 ECLC Phone: 941.955.6480
Website: www.StPaulSarasota.org

The Rev. Ashley Nicolls, Pastor – PrAshley1010@gmail.com
Tracy Bateman, Parish Administrator – stpaul-admin@verizon.net
John Ferreira, Director of Music Ministries—sjrmd@comcast.net
Lisa McLean, ECLC Director--StPaul-eclc@verizon.net
Olivia Partington-Farrow, ECLC Assistant Director
The Rev. Don Hillerich, D.D. - Pastor Emeritus
Michele Hilton, Synod Parish Deacon

Executive Committee

George Hutfilz, President Sue Scherr, Vice President
Marty Hillerich, Treasurer Sharon Wittren, Secretary

Council Congregation

Irene Felicetti	Carol Grosch	Marty Hillerich
George Hutfilz	Bob Lariviere	Daniel Mills
Pr. Ashley Nicolls	Judy Roberts	Sue Scherr
Susy Scholl	Sharon Wittren	Ron Zimmerman



Church Copyright License #2262644
Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24141
One License # A-727949