

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
2nd Sunday of Advent - December 4, 2022
8:30 am Service is live, 11:00 am is live, live-streamed, and recorded
Holy Communion, Setting One

Hymns will be found in the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book.

Prelude - *Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele* by Georg Böhm (ELW 256)

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**

C **Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

Gathering Song - On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

249

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

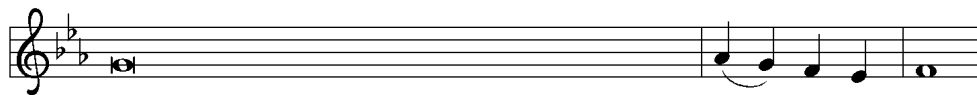
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



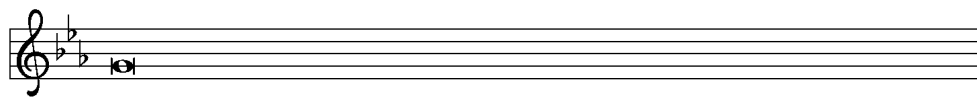
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



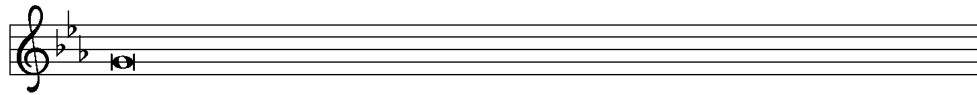
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

All Glory Be to God on High



1 All glo - ry be to God on high, who has the world be -
 2 O Fa - ther, for your lord - ship true we give you praise and
 3 Lord Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son of God, cre - a - tion's
 4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, per - fect gift, who brings us con - so -



friend - ed; to us no harm shall now come nigh, the
 hon - or; we wor - ship you; we trust in you; we
 au - thor, re - deem - er of your wan - d'ring ones, and
 la - tion: to men and wom - en saved by Christ as -



strife at last is end - ed. God shows good-will to
 give you thanks for - ev - er. Your will is per - fect,
 source of all true plea - sure; O Lamb of God, O
 sure your in - spi - ra - tion. Through sick - ness, need, and



one and all, and peace when trou - bled sin - ners call. Thank
 and your might re - lent - less - ly con - firms the right; your
 Lord di - vine, con - form our lives to your de - sign, and
 bit - ter death, grant us your warm, life - giv - ing breath; our



God for grace and mer - cy!
 lord - ship is our bless - ing.
 on us all have mer - cy.
 lives are in your keep - ing. A - - men.

Text: Nikolaus Decius, 1485-1550; tr. composite
 Music: ALLEIN GOTT IN DER HÖH, plainsong; adapt. Nikolaus Decius
 Text st. 1 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress; sts. 2-4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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

P The Lord be with you
C **And also with you**
P Let us pray

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

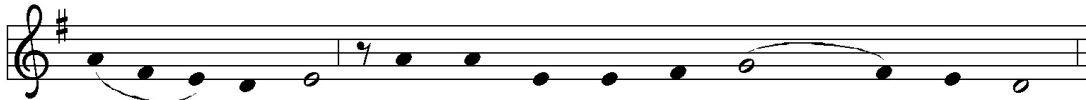
Hymn - O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (verse 2)

257

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



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,



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!
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.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

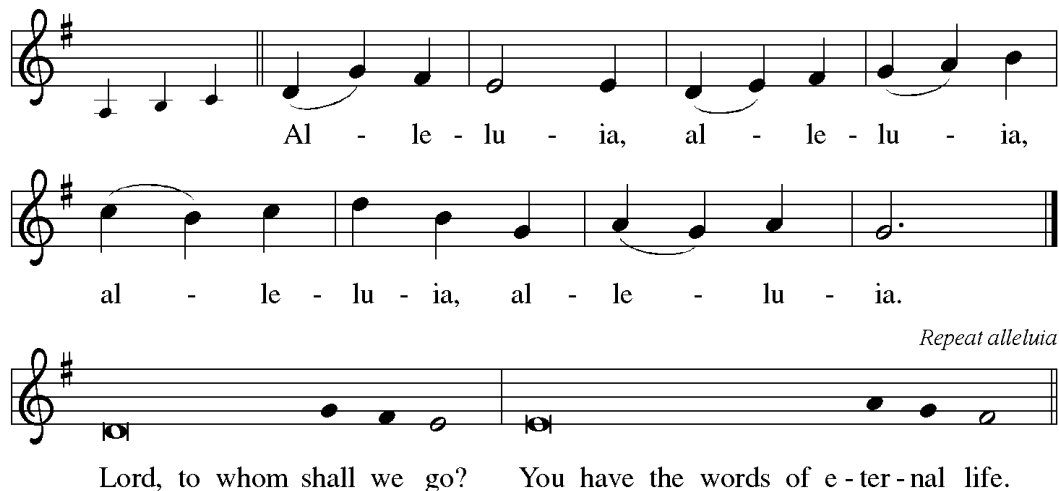
“Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”;
¹⁰and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹²and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.”

¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

After the Gospel is announced, the people say: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’ ”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

After the Gospel is read, the people say: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn of the Day - Comfort, Comfort Now My People

256

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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

A brief silence.

God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians (*especially John of Damascus, whom we commemorate today*). Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness what human greed has harmed. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation (*local examples may be named*). We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones (*especially*), Barbara, Jan, Janet, Joyce, Ida, Phyllis and Larry, Bob and Ellie, Naomi, Pat, Judy, Mary, John, Tom, and others we may name aloud or quietly in our hearts. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence.

God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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.

Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

MEAL

Offering

Offertory - *Every Time I Feel the Spirit, spiritual arr. by William Dawson (choir at 11:00)*

Guest soloist: Roy Crisp

Offertory - Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together

C God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al- so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

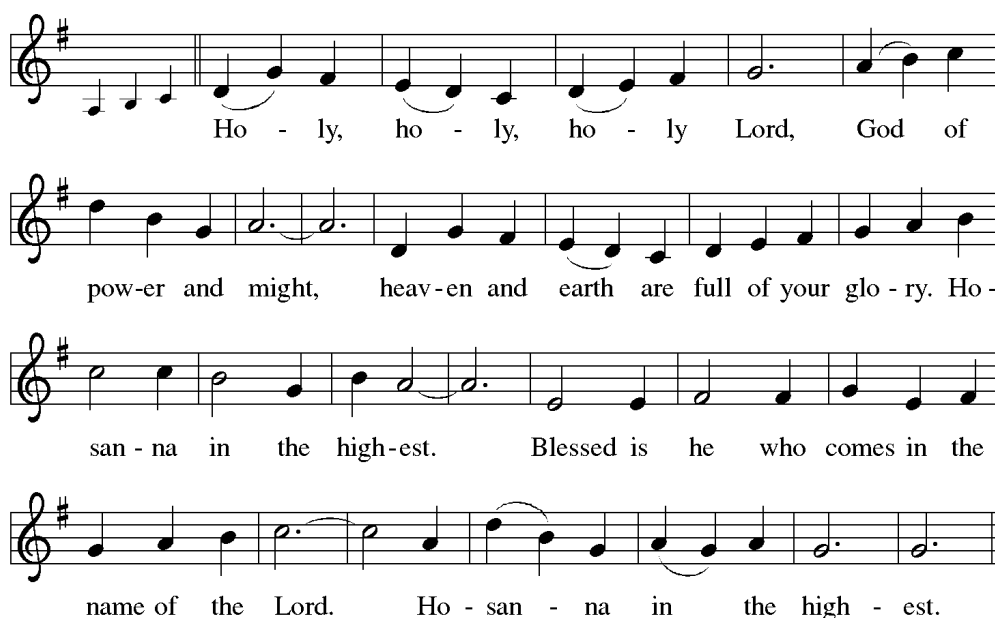
Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy Holy Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.
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.
 Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
 we await his coming in glory.
 Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
 and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
 the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
 to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
 be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C 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,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

P Come to the banquet for all is ready.

COMMUNION SONG – LAMB OF GOD

The image shows four staves of musical notation in treble clef, with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace." The music consists of a single melodic line with various note values and rests.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

And each person may respond Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN – O Day of Peace

711

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

A God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN – Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

246

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Postlude - *Improvisation on puer nobis nascitur*

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #27001. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net ##A-721914.

The Altar Flowers today are given to the Glory of God with the following recognitions:

✝ In honor of Sally's birthday by Mike Mauriello

Altar Flowers – If you would like to make a recognition through a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you would like to request, pick up an envelope and form in the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Phyllis and Larry Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Naomi Watson, Pat Casper, Judy Schlegel, Mary Bader, John Friedrich, Tom Kraska

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time**, email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews and Robert Meissner [Tony Perrotte's mother and uncle], Vickie Ettinger, Lois Horn, Diane Johnson (Penni Perrotte's friends), Gary Hill (cousin of Penni Perrotte), Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Gad Kainer, Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Dean Greg Jones of Duke Divinity, Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Paul (son-in-law of Jan Huntley), Cynthia Sund (grandmother of Megan Cunningham), Richard Dominick (brother of Ted Dominick), Burr Hasselbeck, Josephine Economy and John Bigsby (friends of Bess Line), Jane Taylor (mother of Maria Chi), Wayne Coulter (brother-in-law of Marlene Coulter), Debra Fletcher (sister of Bill Wilson), Marie Watts (cousin of Pat Casper), Ruth Parker (aunt of Pat Casper), Don Rangnow (friend of Robin Winfree), Jim Cunningham (father of Megan Cunningham), Ashley Collins

(niece of Deb Tabert), Holly (friend of Pat Cashwell), Patrick Howell (son of a friend of the Waughs), George and Pat Rose (friends of Debbie Fullbright)

Our sympathy to the family and friends of Walter Staehle, who died on November 21 in Cary, NC. He is the father of Eric Staehle.

Parktown Food Hub Christmas Giveaway 2022

Thank you so much for all the support for the Parktown Food Hub Christmas Giveaway. The gift cards will need to be returned to St. Paul's by **Sunday, December 4** at which time they will be delivered to the Parktown Food Hub Christmas Giveaway.

Poinsettias or Lutheran World Relief Designations are available for this Christmas Designations. Forms and donations (\$10.00 each) are due in the church office by **Sunday, December 11**. Poinsettias may be picked up by their owners following the last service on Christmas Eve or on Christmas Day after the 10:00 am worship. Donations to LWR will be sent directly to Lutheran World Relief to be used at their discretion of need.

WEDNESDAY ADVENT SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

Make Ready for Holy Disruption:

A Contemplative Advent Midweek Series

Wednesdays: Nov 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21

6:00 pm Fellowship Dinner (soups, salad, bread)

7:00 pm Worship



Advent carries expectations for two events: as we wait for the birth of the babe in Bethlehem, we also await the time when Christ will come again to make a new heaven and new earth. Christ's coming brings peace ... but also disruption of the sin, injustice, and brokenness that burdens our lives and our world. When we pray for Christ to come, we are praying for a holy disruption of the status quo of death and the revealing of God's kingdom of life.

Led by the Duke Lutherans, our midweek Advent series this year is built around four steps to help us prepare for God's holy disruption: breathing, releasing, receiving, and rejoicing. Each week's liturgy (consisting of prayer and silence, singing, listening, and reflection) will focus on one step. Together, the steps will remind us that discipleship is always a process and journey. As we worship, we will ask the Holy Spirit to open our eyes so that we might see all of the ways that God promises to come and will come into the world.

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come!

A Look at the Art of Advent

The Advent Season is all about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world as it is today.

This Advent at St. Paul's, Art Historian Janet Seiz will present three sessions during the morning Adult Education featuring all of these things. Each session will highlight a comparison between a "classic" and a "contemporary" work of art related to a specific event in the Christmas story. Aspects of the creative process and the Artist's use of technique and materials will be covered as well as the development and use of symbols. Each class will open and close with a short video blending Advent art and music together.

- ▶ Week I: The Annunciation, November 27, 2022
- ▶ Week II: The Visitation, December 4, 2022
- ▶ Week III: The Adoration of the Shepherds/The Nativity, December 18, 2022

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, December 11, 2022 at 9:45 am in Trinity Hall and on Zoom. The purpose of this meeting is to approve a budget for 2023 and elect three members to the Congregational Council. The Zoom link will be sent out this week. The budget information has been emailed and available for pick-up in the foyer. Please plan to attend.

Christmas Dinner – Wednesday, Dec 14 at 6:00 pm - Please RSVP

Plan to attend the Christmas Dinner in Trinity Hall on Wed, Dec 14 beginning at 6:00 pm. Menu is Pork Loin and a Shrimp dish, Garlic Potatoes, Broccoli and Cheese Casserole, salad, rolls and a variety of desserts. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board and you are welcome to email Susan Esposito at admin@stpaulsdurham.org with the **number attending and which meat dish is preferred**. If you can assist in any way (prep work, cooking, serving, and clean-up), please contact Martha Dahl at 847-612-6687 or mjdahlhouse@gmail.com ! The Advent Service will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm.

“O Holy Night”, The Greatest Story Ever Told – December 16 and 17, 2 shows each night at 6 and 7 pm at Camp Agape, 1369 Tyler Dewar Lane, Fuquay-Varina. Come to Camp Agape for an evening of family fellowship and an incredible presentation of the Christmas story. Follow the “Greatest Story Ever Told” as it unfolds across camp through our live nativity! Whether you have been joining us for years or this will be a first for your family, celebrating Jesus’ birth is sure to be a moving experience for all! There will be wonderful hors d’oeuvre and snack arrangements for you to enjoy before the show, our favorite carols will be sung, and we will experience the joy in the journey of the manger. Cost is \$15 per person (\$60 maximum for immediate family). Register now because time slots fill quickly! Go the website: agapekurebeach.org.

Can you help provide rides? St. Paul’s has a handicap accessible bus and we have members who need transportation to church or evening events. If you can help by providing some evening transportation such as to the evening meals and services, or would like to learn how to handle the bus (you do not need a special driver’s license), please contact the staff.

Children’s Sunday School is meeting downstairs in the Genesis hall from 9:45-10:45 am. We will have some fun cooking and also creating some special crafts as we talk about the seasons of Advent and Christmas in the church. Please join us!

The **Dropped Stitch Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Friday, December 16 at 1:00 pm in the sofa area of the atrium. This group creates prayer shawls by knitting or crochet. We welcome back the **Tongue and Thimble** group. This group creates small quilts which are distributed to the nurseries at local hospitals for their critical patients. They meet downstairs in the Fiber Arts/Music room off of the Genesis Hall on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

Do you want a copy of your offering statement? Please contact our Bookkeeper, Alan Rigsbee (bookkeeper@stpaulsdurham.org), or one of the co-financial secretaries, Phil Hart (psbhart@gmail.com) or Rod Runestad (rodrunestad@gmail.com) to receive a 3rd quarter financial statement. We will mail full-year 2022 statements to everyone in early 2023.

During the past year, we have enjoyed the result of St. Paul’s annual contribution in support of **“Sing for Joy,”** a radio program of sacred music aired by WCPE and their website, theclassicalstation.org. Now we have an opportunity to renew our \$1,000 annual support of “Sing for Joy” so that St. Paul’s can continue to be named on the air as a sponsor of the program. Donors can drop a check, noting WCPE on the check, in the offering plate or the Finance Drop Box in the staff hallway or they can be mailed to St. Paul’s. These checks will be consolidated and a check from St. Paul’s will be sent to WCPE when we accumulate the \$1,000 donation. Many thanks to Hitch Havill for helping us support WCPE and “Sing for Joy.” **Deadline is December 11** for contributions.

PASTA for PARKTOWN!!

Help Stock the St. Paul’s Shelf at Parktown Food Hub!

The folks at Parktown Food Hub love our St. Paul’s pasta! THANKS to your generosity the “St. Paul’s Dry Boxed Pasta Shelf” stays stocked and ready to help hungry families. To date since starting in August, we have collected 465 packages and 512 pounds of pasta. Please continue to add dry pasta to your shopping list to share with others and keep the St. Paul’s shelf stocked! The Women’s Connection Group is leading this initiative to support the Parktown Food Hub, a ministry of South Durham Connections, led by Pastor Sharon Schulze. **St. Paul’s Shelf - dry boxed pasta** – spaghetti, macaroni, ziti, penne, etc. (**NOT**: kits or dinner, nor canned pasta entrees).

New Programs from Growing thru Grief

Growing thru Grief offers help and support to people grieving the loss of a loved one. We are a coalition of religious and civic organizations which have been serving people since 2013. We offer education and small group support each week.

Here is the schedule for the rest of the year:

Dec. 6 Images of Resilience, with Katherine Henderson

Dec. 13 Holiday Cello Concert, with Debbie Davis

Dec. 20 Looking Back at Grief, with Bill Dahl

Dec. 27 A New Beginning, with Mike McCleod

We meet at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Meetings are held each Tuesday, with registration starting at 4:00 pm. First time attendees must show proof of Covid vaccination and booster(s). Masks are optional. We ask people to come at 4; the program begins at 4:30, and all will end by 6.

Please contact admin@growingthrugrief.org if you have any questions.

The Afghan refugee resettlement group has been hard at work helping our new neighbors from Afghanistan settle in Durham. They are a wonderful family of 10 with another child on the way. The father drove US military personnel in Afghanistan and we would like to purchase a used van for him. Additionally, the oldest son needs tuition for community college in the fall. He dreams of one day being a doctor. In order to help raise funds for these needs we have started a gofundme page: <https://gofund.me/1cf5b6e8> We encourage people to donate (everything helps) and also to share the link. This is an easy way for us as a church to simultaneously help a family in need and to reach out beyond our walls and show everyone the good work we are doing.

Music Time for Children – Join us at the 8:30 am service on Sundays for music time with Ted Turner, our minister of music. Following the children's message, all children (and parents) are invited to come sing some songs and have some fun in Whitesell hall during the sermon at the early service. They will return to the service after the singing to continue worship. We hope to see you there.

Child Care on Sunday mornings! We now have an attendant, Courtney, on Sunday mornings who will care for your small children so parents and older children may attend Sunday School and worship. She will be available during the 8:30 service through the 11:00 service. Care will take place in the Parlor which is the room between the atrium and Whitesell Fellowship Hall.

Thursday Bible Study – Join us on Thursdays at 10:30-11:45 am where we are studying the book of Genesis. The class takes place in the Conference Room and by Zoom. Study notes will be emailed.

Join the Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11.

Topic: Coffee Hour, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRIgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09>

Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 – Password: 292680

Our Free Little Library is full of books, magazines, and puzzles for your use. You are welcome to take or leave one to use and share. Stop by the shelf which is near the water fountain in the atrium.

Worship – We have two services: 8:30 am and 11:00 am, both using Setting One of the ELW. The 8:30 am service will be in-person. The 11:00 am service will be in-person, live-streamed and recorded. The link to watch the 11:00 service live is: <https://vimeo.com/event/1478223>. The link to watch any services which have been recorded is: <https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham> then choose the service date or event you wish to watch. We now are offering child-care during the worship times. Our attendant will be located in the room between the foyer and Whitesell Hall.

Sign-Up Genius Links

We need worship assistants weekly. Please visit the Sign-Up Genius links which we use to enable volunteers to fill in where needed, for both services. Click on the link and fill in your name on the date(s).

♦ **Sunday Morning Worship Tasks**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1>

Tasks include setting up, lector, worship assistant, sound, altar guild, video, etc. Staff will be glad to

provide assistance for any of these tasks.

◆ **Sunday morning Communion Assistants and Lock-Up**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-communion>

◆ **Devotions** – <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1>

Please send your devotions to Vicar Amanda Spangler at vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

Gathering - On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

249

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Comfort, Comfort Now My People



1 “Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!” So says our God.
 2 For the her-ald’s voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row’s load.
 call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
 Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God’s ho - ly reign.



To God’s peo - ple now pro-claim that God’s par - don waits for them!
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
 For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
 Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God’s word is nev - er bro - ken.

Text: Johann G. Olearius, 1635–1711; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

O Day of Peace



1 O day of peace that dim-ly shines through all our hopes and prayers and dreams,
 2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the fierce de - vour the small;



guide us to jus - tice, truth, and love, de-liv-ered from our self - ish schemes.
 as beasts and cat - tle calm-ly graze, a lit-tle child shall lead them all.



May swords of hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re - lease,
 Then en - e - mies shall learn to love, all crea-tures find their true ac - cord;



till by God's grace our war-ring world shall see Christ's prom-ised reign of peace.
 the hope of peace shall be ful-filled, for all the earth shall know the Lord.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: JERUSALEM, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!

1 Hark! a thrill-ing voice is sound-ing! "Christ is near," we hear it say.
 2 Wak-ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond-age let us rise;
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - spect - ed, come with par - don down from heav'n.
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is wrapped in fear,
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther and the Son

"Cast a - way the works of dark-ness, all you chil-dren of the day!"
 Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling, shines up - on the morn-ing skies.
 Let us haste, with tears of sor - row, one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 he will shield us with his mer - cy and with words of love draw near.
 with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878
 Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889