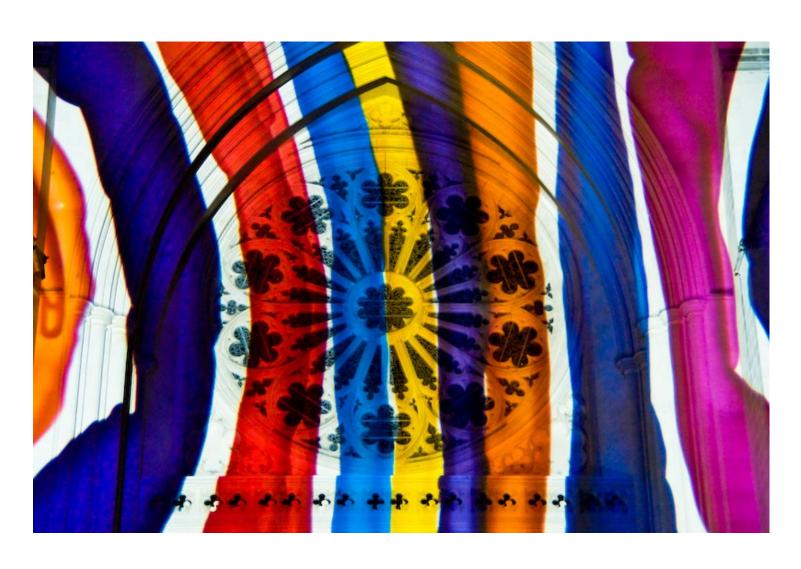
The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul

Newton Highlands, Massachusetts

First Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist

November 30, 2025 at 10:00am



From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR A) Holy Eucharist with Joyful Noise

Prelude *Musicians*

From wherever you have come, with whatever you bring, you are welcome here.

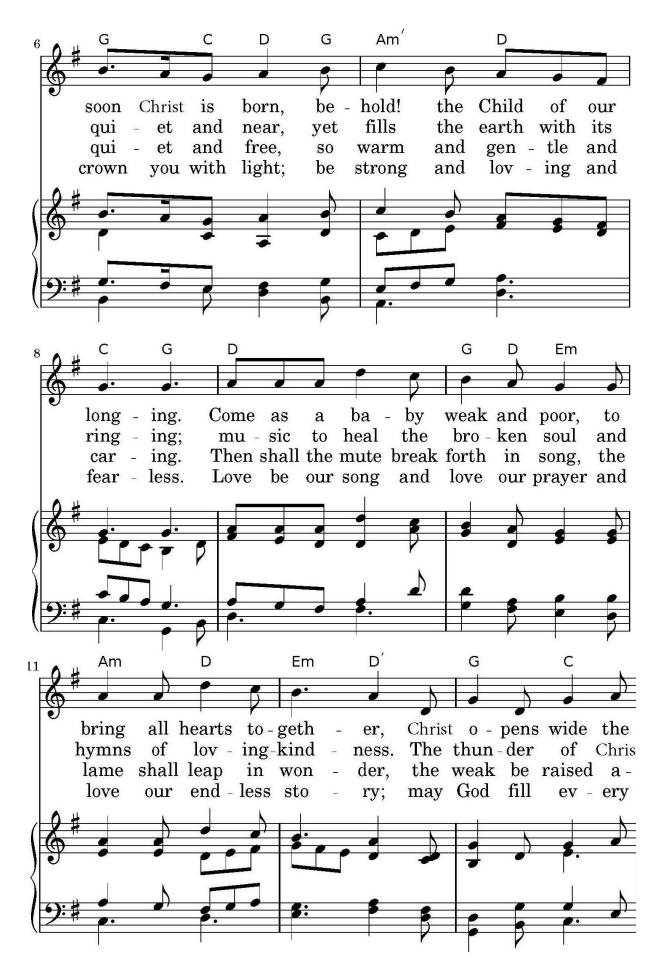
Gathering Rites / Book of Common Prayer p. 355

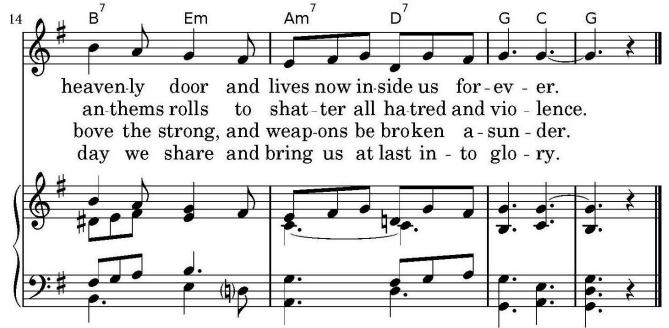
Gathering Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.

GLORY TO GOD, #107 - Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn







Text: Marty Haugen, 1983, alt.; D 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. Music (Rejoice, Rejoice 9.8.9.8.8.7.8.9): Marty Haugen, 1983; S 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

People And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

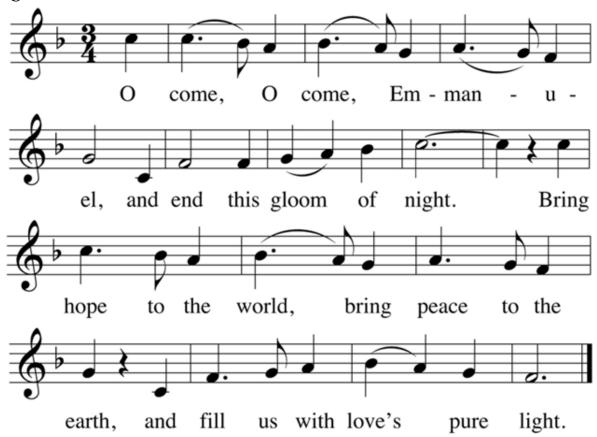
Lighting of the Advent Wreath

First Sunday in Advent - The Candle of Hope

Choir

Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light, Jesu, Redeemer, Savior of all, hear thy servants when they call

Congregation



Leader In this season of Advent, we long for God's presence.

All Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Leader In this season of Advent, we search for God's truth.

All Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Leader In this season of Advent, we seek God's guidance.

All Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Leader In this season of Advent, we remember God's promise.

All Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

The candle of hope is lighted.

Leader Today we light the first candle, the candle of hope. This candle reminds us that God's promises give us reason to be filled with hope – hope for unity in a world of division, hope for healing in a world of pain, and hope for peace in a world filled with anger and strife. We remember that Christ is our light and the source of our hope.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Child Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when Christ shall come again in glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated

The First Reading

Jeremiah 23:1-6

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come the mountain of God's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Most High, to the house of the God of Jacob;

that the Holy One may teach us the holy ways and that we may walk in Gods paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of God from Jerusalem.

The Most High shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm Psalm 122

We will pray the psalm responsively by whole verse

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of God."

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

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

To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the Holy One, the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of God.

For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you.

Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.

For my kindred and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity.

Because of the house of the Holy One our God, I will seek to do you good."

This week's Psalm is from the St. Helena Psalter

The Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

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; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Savior Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

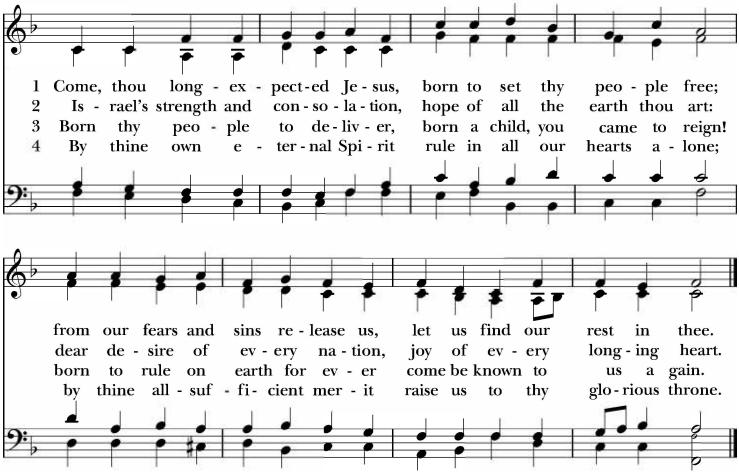
Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.

HYMNAL 1982, #66 - Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus



Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788). Music: Stuttgart, melody from Psalmodia Sacra, oder Andächtige und schöne Gesange, 1715; adapt. and harm. William Henry Havergal (1793-1870), alt.

The Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew. People Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said to the disciples, "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Child, but only the Creator. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Child of Humanity. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and

swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Child of Humanity. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two others will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your God is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, the owner would have stayed awake and would not have let their house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Child of Humanity is coming at an unexpected hour."

Presider The Gospel of our Savior.
People Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Priest-in-Charge

The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed is the historic statement of faith of the Church. It helps to knit the Church together across peoples and places, time and space. We pray it together as a single body, a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church.



Prayers of the People

Intercessor Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Loving God, that all who praise your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for the worldwide Anglican Communion, for the Episcopal Church, for our presiding bishop, Sean, and our diocesan bishop, Julia. We pray for all ministers – lay and ordained – and we pray for our own Parish of St. Paul; Church of Our Saviour, Arlington; St. John's Church, Arlington; Order of St. Anne & Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington; The Standing Committee; and for the Brotherhood of St. Gregory. Either in silence or aloud, for whom else in the Church do we pray today? (You are invited to add your own prayers.)

Silence

God, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace, that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Either in silence or aloud, for which peoples and leaders of the world do we pray today? (You are invited to add your own prayers.)

Silence

God, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Either in silence or aloud, for what in God's creation do we pray today? (You are invited to add your own prayers.)

Silence

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as Christ loves us. Either in silence or aloud, for whom and what do we give thanks in our lives today? (You are invited to add your own thanksgivings.)

Silence

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; all those who suffer from addiction or depression; all those who live in and with fear; and all those who may need encouragement and uplift. Give them courage and hope, and bring them the joy of your peace and salvation. We pray especially for the family and friends of Kirsten; Ryan; Nancy Williamson; Paul Friedman; Terry; Jim Nolan; David Murphy; David Tabors; Kristin; Deb; Tom; Sean and Jack; and for the peoples and ministries of the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, AA, and NewCity Church. Either in silence or aloud, for whom else do we pray today? (You are invited to add your own prayers.)

Silence

God, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in

your eternal kindom. Either in silence or aloud, whom do we remember today by name? (You are invited to offer names.)

Silence

God, in your mercy **Hear our prayer.**

Prayer for the Social Order (BCP p. 824)

Intercessor Together let us pray.

All O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance

and respect; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Silence

Presider offers a collect

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Presider Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbor, and ourselves.

All O God, we bring you our failure, our hunger, our disappointment, our despair, our greed, our arrogance, and our fear. We have not loved you with our whole hearts. We have not truly loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are sorry, we are humbled, and we pray that you will strengthen us with your grace. We turn to you, O God. We renounce evil, we claim love, we choose to be made whole. Forgive us and renew us now.

Silence

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Mt. 11:28-30).

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

All And also with you.

The congregation is invited to exchange signs of peace.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

Choir

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning for the time is drawing nigh

Soon I will be done with the trouble of the world Soon I will be done the time is drawing nigh

Children don't get weary 'til your work is done

Arr. Greg Gilpin (b. 1964)

The Doxology - Old Hundredth

Please rise as you are comfortable.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow Praise God all creatures here below Praise God above all life and death Creator, Christ, and Holy Breath. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to God.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Holy One our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

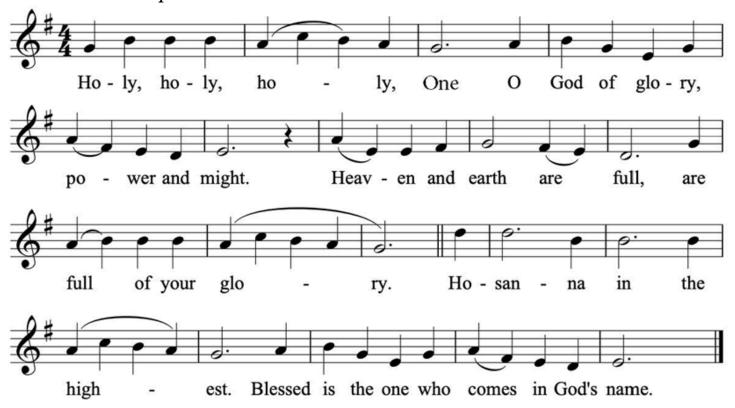
Presider

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Presider offers a Preface.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Presider and People



Please rise, sit, or kneel as you are comfortable.

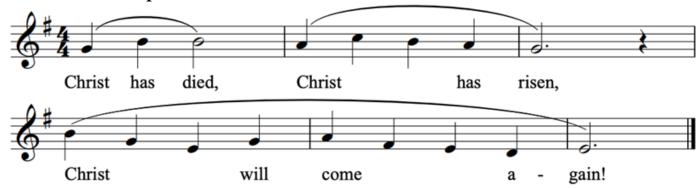
The Presider continues

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before Jesus died for us, our Savior 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 Jesus 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 Jesus's command, O God,

Presider and People

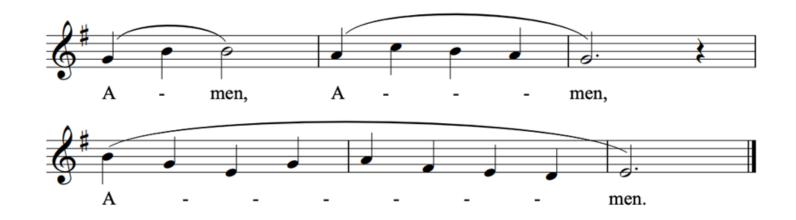


The Presider continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 the Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are all acceptable to you, 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 [_____and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.



The Lord's Prayer

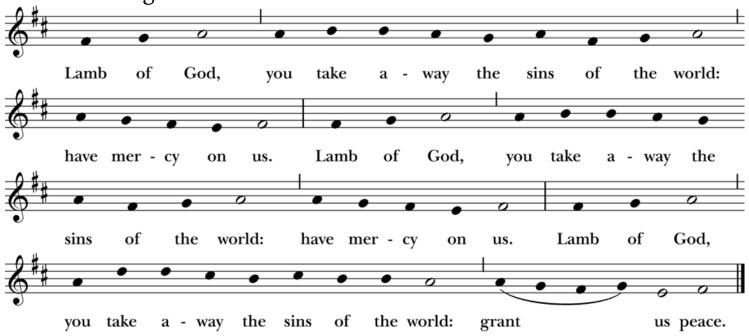
You are invited to say whichever version of the Lord's Prayer moves you.

Presider

As our savior Christ has taught us, we now pray

Our Loving God in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kindom 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 kindom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread



The Sanctus, Memorial Acclamation, and Amen are arranged by Taylor Burton-Edwards. The General Board of Discipleship of the United Methodist Church. (Found in *The United Methodist Hymnal*, #211.)

Presider

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Communion

Jesus says, "Come and see."

You are welcome at this Table, exactly as you are, because of who you are. If you feel called to the Table, please come forward to receive Communion.

Gluten-free communion bread is available. Please let the priest know when you come for communion.

If you do not wish to receive the consecrated wine, please know that receiving the consecrated bread alone constitutes a full Communion.

If you do not desire Communion, you are welcome to come forward for a blessing – please cross your arms over your chest to indicate that you desire a blessing.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

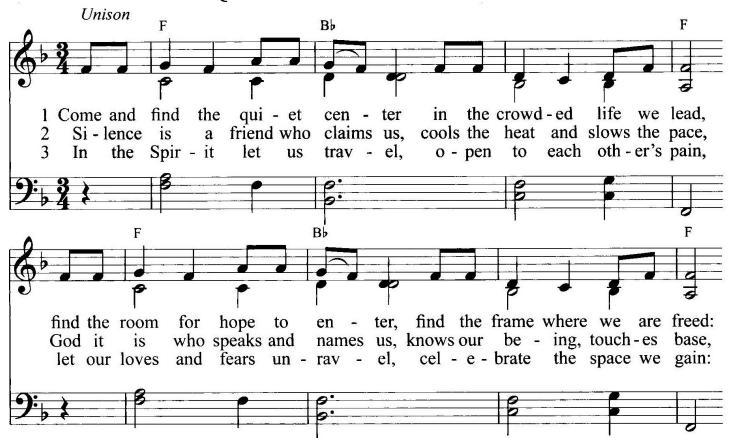
(The following prayer of Spiritual Communion is said privately and is intended for individuals participating remotely, and for individuals who may not wish to receive Communion or a blessing.)

In union, O God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. And since I cannot receive you today in the sacrament of bread and wine, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Postcommunion Hymn

You are invited to stand, sit, or kneel as you are comfortable.

Come and Find the Quiet Center





Words: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-) Music: Attr. B.F. White (1880-1879), The Sacred Harp, 1844; arr. Jack Schrader (1942-) Words and Music Arr. © 1992 Hope Publishing Company

Postcommunion Prayer

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.

People and Presider

Eternal God,

you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ,

whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,

in the promise of Christ's love, which defeats evil and death, and grant us strength and courage,

in face of fear and doubt,

through the power of the Holy Spirit,

to be the church, a community of flawed and forgiving disciples, to love and serve you, to seek justice and to live in peace, with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Postcommunion Prayer is an adaptation from the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two (Expansive Edition) and the Statement of Faith from the Iona Abbey Worship Book (2001).

Blessing

Processional Hymn

HYMNAL 1982, #61 - Sleepers Wake





Words: Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); tr. Carl P. Daw, Jr. (b. 1944). Copyright © 1982, by Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission. Music: Wachet auf, melody Hans Sachs (1494-1576); adapt. Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608); arr. And harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

Announcements

Dismissal

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable.

Presider Our worship has ended, let our service begin. Go in peace to

love and serve God, God's people, and God's world.

People Thanks be to God.



TODAY'S LITURGY

Participants

The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney - Priest-in-Charge and Presider

Eliza Blay - Lector of First Reading and Leader of Psalm

Kathryn Anderson - Lector of Second Reading

Carter Lustig - Acolyte

Natalie Brelsford - Intercessor and Lay Eucharistic Minister

Brenda Carter - Pianist

Mary Lou Pierron and Jack Blay - Altar Guild

Chris Gruener - Usher/Attendance

Lee Hatfield and Chris Gruener - Counters

Tech - William Holz

Front Cover Art

Christ and Saint John the Evangelist, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a Hofstetter, Gerry, 1962-. Light upon the Cathedral, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54877 [retrieved November 20, 2025]. Original source: http://www.flickr.com/photos/blahmni/2678426871/.

PRAYERS

In Our Diocesan Cycle Of Prayer:

For the Episcopal Church; for Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop, and Julia Whitworth, our Diocesan Bishop; all ministers – lay and ordained – and we pray for our own Parish of St Paul; Church of Our Saviour, Arlington; St. John's Church, Arlington; Order of St. Anne & Bethany House of Prayer, Arlington; The Standing Committee; and the Brotherhood of St. Gregory.

Parish Prayer List - Prayers are Requested for:

The family and friends of Kirsten; Ryan; Nancy Williamson; Paul Friedman; Terry; Jim Nolan; David Murphy; David Tabors; Kristin; Deb; Tom; Sean and Jack; and for the Global Village Children's Project, the Centre Street Food Pantry, AA, and NewCity Church.

SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday, Eleanor Evans (December 5)!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Happening at the Parish of St. Paul - Save the Dates!

- Today, Sunday, November 30: Advent Wreath Making After Church
- Sunday, December 14: POSP, Grace, and St. John's together for Advent Lessons and Carols at 4pm at St. John's, Newtonville
- Sunday, December 21: Service of Solace and Strength at POSP at 7pm
- Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve liturgy at 6:00pm

Morning Prayer on Thursdays at Grace Church, Newton Corner

Grace Church, Newton Corner has begun offering Morning Prayer on Thursday mornings at 8am in the chapel. POSP parishioners are invited to attend.

Prayer List

If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please email Lise in the parish office or use this QR code.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to contribute altar flowers for a thanksgiving or memorial, please be in contact with Lise in the parish office.

Pastoral Care

If you desire pastoral care for a particular need, please be in contact with Rev. Meghan. It could be as simple as a private prayer request emailed to her, or an inperson conversation about something of concern. Rev. Meghan or our pastoral care intern, Jason von Ehrenkrook, are available to meet with you.

Receive the Parish Newsletter!

The newsletter is sent about once per week (occasionally more often if there is a pressing notice, for example, of snow cancellation, etc.). The newsletter contains reflections from parishioners and *lots* of information and announcements about our diocese, the greater church, and other goings-on in and around town and in the world, that are not printed in this bulletin.

Scan to access this week's newsletter



Scan to sign up to receive the newsletter



Can Redemption Volunteers

Volunteers sought to assist with can redemption for the Plenty ministry. Please connect with Christopher Gruener or speak with Rev. Meghan if you can assist.



Staff and Office Hours

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney – meghan@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours: In-Person, usually on Wednesday, 9am -1pm and by appointment (please email Rev. Meghan directly if you would like to make an appointment).

Parish Administrator: Lise Brody - office@parishofstpaul.org. Office Hours (may vary): Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9am-1pm

Vestry

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to be in touch with your vestry. The next Vestry Meeting is on December 17.

Priest-in-Charge: The Rev. Dr. Meghan T. Sweeney Co-Warden: Kim Koger, mkskoger5@gmail.com

Co-Warden: David Montgomery, dmontgomery@montlegal.com

Treasurer: Richard Pearce, Richard@northinfo.com Clerk: Bernice Cramer, bernicecramer@gmail.com Kathryn Anderson, kmanderson.english@gmail.com Chris Gruener, crossroadscounseling101@gmail.com

Lee Hatfield, leebateshatfield@verizon.net Dustin Ledgard, ledgarddustin@gmail.com

Elected Parish Leaders

Delegates to the Charles River Deanery: David Montgomery and Mary Lou Pierron Delegates to the Diocesan Convention: Jack Blay and Mary Lou Pierron; alternate Kim Koger

1135 Walnut Street, Newton Highlands, MA 02461 617-527-6642 office@parishofstpaul.org www.parishofstpaul.org

