

The Episcopal Parish of Saint Paul

Newton Highlands, Massachusetts

Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist

December 14, 2025 at 10:00am



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

THIRD 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.

HYMNAL 1982, #67 – Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert far and near,
3 Make ye straight what long was crook-ed, make the rough - er pla - ces plain;

com-fort those who sit in dark-ness mourn-ing'neath their sor - rows' load.
call - ing us to new re - pent-ance since the kin - dom now is here.
let your hearts be true and hum-ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.

Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;
 For the glo - ry of our God now o'er earth is shed a - broad;

tell her that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
 let the val - leys rise to meet Christ and the hills bow down to greet Christ.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Section: Advent Title: Comfort, comfort ye my people Meter: 87. 87. 77. 88 Words: Johann G. Olearius (1611-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878), alt. Music: *Psalm 42*, melody and bass Claude Goudimel (1514-1572); harm. *Hymnal 1982*

Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People You come to your people and set them free.

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.

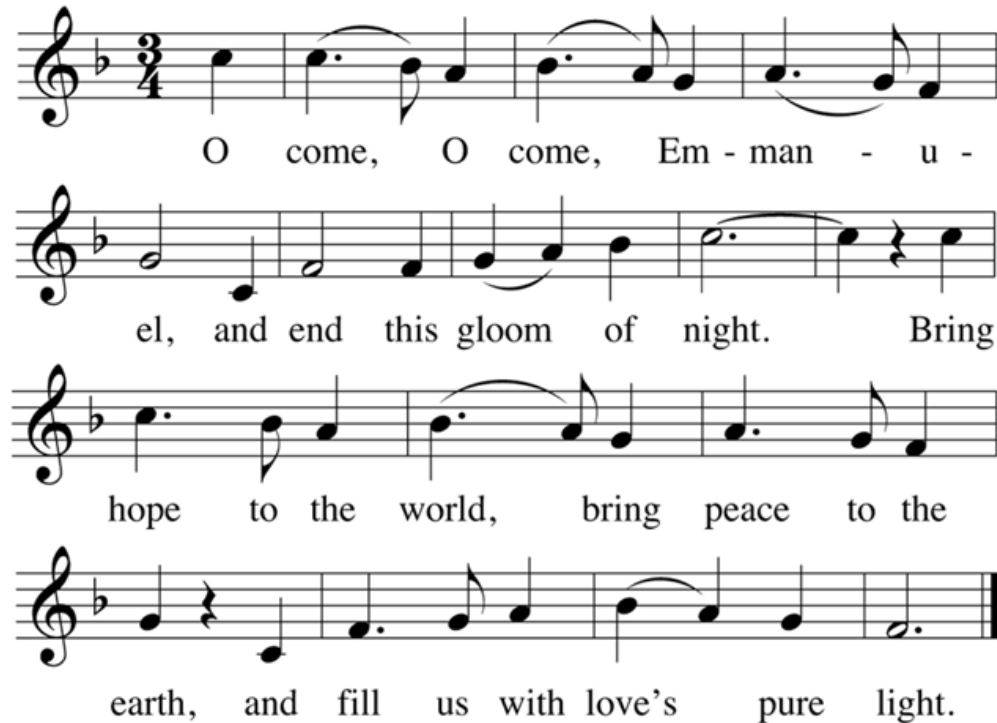
Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Third Sunday in Advent – The Candle of Joy

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 celebrate with joyful hearts.

All **Christ is our light and the source of our joy.**

Leader We count our blessings, and give thanks for God's goodness and grace.

All **Christ is our light and the source of our joy.**

Leader We strive to search for the good in neighbors near and far.

All **Christ is our light and the source of our joy.**

Leader We remember that God has promised up full and joyful lives.

All **Christ is our light and the source of our joy.**

The candles of hope, peace, and joy are lighted.

Leader Today we light the candles of hope, peace, and today, joy. These candles remind us that we have reason to be joyful, even in the midst of strife. We remember that the angel proclaimed Christ's birth as "Good news of great joy, to all people." We celebrate today with joyful hearts and commit ourselves to spreading that joy to the world around us.

Collect of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O God, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Savior, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated

The First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Most High,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God,
Who will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
God will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools,
shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Most High shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;

everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gradual

Canticle 5

The Song of Mary (Luke: 1:46-55)

We will pray the canticle responsively by whole verse

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Most High,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;

**for God has looked with favor on God's lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed:**

the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is God's Name.
God has mercy on those who fear God

in every generation.

God has shown the strength of God's arm,

God has scattered the proud in their conceit.

God has cast down the mighty from their thrones,

and has lifted up the lowly.

God has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich God has sent away empty.

God has come to the help of God's servant Israel,

for God has remembered God's promise of mercy,

**The promise God made to our fathers and mothers,
to Abraham and Sarah, and their children for ever.**

All **Glory to the Holy and Undivided Trinity, One God:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for
ever. Amen.**

The Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of our God. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Most High is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Most High.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

Please rise as you are comfortable.

Toda La Tierra / All Earth Is Waiting

We will sing in English

Unison

The musical score is written for a unison voice part in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are written below the staff, with two versions provided: a Spanish version and an English version. The English version is the primary focus, as indicated by the instruction 'We will sing in English'. The score includes a unison instruction and a list of chords: D, D/F#, Em, A7, D, and F#m. The lyrics are: 1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor y el sur - co a - bier - to, la 2 Di - ce el pro - fe - ta al pue - blo de Is - ra - el: "De ma - dre vir - gen ya 1 All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One, and o - pen fur - rows, the 2 Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el, "A vir - gin moth - er will

1 To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor y el sur - co a - bier - to, la
2 Di - ce el pro - fe - ta al pue - blo de Is - ra - el: "De ma - dre vir - gen ya
1 All earth is wait - ing to see the Prom - ised One, and o - pen fur - rows, the
2 Thus says the proph - et to those of Is - ra - el, "A vir - gin moth - er will

o - bra del Crea-dor; es el mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber-tad,
vie - ne Em-ma-nuel," se - rá "Dios con no - so - tros," se - mi-lla se - rá,
sow-ing of our God. All the world, bound and strug-gling, seeks true lib - er - ty;
bear Em-man-u - el": One whose name is "God with us," our Sav-ior shall be,

re - cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver-dad. (4 dar - nos li-ber-tad.)
con él la es-pe-ran-za al mun-do vol-ve - rá.
it cries out for jus-tice and search-es for the truth. (4 brings us lib-er - ty.)
through whom hope will blos-som once more with-in our hearts.

- 3** Moun-tains and val-leys will
have to be made plain;
o-pen new high-ways,
new high-ways for our God,
Who is now com-ing closer,
so come all and see,
and o-pen the door-ways
as wide as wide can be.
- 4** In low-ly sta-ble
the Prom-ised One ap-peared,
yet feel that pres-ence
through-out the earth to-day,
For Christ lives in all Chris-tians
and is with us now;
a-gain, on ar-riv-ing
Christ brings us lib-er-ty.

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, John sent word by Jesus's disciples and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered the disciples, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.’

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

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.

I be-lieve in God al-might-y, Au-thor of all things that be, Mak-er
I be-lieve that Je-sus suf-fered, scourged and scorned all cru-ci-fied; tak-en
I be-lieve in God's own Spir-it, bond-ing all the saints with-in one church,
of the earth and heav-ens, Keep-er of the sky and sea, I be-
from the cross, was bur-ied, True Life there had, I be-
cath-o-lic and ho-ly, where for-give-ness frees from sin; in the
lieve in God's Son, Je-sus, now for us Rab-bi and Christ, of the
lieve that on the third day, Christ was raised break-ing from the death's chain, then as-
bod-y's res-ur-rec-tion, for the break-ing of death's chain, gives the
Spir-it and of Mar-y, born to bring a-bun-dant life,
cend-ed to God's right-hand, Christ will come a-to-judge and save,
life that's ev-er-last-ing. This will the faith that I have claimed.

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; Christ Church, Cambridge; St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge; St. James' Church, Cambridge; St. Peter's Church, Cambridge; and for the Diocesan Disciplinary Board. 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 Phil; Julia; Nancy; 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 kingdom. We remember especially Jean and Ken Ogden and Vail and Phil Whitbeck, in whose memory today's altar flowers are given. 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

Song of Mary

*My Lord and Saviour is my song,
He fills my spirit with delight.
To raise me up his arm is strong,
The lowly precious in his sight. **Refrain***

Refrain:

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum
(My soul doth magnify the Lord)*

*My name shall live from age to age,
And ev'ry tongue his servant bless,
For mercy is their heritage
Whose hearts the Holy One confess. **Refrain***

*The proud beguil'd by dreams of pow'r
Divided and degraded lie:
He casts them down from throne and tow'r
And stoops to lift the humble high. Refrain*

*He feeds the hungry at his board
And sends the rich unfill'd away,
And mindful of his promis'd word
Has answer'd Israel's prayer today. Refrain*

*With all the elders of our race,
And those unborn who seek this birth,
I sing the glory of his grace
Who brings eternity to earth. Refrain*

Richard Shephard (1945-2021)

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.**

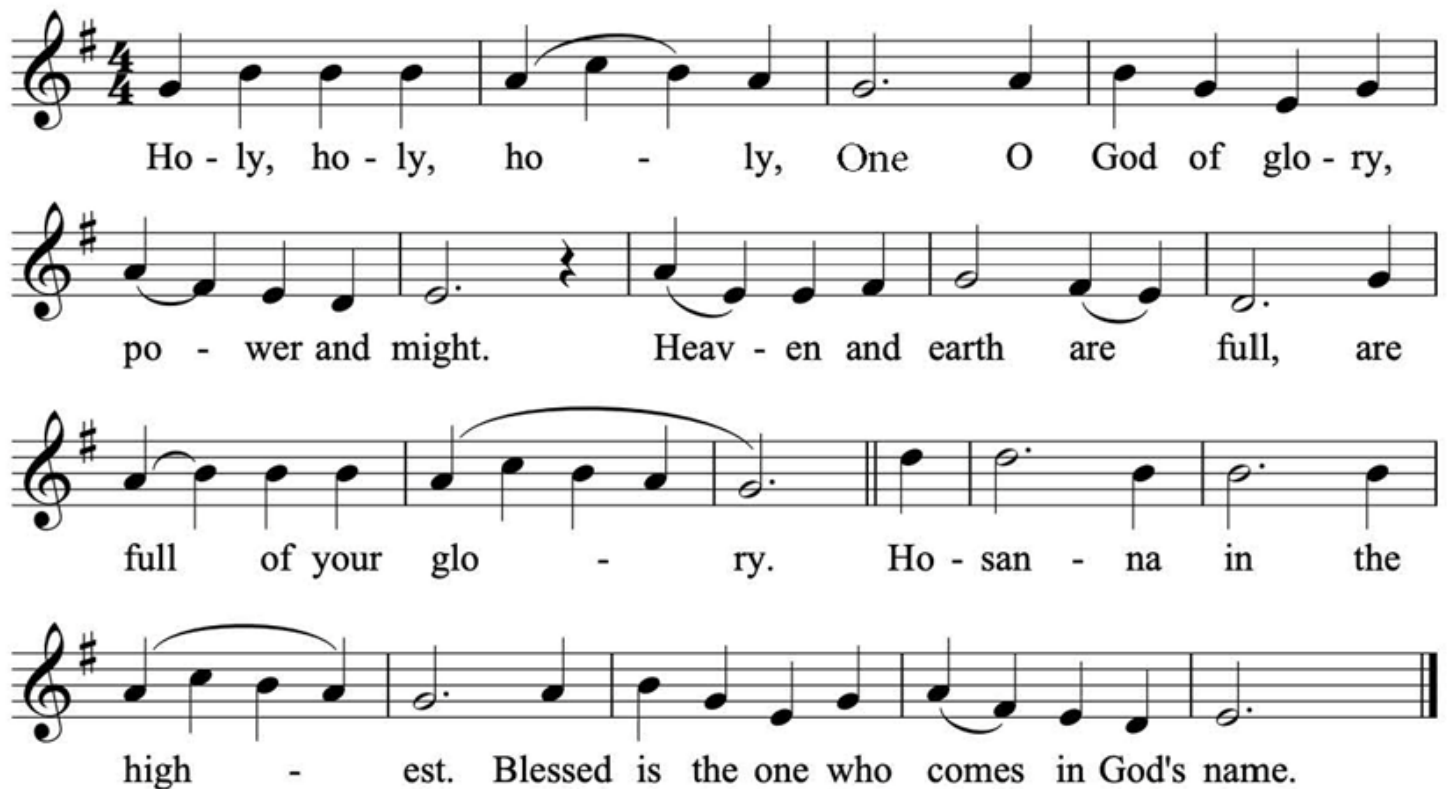
Presider

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, One O God of glo - ry,
po - wer and might. Heav - en and earth are full, are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Blessed is the one who comes in God's name.

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

The Presider continues

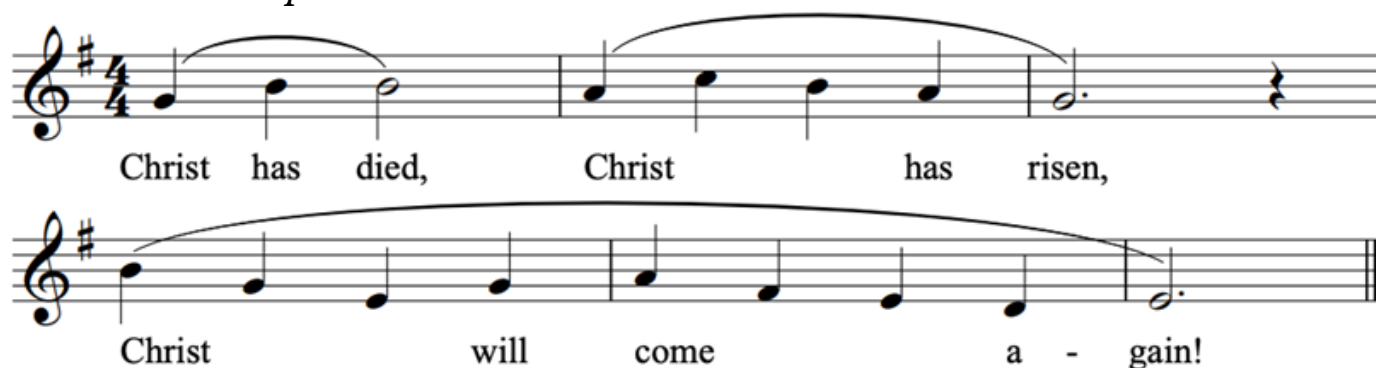
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the 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."

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

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.

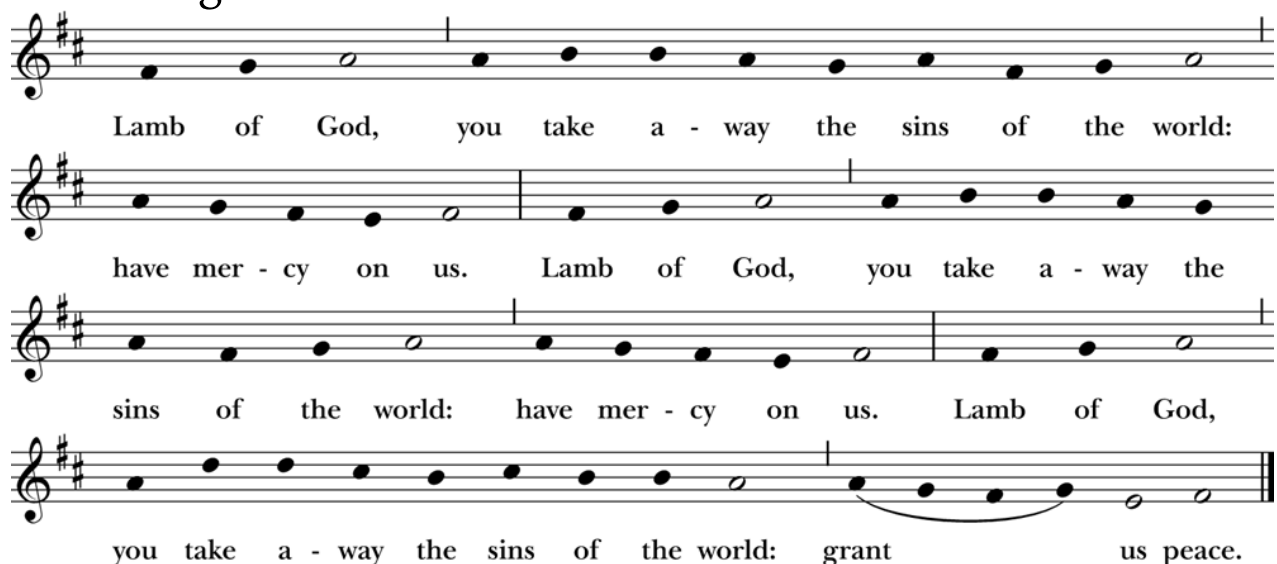
Give us today our daily bread.

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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

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.

Canticle of the Turning

1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the
2 Though I am small, my God, my all, you
3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a
4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re -

3 God of my heart is great, and my
work great things in me, and your
stone will be left on stone. Let ru -
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's

5 spir - it sings of the won - drous things that you
mer - cy will last from the depths of the past to the
lers be - ware for your jus - tice tears ev - ery
mer - cy must de - liv - er us from the

7 Em C Em G

bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your
 end of the age to be. Your ver - y name puts the
 ty - rant from their throne. The hun - gry poor shall
 con-quer-or's crush-ing grasp. This sav - ing word that our

10 D Em C

ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you did not
 proud to shame, and to those who would for you
 weep no more, for the food they can nev - er
 fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which holds us

12 D Em

spurn, so from east to west shall my
 yearn, you will show your might, put the
 earn; there are ta - bles spread; ev - ery
 bound, till the spear and rod can be

14

G

D

Em

C

Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn-ing the world a - round.

Refrain

G

D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

19

Em

C

D

Em

fires of your jus-tice burn. Wipe a-way all tears, for the

22

The musical score is written for a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The vocal line starts on a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp. The piano accompaniment is written for both treble and bass staves, also with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are: 'dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.' The music is divided into three measures. The first measure has a C chord, the second has a D chord, and the third has an Em chord. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a simpler bass line in the left hand.

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

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

Prepare the Way, O Zion



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 Christ brings God's rule, O Zi - on; and comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
Christ's rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
Christ's tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore Christ, their voic - es will a - dore Christ.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Franz Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (1920-1999). Copyright © 1982, Charles P. Price. Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; harm. *Koralbok för Svenska Kyrkan*, 1939, alt.

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

Phil Whitbeck – Lector of First Reading and Leader of Psalm

David Montgomery – Lector of Second Reading

Carter Lustig – Acolyte

Mary Lou Pierron – Lay Eucharistic Minister and Intercessor

Brenda Carter – Pianist

Jack Blay and Margaret Hummel – Altar Guild

Eliza Blay – Usher/Attendance

Kathryn Anderson and Kim Koger – Counters

Tech – Adam Taylor

Front Cover Art

Pittman, Lauren Wright. Enough, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56555> [retrieved December 4, 2025]. Original source: Lauren Wright Pittman, <http://www.lewpstudio.com/>.

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; Christ Church, Cambridge; St. Bartholomew's Church, Cambridge; St. James' Church, Cambridge; St. Peter's Church, Cambridge; and for the Diocesan Disciplinary Board.

Parish Prayer List – Prayers are Requested for:

Phil; Julia; Nancy; 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

Today's alter flowers are donated by Phil and Bailey Whitbeck for the glory of God and in loving memory of Jean and Ken Ogden and Vail and Phil Whitbeck.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

- Today, Sunday, December 14: POSP, Grace, and St. John's together for Advent Lessons and Carols at 4pm at St. John's, Newtonville. Festive mince pie reception to follow!
- Sunday, December 21: 10am Holy Eucharist at POSP
- Sunday, December 21: Liturgy of Solace and Strength at POSP at 7pm
- Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve carol sing at 5:45pm and liturgy at 6:00pm
- Sunday, December 28: POSP joins with Grace and St. Mary's **at St. Mary's, Newton Lower Falls (258 Concord Street, Newton)** for 10am Eucharist with carol sing
- Sunday, January 4: 10am Holy Eucharist at POSP, with the Rev. Dr. David Killian presiding and preaching.
- Sunday, January 25: Parish Annual Meeting immediately following 10am Holy Eucharist

Flowers for Christmas

Donations for Christmas flowers are most welcome. Please put "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line of your check.

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 in-person 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 January 21.

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, rpearce144@gmail.com
Clerk: Bernice Cramer, bernicecramer@gmail.com
Kathryn Anderson, kmanderson.english@gmail.com
Chris Gruener, crossroadscounseling101@gmail.com
Lee Hatfield, leebrateshatfield@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

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parishofstpaul.

