



Advent Vespers Week 2

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
25 W. Springettsbury Avenue, York, Pennsylvania, 17403
717-843-8155
st.paulsyork@comcast.net
www.stpaulsyork.org

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Church Office 717-843-8155

Email: st.paulsyork@comcast.net

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www.stpaulspreschoolyork.com

WELCOME Thank you for being with us.

We are a Christian church within the Lutheran tradition (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) and we welcome people of all Christian traditions as well as people of other faiths and people of little or no faith. Christian worship has been offered to God in this congregation for 184 years. By worshipping with us this evening, you become part of that living tradition.

Restrooms are available in the Good Shepherd Room (Springettsbury lobby) and the narthex. Baby changing stations are provided in these restrooms.

Thank you for your faithfulness in making offerings in person, through the mail or by using online options from your financial institution or through the "Donate" now from the church website **stpaulsyork.org**. Your gifts are keeping us current with the commitments associated with St. Paul's and our ministry partners.

Guidelines for Worship during the time of COVID-19

Entering and Leaving the Church:

Face masks are required.

Kindly sign in at the door through which you entered. This will help if we need to be in contact.

Please take your service bulletin with you or dispose of it properly. Please don't place it back into a basket.

Offerings:

Monetary offerings may be placed in the basins provided at the entrances to the nave prior to the service or immediately following the service. You may also donate via our website at www.stpaulsyork.org

While in the Nave:

You may sit together as a family. Worshippers should sit in designated pews only. We ask that you practice social distancing from one family to the next within the pew.

Our COVID-19 task force is assisting us as we remain open at St. Paul's. Please thank Deacon Ellen Doughty, Dr. Jessica Ericson, Sheridan Palmer, Deacon Harold Sargeant, and Tim Yakim for their dedication and service.

Food Pantry—December

Items needed: Stuffing, Canned beans, cranberry sauce, canned pumpkin, canned beans, canned vegetables, canned meats, apple sauce, mashed potato mix, rice, pasta side dishes and peanut butter & jelly. Anyone able to help can contact Teresa Rohrbaugh or Janet and Larry Moore. Plastic Bags are always needed. Money donations are gratefully accepted. Please place cash or check in a "special" envelope marked "Pantry".



Flowers This Week

This week's flowers are given to the Glory of God by Richard & Patsy Griffin; and in honor of our children and grandchildren by Allan & Bonnie Wysocki.

In our prayers we remember...

Deborah Fulton, Reid Weinbrom, Darrell Kopp, Becky Diggs, Bill Troutman, Shawn Sunday, Mike Johnston, Betty Mehring, Drew Herdson, David List, Jessica Ericson, Kristine Gross, Porter Stacey.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Fri	Sat
6 Advent 2 - ST. NICHOLAS DAY 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Evening Service	7 9:00 - 11:30 AM Pre-school 7:00 PM Scout Troop 19	8 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers	9 9:00 - 11:30 AM Pre-school	10 9:00 - 11:30 AM Pre-school 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	11	12
13 Advent 3 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist 5:00 PM Evening Service	14 9:00 - 11:30 AM Pre-school 7:00 PM Council Meeting	15 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 - 11:30 AM Preschool 9:30 AM Pantry Volunteers 6:00 PM Christmas Rehearsal	16 6:00 PM Church Decorating Poinsettia Delivery AM 9:00 - 11:30 AM Pre-school	17 9:00 - 11:30 AM Pre-school 6:30 PM Music Ensembles	18	19

Advent Vespers Week 2

Welcome to St. Paul's Church. We are delighted that you have joined us in worship during this season of Advent. If you are visiting, please provide an email and/or contact information at the sign-in table.

About the liturgy this evening: Vespers (Evening Prayer) is prayed by the faith community at the evening hour, often associated with the setting of the sun. There is a basic formula to the service. The Cantor and or congregation sing one or more Psalms, songs from the Hebrew Scriptures, during which our minds meditate on words and ideas that come to us. Christian faith always looks backwards into its roots and forward to God's action. This is represented by two readings and the responses to them. The first reading is from the Old Testament the books recording God's dealing with his ancient people the Jews. Theirs is the tradition into which Jesus was born. In response we sing *Magnificat*, the song of Jesus' mother, Mary, which affirms God's work in history. The second reading is from the New Testament and is a story or passage of teaching from Jesus or the first Christians. We respond with *Nunc Dimittis*, a song that recognizes that in Jesus' coming God keeps his promise to the whole world. In the Creed we affirm that Christian faith is founded on this story and we offer further prayers.

PRELUDE

Stand

OPENING DIALOGUE AND HYMN OF LIGHT

Stanzas 1-3 Sung by the Cantor to a setting by Aaron David Miller.

Cantor 2

Assembly 2

Be-hold, our light has come, death is no more,

Be-hold, our light has come, death is no

though the sun fades from our sight. God has sent sus - tain - ing light.

more,

Be-hold, our light has come, shine on us.

Be-hold, our light has come, shine on us

1 O Trinity, O blessed light, O Unity of sovereign might;
As now the fiery sun departs, shed holy light within our hearts.

2 To you our morning song of praise, to you our evening prayer we
raise; To you in awe we bend the knee from age to age, eternally.

3 All glory be to God above,
and to the Son, the prince of love,
and to the Spirit, One in Three!
We praise you, blessed Trinity.

Behold Our Light: Music for Evening Worship by Aaron David Miller, ISBN 978-1-4514-6252-4

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THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

We praise and thank you, O God, through you Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom you have enlightened us by revealing the light that never fades.

Night is falling and day's allotted span draws to a close.

The daylight which you created for our pleasure has fully satisfied us, and yet, of your free gift, now the evening lights do not fail us.

We praise you and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; through him be glory, honor, and power to you in the Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Amen.

Sit

EVENING PSALM Psalm 139 *Sung by the cantor to a setting by Aaron David Miller.*

Lord you have searched me and known me; you know when I sit, when I rise.

You know my thoughts, you know my heart, you know the ways of my life.

You know the sound of my voice, you know the words of my tongue;

You hold me close, you guide my ways, you know the ways of my life.

Where can I go to leave your spirit? Where can I fall that you aren't near:

If I say, The darkness will hide me, your bright light sets me free.

Lord you have searched me and known me; you know when I sit, when I rise.

You know my thoughts, you know my heart, you know the ways of my life.

You know the ways of my life. You know the ways of my life.

A period of silence follows the Psalm. Then the minister continues with the prayer.

PSALM PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ, when you descended among the dead, you brought them the light of day; when you ascended into heaven, you brought it new radiance. Remain with us and lead us along the paths of life until we come to rest with your saints in the holy dwelling place, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever.

Amen

SECOND PSALM Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13

¹ You have been gracious to your | land, O LORD;*
you have restored the good for- | tune of Jacob.

² You have forgiven the iniquity | of your people*
and blotted out | all their sins.

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD | God is saying,*
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their | hearts to him.

⁹ Truly, his salvation is very near to | those who fear him,*
that his glory may dwell | in our land.

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have | met together;*
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

¹¹ Truth shall spring up | from the earth,*
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.

¹² The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,*
and our land will | yield its increase.

¹³ Righteousness shall | go before him,*
and peace shall be a pathway | for his feet.

A period of silence follows the Psalm. Then the minister continues with the prayer.

PSALM PRAYER

God of love and faithfulness, you so loved the world that you gave your only Son to be our Savior. Help us to receive him as both Lord and brother and freely celebrate him as our gracious Redeemer now and forever . **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING **Isaiah 40:1-11**

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Stand

MAGNIFICAT *My Soul Proclaims Sung by the cantor to a setting by Aaron David Miller.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit sings for joy in God my Savior.

You look with favor upon your servant, blessed is my name.

You have done great things for me, holy is your name.

You send your mercy to those who fear you through every age.

You have shown strength of your arm, you have scorned the thoughts of the proud,

You cast down the mighty you have lifted the lowly, holy is your name.

You have filled the hungry with good things, you have left the rich with empty hands,

You have come to the help of your people, holy is your name.

You have kept your promise of mercy, the promise that you made to our forebears;

To Abraham and Sarah and their children forever, holy is your name. Holy is your name.

Sit

NEW TESTAMENT READING **2 Peter 3:8-15a**

⁸But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. ¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Stand

NUNC DIMITTIS *Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace (All sing)*

Mark Mummert



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

Continued on next page...



APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Sit

HOMILY

LITANY

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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 mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Elizabeth, James, and Edward our bishops, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves to one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

To you, O Lord.

O God, from whom comes all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandment; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

Amen.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
Amen.

HYMN

Comfort, Comfort, Now My People (LBW 29) stanzas 1 & 2



- 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 king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his 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.
Let the val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him!
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

POSTLUDE

Christmas Worship Schedule at St. Paul's

Please note the adjusted schedule for the entire Christmas season

Sunday, December 20, 2020 The Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:00 AM Holy Communion with Blessing of the Creche
10:30 AM Holy Communion with The Ringing in of Christmas
5:00 PM Vespers with Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Thursday, December 24, 2020 Christmas Eve

4:00 PM Outside Christmas Carol Service with Brass Ensemble
7:00 PM Christmas Eve Vespers
11:00 PM Christmas Eve Compline

Friday, December 25, 2020 Christmas Day

10:30 AM Holy Communion

Sunday, December 27, 2020 The First Sunday of Christmas

8:00 AM Holy Communion, spoken
10:30 AM Lessons and Carols
5:00 PM Lessons and Carols

Sunday, January 3, 2021 Epiphany

8:00 AM Holy Communion
10:30 AM Holy Communion
5:00 PM Epiphany Vespers

Christmas Service Reservation Sign-up—We are utilizing a sign up for our Christmas services to help us monitor in person attendance for our liturgies. With the guidance of CDC and our own St. Paul's COVID-19 task force we want to maintain the 20% for worshippers gathering in doors. Through an advance sign-up we can plan accordingly. **At the time of this printing there remain: 41 seats at 11PM, 49 seats at 10:30AM Christmas Day. The 7PM service is full.**

The 4:00 PM outside Christmas Eve Service does not require a reservation. Please note that you will need to bring a lawn chair (if desired). **A face mask is required.**



Advent and Christmas Devotional ideas, activities and resources for all ages can be found on the church website. Look on the front page or under the tab LEARN. stpaulsyork.org

2021 Calendar Sale—Make sure you get your copies of the 2021 calendar! They feature the watercolor paintings of Pastor Reep. The images highlight the beautiful cottages from the grounds of the Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua NY (painted during summer 2019) and fruits and flowers still life arrangements (painted during 2020). We ask for a minimum donation of \$20. All proceeds go to the Capital Campaign. The original paintings will be auctioned at our October 16th 2021 event. Thank you for supporting this fundraising effort.



Advent Zoom Bible Study: The women in Jesus lineage according to the Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 1. Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. December 9, and December 16. Pastor Reep spoke in his sermon on October 11th, about the book of Matthew beginning with the long list of names that starts with Abraham and ends with Jesus. In that list there are five women named. Join us as we learn about these women and what their lives could mean for us today. To register and receive Zoom information, call the church office, 717 or Patty Snyder 717-578-2253.