

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

(1135 12th St.)
P.O. BOX 737
Sparks, Nevada
89432-0737



775-358-4474 (phone)
775-313-0806 (fax)

www.StPaulsSparks.org

Praise Holy Eucharist Service 10:00 a.m.

The First Sunday After Christmas

December 29, 2024

On ZOOM: Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/3FcKREH>

Meeting ID: 824 1236 4013

Password: 308693

Dial by your location +1 669 900 6833

The Rt. Rev. Elizabeth Gardner
Bishop of Nevada
The Very Rev. Kirk A. Woodliff
Rector

Welcome to All

St. Paul's is a theologically diverse community seeking to embrace their diversity in order to live through the Gospel of Jesus Christ and be a place of learning and belonging for all people.

Kid's Area

Located on the south side of the church is a special area where there are some coloring materials which can be used there or at other places in the church. Please return these supplies to their baskets following worship.

Wine, Grape Juice, and Gluten Free

We offer both wine and grape juice during Communion as well as a gluten free wafer option. The chalice with the grape juice will be identified.

All chalices are intinction only.

If you are in need of a gluten free Communion wafer, there is a small basket as you enter the north side of the worship space. In it you will find a stone. When it is time for you to receive Communion, hold the stone in the palm of your hand and the clergy will exchange it with a gluten free wafer.

Prayers for Healing and Laying on of Hands

On Sundays when a Healing Minister is present, they will offer special prayers for healing immediately after receiving Communion. They will be located at the stools on the south wall in the back of the church. All prayers are kept confidential.

Guests and Visitors

We are especially pleased to have you here with us today.

Please take the time to sign the guest book located on the Welcome Wagon near the south entrance.

If you have any questions about St. Paul's or the Episcopal Church, please don't hesitate to visit with one of our clergy, either today or during the week.

Returning Financial Pledge Cards

If you haven't already returned your financial pledge card for 2024, please do so as soon as possible.

You can place it in the offering plate on Sunday, mail it to St. Paul's
PO BOX 737 Sparks, NV
89432,
or drop it off at the office.

You can still make your pledge online at
www.StPaulsSparks.org.

Having your pledge card helps the Vestry set next year's budget. Thank you!

Helpful Hints for Receiving Holy Communion

- Everyone is invited to receive Holy Communion. Everyone!
- The usher will let you know when it is time for your row to go up.
- Watch the people in front of you to get the flow of things.
- To receive the bread and if you want to Intinct ("dipping" the wafer into the cup of wine/grape juice) the minister will place the wafer between your thumb & pointer fingers (pinch it) then you can Intinct (dip) the wafer into the chalice.
- Please do not drink from the cup. Intinction only.
- There is a designated chalice on the north side, that has **grape juice**.
- If you would like a **gluten free** wafer, either say gluten free to the clergy distributing the bread, or you can get a small black stone from the basket in the back of the worship space on the north side. Present it in the palm of your hand to the clergy and they will exchange it for a gluten free wafer.
- If you desire Holy Communion but are unable to walk up to receive it, please notify an usher. They will inform the clergy of your request, and the clergy will gladly bring Holy Communion to you in your seat.

PRELUDE: “*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All stand in body or spirit

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”

THE GREETING

Presider: Blessed be God:

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God’s Kingdom,
now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Presider: 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 Lord. **Amen.**

Presider: Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

People: **Let earth receive her King.**

SONG OF PRAISE “*Joy to the World*”

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit

THE FIRST LESSON *Isaiah 61:10-62:3*

Lector: A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 147:13-21

Lector: We will now say a portion of Psalm 147 responsively by whole verse.

Lector: Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;

People: **For he has strengthened
the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.**

He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.**

He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

**He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?**

He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

**He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

THE SECOND LESSON *Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

Lector: A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand in body or spirit

GOSPEL SONG: “*Celtic Alleluia*”

THE GOSPEL *John 1:1-18*

Presider: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Presider: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Very Rev. Kirk Woodliff, Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

All Stand in Body or Spirit

THE NICENE CREED *(All in unison)*

Presider: Let us all stand
and affirm our faith in God.

**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:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,**

and was made man.

**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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped
and glorified.
He 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.**

SPECIAL BLESSINGS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Let us pray for the church
and for the world. *[Pause]*

Leader: Jesus, you are the light of the world. Shine
your light to the ends of the earth and use each of us
and the leaders of the world to be instruments of your
freedom, justice, and peace. *[Pause]*

Leader: Through Christ's holy birth:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, make us faithful stewards of your
creation and help us use our abundance to the glory of
your name. *[Pause]*

Leader: Through Christ's holy birth:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, you are the bread of life. Use us to feed
the hungry and nourish us with your Spirit. *[Pause]*

Leader: Through Christ's holy birth:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, you are our hope and our strength.
Comfort all who are alone, rejected, and unemployed;
give courage to all who are without hope. *[Pause]*

Leader: Through Christ's holy birth:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, hear our prayer for those who are in need
of healing, especially for those we name aloud and
silently in our hearts. *[Pause]*

THE PRIEST BLESSES THE PRAYER QUILTS
(if there are any)

Leader: Restore the injured, heal the sick and inspire those whose faith is broken.

Leader: Through Christ's holy birth:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, you are our ultimate protection.

We pray for the safety of Mark, Sean, Aden, Bradley, Alex, Suzanne, and all the men and women, both in our neighborhoods and worldwide, who with courage wake each day to keep the peace and protect humanity.

Leader: Through Christ's holy birth:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we pray for each other and for all the people of God, especially for St. Thomas the Believer, Lovelock Correctional Facility; The Episcopal Church, USA; and Bethel AME Church, Sparks. May our lives and work proclaim your glory.

Leader: Through Christ's holy birth:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, we thank you for all the supportive relationships in our lives and we pray for those who blame us and for those we blame. Help us find healthy ways to discharge our discomfort and pain. *[Pause]*

Leader: Through Christ's holy birth:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, point our hearts in the right direction and give each of us the strength to live into the gifts you have given us. *[Pause]*

Leader: Through Christ's holy birth:

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, you are resurrection and life. We remember before you all who have died: receive them into eternal life and raise us with them into the joy of your heavenly kingdom. *[Pause]*

Leader: Through Christ's holy birth:

People: Hear our prayer.

CONCLUDING COLLECT

Presider: All these things we ask in the name of him who came as the light in the darkness of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION

Stand/Kneel/Sit

Presider: Sins are things that cause separation in our lives. Let us reflect on, and confess our sins to God.
(Silence is kept for personal reflection.)

Presider: God of all mercy,

People and Presider:

we confess that we have tried to separate ourselves from you, rejecting your Spirit in our lives.

We have ignored you, our neighbors, and your creation.

We are sorry for the selfishness that drives us, for the wrongs we have brought on others, and for the darkness of our chosen silence.

Wipe away all shame and heal us from our brokenness.

Restore our sacred vision, so we may rightly see Christ in our own reflection and respond to the world in his name. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

(a reminder of God's grace and forgiveness)

Presider: God the Creator brings you new life, forgives and redeems you.

Accept this gift and live your life through grace, as one who knows forgiveness. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Greet one another in the love of Christ.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM "What Child is This"

THE OFFERING

During this time we make an offering to the church to help maintain its mission in creation. It is also a time in which we fully offer ourselves to be Christ in the world around us.

If mailing in an offering, please remit to:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 737, Sparks, NV 89432

Or online at www.StPaulssparks.org:



Scan with your smart phone camera to give secure and "contact free" donations.

All Stand in Body or Spirit.

THE PRESENTATION SONG: "Give Thanks"

THE PRESENTATION

Presider: All things come of thee O Lord.

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving: Prayer B

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord 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, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy

Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

THE SANCTUS “*Sanctus*”

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

On the night before he died for us, our Lord 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 he 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 his command, O Father,

Presider and People:

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the

Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us,
we now pray,

People and Presider:

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

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept.

Presider: We break this bread
to share in the Body of Christ.

People: **We who are many are one body,
for we all share in the one bread.**

THE INVITATION

Presider: Come and be fed;
you who have much faith,
and you who are seeking more;
you who come here often,
and you who are new among us;
you who have done well,
and you who have stumbled along the way.

All of you are welcome and belong here at Christ’s table.

So come as you are,
for it is Christ who invites us to meet him here,
and these sacred gifts are for you.

COMMUNION TO THE PEOPLE

*Here at St. Paul’s everyone is invited to come forward
and receive Holy Communion.*

COMMUNION SONG: “*Mary Did You Know*”
“*Silent Night*”

SENDING FORTH PRAYER

All stand in body or spirit.

Presider: Let us pray together.

People and Presider:

**Gracious God,
We thank you for the birth of your son Jesus and for
the nourishment we receive from Christ's Holy
Communion.**

**Bless us with the courage to live our
lives as the Gospel tells us.**

**Bless us with the confidence to share our
faith with others.**

**Bless us with the strength to admit that
we need your help
and the humility to accept it from those you send us.**

**Propel us out into the world, but guide us back here
each week to be fed; and may our eyes and hearts be
open to you always. Amen.**

THE BLESSING *(This or some other blessing)*

Presider: May Christ, who by his Incarnation
gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with his joy and peace;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with
you always. **Amen.**

THE RECESSIONAL SONG:

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

THE DISMISSAL

The Presider offers a dismissal and the people respond

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *"Venite Adoremus"*

Special Note

As most of you hopefully know, after sixteen and a half
years Fr. Kirk will be stepping down as Rector of St.
Paul's to return to Oklahoma to be near family.
Stay tuned for announcements pertaining to a good bye
celebration.

Fr. Kirk on Vacation December 30 – January 13

Please respect Fr. Kirk's time away, by not calling or
texting him during his vacation. If you need something,
please contact the parish office at 775-358-4474.
Thank you.

Pastoral Emergencies

If you have a pastoral emergency while Fr. Kirk is
away, please contact the parish office between 10:00
and 1:00 at 775-358-4474. Rev. Rick Millsap will be
covering pastoral care issues, and the office staff will
contact him for you. If your need is not during office
hours, please contact Sr. Warden Margaret Bouzek at
775-232-4712 and she will contact Rev. Rick.

Annual Parish Meeting

January 26th at 10:00 a.m.

On Sunday, January 26th we will have our annual
parish meeting blended into our 10:00 a.m. worship
service. Every member is HIGHLY encouraged and/or
expected to attend. We hope you will join us.

Friday Bible Study with Zoom Option

The Friday Bible Study is on a break.
We will not meet the month of January.
We hope to resume in February.

