

1st Sunday of Advent — November 29, 2026

Prelude ***Creator of the Stars of Night*** **arr. by Thomas Keesecker**

Tunes "Conditor Alme Siderum", 9th-century Sarum Chant, in Public Domain and
"Hyfrydol" by Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887, written in 1831, in Public Domain
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Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the First Advent Candle **Lit by the Distefano Family**

Verse 1 of "*Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*" **ELW 240**

Text by Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954 Tune "Tif In Veldele", a Yiddish Folk Tune in Public Domain
Text c. 1984 by Fortress Press
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This is the candle of hope. In the first epistle of Peter, we read: "By God's great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading…" I Peter 1:3-4 Christian hope is not wishful thinking, nor a mere desire for a better world. It is a confident trust in the promises of God. In such hope, we find strength, endurance, and patience to follow Christ each day as his disciples.

Confession and Forgiveness **ELW 94-95**

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **P: Amen**

L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord. **P: Amen**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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

L: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. **P: Amen**

Children's Sermon

Opening Hymn ***Creator of the Stars of Night*** **ELW 245**

Text: Latin Hymn, 9th cent.; trans. Hymnal 1940, alt. Music: Plainsong Mode IV in Public Domain
English Text c. 1940 by the Church Pension Fund
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Apostolic Greeting **ELW 147**

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

Kyrie *(spoken)* **ELW Pgs. 147-148**

L: In peace let us pray to the Lord. **P: Lord have mercy**

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
P: Lord have mercy

L: 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. **P: Lord have mercy**

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **P: Lord have mercy**

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us gracious Lord. **P: Amen**

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you **P: And also, with you**

L: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection awaken us to the threatening dangers of our sins and keep us blameless until the coming of your new day, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

P: Amen

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

1 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains
would quake at your presence— 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes
water to boil— to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might
tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you
came down; the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From ages past no one has
heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those
who wait for him. 5 You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your
ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself, we transgressed.
6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a
filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7 There
is no one who calls on your name or attempts to take hold of you, for you have hidden
your face from us and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. 8 Yet, O Lord, you
are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.
9 Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now
consider, we are all your people. Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 (*spoken responsively)*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock;
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh,
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts,
how long will your anger fume when your people pray?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears;
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors,
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

17 Let your hand be upon the one at your right hand,
the one you have made so strong for yourself.
18 And so will we never turn away from you;
give us life, that we may call upon your name.
19 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts;
let your face shine upon us, and we shall be saved.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, 5 for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind—6 just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you—7 so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. 8 He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God

Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation ELW 103

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel according to Mark in the 13th Chapter P: Glory to you, O Lord

[Jesus said:] 24 "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened,and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 "But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake." "This is the Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *My Lord, What a Morning* ELW 438

Text: African American Spiritual in the Public Domain
Tune "Burleigh", an African American Spiritual in the Public Domain

Nicene Creed
We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
for our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers

L: As we prepare to celebrate our Lord's birth, let us always turn to him in prayer. Lord. in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**

AM: For the faithful people of Christ, that we continue to find mystery and awe in Jesus' willingness to share our human experiences, Lord in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**

AM: For the expanse of the human race, that across cultures and nationalities, we may all sense a divine power at work in the world, Lord in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**

AM: For the planet itself, that as Jesus strode across its surface to bring God's promise to life, we, too, might walk with courage and confidence as Jesus' witnesses, . Lord in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**

AM: For needs close to your own hearts, you may now pray. Lord in your mercy,

AM: For children, all God's precious children, that we look to their needs and desires in all seasons, not only the festive times like Christmas, Lord in your mercy,

P: Hear our prayer

L: For whatever petitions we have not yet placed in God's hands, we now seek holy care. Lord in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer. Amen**

Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **P: And also, with you**

Please share a sign of God's peace. ***The offering is received***



Anthem ***Advent Promise***

Words & Music: Pamela Martin
Arr: Jon Paige.

As we light a candle in the night, as we light a candle in the night, we remember the promise of peace and pray. Oh, prepare our hearts as we wait, oh prepare our hearts as we wait. As we sing a song in the night, O sing in the night, we remember the promise of hope and believe. Oh, prepare our hearts to receive, oh prepare our hearts to receive long-awaited promise, you are our hope and life. Prince of peace, prepare our hearts. Fill them with your everlasting, fill them with your everlasting light. As we see your star in the night, as we see your star in the night, we remember your promise of life today. Oh prepare our hearts we pray, oh prepare our hearts, we pray, O prepare our hearts, we pray.

Offertory Hymn **ELW 184**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving **ELW Pg. 152**

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Proper Preface is spoken

L: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus *(spoken)* **ELW Pg. 153**

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Last week when we were gathered to receive this sacrament the pastor consecrated these elements of bread and wine. Together we were reminded of the events of the Last Supper and the promise Jesus made to us there. We recalled the way that he took bread and wine and invited us to eat and drink. He assured us that in these elements, we would be receiving his own body and blood. Our Lord told us that this meal is a pledge of a new covenant between God and humanity. Trusting in Jesus' holy words, we are set free from our sin and all that stands between us and the promise of new life in Christ. Today we will again accept what has been given to us- these gifts of bread and wine- and the promise of mercy that come to us in and through them. We will also speak together the prayer that Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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

Agnus Dei **ELW Pg. 154**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion is distributed.

Communion Music ***My Lord, What a Morning*** **arr. by Edwin T. Childs**

Tune: African American Spiritual in Public Domain
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Post Communion Prayer

Benediction **ELW Pg. 154**

L: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
P: Amen

Closing Hymn ***Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending*** **ELW 435**

Text in Public Domain by Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.
Tune "Helmsley" in the Public Domain by Thomas Olivers, 1725-1799

Dismissal **ELW Pg. 154**

AM: Assisting Minister: Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors. **P: Thanks be to God**

Postlude ***Voluntary on "Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending"*** **arr. by Robert Lind**

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Thank you for coming. May God's peace be yours today.

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Happenings Around the Church

Tuesdays

New Tai Chi class 10-11:30am $12

Bible Study

Tuesday via Zoom 6:00 pm
In person Bible Study Wednesdays
10:00 am

Wednesdays

Members Tai Chi 11:00 am
Quilting Group 1:00 pm

Event	Date	Time
Property Meeting	Thurs. 12/3	7:00 pm
Red Cross Blood Drive	Fri. 12/4	1-4 pm
CT Yankee Chorale Christmas Concert	Sun. 12/6	4:00 pm
Christian Ed Meeting	Mon. 12/7	6:30 pm
Finance Committee Meeting	Wed. 12/9	6:00 pm
Toastmasters Meeting	Wed. 12/9	7:00 pm
Hilltop Advisory Meeting (zoom)	Thurs. 12/10	4:45 pm
Worship & Music Meeting (zoom)	Thurs. 12/10	6:00 pm
Community Kitchen	Sun. 12/13	10:00 am
Church Council Meeting	Mon. 12/14	6:30 pm
Men's & Women's Breakfast	Wed. 12/16	8:30 am
*Congregational Annual Meeting (Part 1)	Thurs. 12/17	6:30 pm
Hilltop Music Program	Fri. 12/18	10am-12noon
Pageant Sunday	Sun. 12/20	10:00 am
Blue Christmas Worship	Sun. 12/20	3:00 pm

Offerings Summary:

Needed Weekly	**$6,290**
Received	**$5,507**
Shortfall	**-$ 783**
YTD	**-$101,532**

- Those interested in becoming official members of St. Paul's, please fill out a form found on the table in the narthex.
- 2027 Pledge Commitment Sheets are in the Narthex and on the table in the back of the Sanctuary – please submit if you haven't already.
- *Watch for more information in the December newsletter about the Congregational Annual Mtg.
- Don't forget to turn in your poinsettia form – see the last page of the bulletin.



Today is the last day to purchase raffle tickets for the "Comfort of Psalms" quilt created by Judy Ludwig. They are available in the narthex after worship. the winning ticket will be drawn on December 1st.

Thank you, Judy, for your beautiful creation, we hope it brings in lots of sales.

Available for sale in the Narthex after worship



If you are thinking "ahead of the holidays", put your list together and see the people at the gift card table. You not only save yourself time going shopping, but the church also gets a % of your sales. Cards for restaurants, department stores, discount stores and outlet stores, electronics, entertainment, fast food, gas and auto, grocery, home improvement, sporting goods and even universal prepaid cards!

Don't see one on the list that's available – just ask.



IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a list of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below. If you would like to add or subtract for this list, please write name(s) on the Prayer of Concerns form in the Narthex located on the stand-up desk to the right of the exit doors or email the office. Thank you!

Joe Abbott
Casaundra Abeling
Roberta Alteri
Ben, Sheryl & Nic Ahrens
Michelle Ahrens

Coni Aparo
Charlie Blakeslee
Kathy Ann Campbell
Angelo & Nicole Capasso
Vinni Carey

Bridget Deemer
Emma Cortina
Emily Decker
Irene Douglas
Judy Elliott

Diane Engle
Jan Eucalitto
Weston Faith
Amy Falls
Bruce & Liz Falls

Rosemarie Foth
Steven Fosbrook
Bob Frantz
John Lewis
Danise Hall
Marge Kiernan

Renate Higgins
Rusty Judd
Kathleen Hilton
Helenna Hauser
Gloria Thibault

Ed & Anne Grening
Condolences to the
Winslow family
Jay Patterson

Audrey Marquard
Amber
Rebecca Little
Eric Marine
Richard Marine

Janis Martin
Gil & Marilyn Martin
Michael Meyers
Brigitte Mueller
Bob Murphy

Barbara Nalette
Karen Ness
Tom O'Brien
Karen Pagano
Maria Payne

Melissa Pilbin
Lisa & Dennis Polzun
Ed & Susan Regner
Baerbel Roehl
Charlotte

Vincent Scarrozzo
Jean Schlapfer
Sarah Seelye
Lucille Videtto
Paul Smith
Marilyn Killingbeck

Sigrid Smitley
Patricia Switzer
Lori Sola
George Gray
Roger Jensen

Rich Zarcone
Kent Madia
Lindsey L.
Will Erazmus

Justin Wade & Family
The Videtto Family
Eveyln Walters
Sue Watkins
James Weber

Diane Wright
Bruce Yauney
Clayton Young
Clarence Troemele
Ed

Jaiden
Steve
Lou W.
Todd
Robert K.

Hagbard
Peanut
Diane L.
Eileen Sweet
Pam Ewing

Michelle
Marci
Diane Tanner
Baby Olive Pressler
Carol DeLeppo
Tom Sterling Sr.

Margaret Miller
Patrick Friday
Shay Cronin
Leigh Martin
Linda Martin

Shirley Moore
Lois Ridgway
Paul Prete
The Atterato Family

Kyle W.
Rowan
Stefan Nikola J
Janet E.
Wendy Fedor

Laurie Otis
Jackie & John Fleming
Ethan Troy Danner
Fred Rakyta & family
Ryan English

Mae Johnson
David Kibbe
Eunice Peterson
Christine & Fran Gaffney
Patricia & Richard Sawitzke

Shannon Hilton
Deb & Jon Sterling
David Little
Carol Vrlik
Terry

Ruth Ann Stone
Joyce Young & family
The family & friends of
Cecile Scheidel
The family of Howard
Kreidwise

Shaelynn Holmgren
Bob Hauser
The Marold family
Lori Sola
Bryce Murphy

Kenny Bentley
Paula Rosenbeck
John & Margaret Gibson
The Brower Family



OUR NURSING HOME MEMBERS

Francine Ahrens
Dee Gammon
Walter Joray
Mae Fay
Betty Hilton
Midge Rosenbeck



OUR MILITARY FRIENDS

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above All Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.

Tyler Quinn
Eric Beuis
Dominic Boscarino
Ethan & his Marine Unit

Major Zachary Fulton
Brandan Holbrook
Jonathan Connell
Tom Gregg, Fr.
Eric Bremer
Peter Hutchinson

Ben Speaker
Noah Braatz
Christian Braatz
Aiden Avenia
Sydney Craig & her Army unit
Jasmine Schiff & her Navy unit



Poinsettia Memorials

Anyone wishing to memorialize a loved one with poinsettia can do so by filling out the form provided below and placing it in the offering plate or returning it to the church office.
Cost is by donation.

IN MEMORY OF/ HONOR OF:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

GIVEN BY:

_____

_____

_____

_____

Person making the request Name & Phone Number:

_____

_____



Please make checks payable to:
St. Paul's

Memo: Poinsettia

Forms must be in the church office no later than December 17th