



ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL  
E P I S C O P A L

**The Sixth Sunday of Advent**  
**The Holy Eucharist:**  
**Rite Two**

December 17, 2023

8:00 a.m.

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Whoever you are, and wherever you find yourself on the journey of faith,  
we welcome you and invite your full participation in today's worship.

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*As a courtesy to others, please silence electronic devices.*

*For the link to the webpage with the announcements and bulletins, use this QR code:*

*Services are regularly streamed and recorded and you can find them:*

<http://www.stpaulcathedral.org/watch>

*If you're interested in more information about the cathedral's ministries,  
we would like to hear from you: <http://stpaulcathedral.org/im-new/>*



St. Paul's Cathedral acknowledges that we gather on unceded Kumeyaay land. We value the knowledge, culture, and worldview of Indigenous people. We commit to the vital work of educating ourselves, increasing community awareness, and promoting reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbors. As we examine actions and practices that perpetuate harm against Indigenous communities, we pledge to work toward a meaningful and respectful relationship as we follow their example in honoring this sacred land. - *Approved by the Cathedral Chapter, May 2023*

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*This year we are exploring a minority tradition of observing Advent for seven Sundays.  
In a year when the last Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve,  
this gives us a little more time and space to live into the beauty of this reflective season.*

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§ *Please stand as you are able at the tolling of the bell.*

## **The Word of God**

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*The Presider says*

Our King and Savior now draws near:

*People*            **Come let us adore him.**

*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.**

### **Kyrie**

*Presider*            Lord, have mercy upon us.

*People*            **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

*Presider*            Lord, have mercy upon us.

## The Collect of the Day

*The Presider says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

*People*           **And also with you.**

*Presider*       Let us pray.

*The Presider says the Collect.*

Stir up your power, O Lord, 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 Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

§       *Please be seated.*

## The Lessons

*The First Lesson is read, the Reader first saying*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me;  
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the LORD love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

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.

*After each Lesson the Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*Answer*      **Thanks be to God.**

- 1 **When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \***  
**then were we like those who dream.**
- 2 **Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \***  
**and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
- 3 **Then they said among the nations, \***  
**"The LORD has done great things for them."**
- 4 **The LORD has done great things for us, \***  
**and we are glad indeed.**
- 5 **Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \***  
**like the watercourses of the Negev.**
- 6 **Those who sowed with tears \***  
**will reap with songs of joy.**
- 7 **Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \***  
**will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

*The Second Lesson is read,  
the Reader first saying*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil. May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

*The Reader may say*

The Word of the Lord.

*Answer*      **Thanks be to God.**

§ *Please stand as able when the Presider stands.*

### **The Holy Gospel**

John 1:6-8,19-28

*The Deacon reads the Gospel, first saying*

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

§ *Please be seated at the introduction of the sermon.*

### **The Sermon**

The Reverend Meg Decker

§ *After a moment of silence, please stand as able for the Nicene Creed.*

### **The Nicene Creed**

*Presider*

Let us stand and proclaim our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

*(Presider and people)*

**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.**

**The Prayers of the People Form III**

BCP 387

*The Deacon bids the prayers.*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

*People* **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

**That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

We pray for the welfare of the world; for the good earth, for our willingness to care for it, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

**That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

**That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Have compassion on the unsheltered and refugees, and all who suffer from any grief or trouble;

**That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Give to the departed eternal rest;

**Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*The Leader offers prayers on behalf of the congregation and bids their prayers.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

**May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*The Leader offers prayers on behalf of the congregation and bids their prayers.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*The Leader offers thanksgivings on behalf of the congregation.*

*Silence*



*The Presider adds a concluding Collect.*

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Confession of Sin**

*The Deacon says to the People*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Deacon and People together*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that 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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name.  
**Amen.****

*The Presider says*

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

## The Peace

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

*People* **And also with you.**

§ *The People offer each other a sign of the Peace.*

§ *Please be seated.*

## Welcome and announcements

*You may give online now by using your phone's camera to scan the quick response code:*



*or text stpaulcathedral to 73256 using your cell phone. Thank you!*

## The Holy Communion

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**The Great Thanksgiving** Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

§ *Please stand as you are able.*

*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.**

*The Presider continues*

*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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

**Sanctus** (*Presider and People*)

**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.**

*The Presider continues*

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. ✠ Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with the blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Paul, and all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**The Lord's Prayer** (*Presider and People*)

**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,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**The Fraction: The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence follows as the Bread is broken.*

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

## **The Invitation**

This is the table, not of the church but of Jesus Christ. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time or ever before; you who have tried to follow and you who have failed; come, not because the Church invites you; it is Christ, and he invites you to meet him here.

▪ *The Iona Community Worship Book*

*Presider*      The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*After the Invitation has been given, please be seated until you are ushered to the communion stations at the Crossing. Please take your purse or valuables with you.*

*At Communion time we will offer the Host with the option to have it partially intincted (dipped) by the Eucharistic Minister into the wine and placed in the communicant's hand. For the time being we will not offer the option of drinking from the Common Cup. You may choose to receive only the dry Host or to receive a blessing instead of the sacrament.*

*As you come forward, please use one of these three gestures to indicate your preference:*

- ❖ *To receive the host with wine, extend both your hands, palm up.*
- ❖ *To receive only the host, extend one hand, palm up.*
- ❖ *To receive a blessing, cross your hands at your shoulders.*

*If you need to receive a gluten-free wafer, please go to the station at the extreme left.*

§ *After a moment of silence following the distribution of communion, please stand as you are able for the following prayer*

### **The Postcommunion Prayer**

*Presider* Let us pray.

*All* **Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Presider may bless the people.*

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*The Deacon dismisses them with these words*

Let us bless the Lord.

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

§ *The clergy, altar party, and people depart.*

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## **Ministers of the Liturgy**

*Presider:* The Rev. Cn. Richard Hogue, Jr.

*Preacher:* The Rev. Meg Decker

*Deacon:* The Rev. Cn. Brooks Mason

*Dean:* The Very Rev. Penny Bridges

*Head Verger:* Cn. Lisa Churchill

*Reader:* Steve Mater

*Altar Servers:* Danni Arregui, Jerry Coughlan

*Altar Guild:* Tom Barb, Julia Gorman, Steve Mater, Joyce Vogel, Elaine Wolfe

*Usher-in-charge:* Rich Davis

*Ushers:* Christie Batten, Norm Friesen, Carl Mattina, Mary Rathbun

*Audio:* Tom Merrick

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*In the unlikely event of an emergency requiring us to evacuate the cathedral please follow the directions of the ushers and vergers, and remain as quiet and calm as possible.*

*Please locate an exit nearest you.*

*The exit doors are:*

- *South porch doors at Nutmeg Street and Fifth Avenue*
  - *North porch doors to Fifth Avenue Courtyard*
  - *South transept east and west doors to Nutmeg Street*
  - *Northeast hallway door to Fifth Avenue breezeway*
  - *West chapel (to the left of chapel altar) stairs leading down to landing.*
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## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**Lessons & Carols for Christmas** – *December 17, 5 pm with 4:30 pm Britten “Ceremony of Carols” with the St Cecilia Alumni choir, In Person and Live-Streamed*

**The Last Sunday of Advent** – *Sunday December 24, 10:30 am Holy Eucharist with the Rev. Mark Trotter, Preacher.*

**Christmas Eve Family Service** - *Sunday, December 24, 5 pm, In Person in the Cathedral*

**Solemn Midnight Mass** - *Sunday, December 24, 10:30 pm (Prelude 10 pm), In Person and Live-Streamed*

**Christmas Day Choral Eucharist** - *Monday, December 25, 10:30 am, In Person in the Cathedral*

**New Year’s Eve Labyrinth Walk and Evening Prayer** - *Sunday, December 31, 5 pm, In Person in the Dean’s Courtyard*

**Holy Name Eucharist** - *Monday, January 1, 10:30 am, In Person in the Chapel of the Holy Family with Joyce Vogel, Preacher.*