

# SUNDAY MESSENGER

*Come, let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Psalm 95:1*

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2017



## WELCOME TO ST PAUL'S CHURCH

We hope you find a place to call "home"! We are glad you are here, and we invite you to enter fully into worship today, and to receive Communion or a blessing. Feel free to take any information about the parish located at the entrances. Don't be afraid to tell us more about yourself by filling out one of the cards located in each pew or on information tables.

Join us as we strive to make eastern Bergen County a place where God's grace is freely known and shared by all!

## ABOUT THE LITURGY AND SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY

We often miss Advent's power because these December weeks are full of secular Christmas parties and preparations for Christmas. Each year, the busyness of this season serves to distract us from having an Advent season that truly prepares us for the celebration of Christmas, with all its meaning.

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!

It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world.

Today is the first of the two Advent Sundays centered on the ministry of John the Baptist as the Forerunner of the Messiah. We hear Mark's account of the beginning of John's ministry and message. John is described as the last of the Old Testament prophets and the one who embodied the role

foreseen by Isaiah as the messenger to prepare the way for the coming of the Christ. He used the traditional Jewish ceremony of renewal and repentance—Baptism—but promises that the One who is coming will immerse people in the Spirit of God.

Our first reading is the passage from Isaiah quoted by Mark concerning John the Baptist. This comes from the time of the end of the Jewish people's exile in Babylon and was an exhortation to them to return to the land of promise now that they had been freed by the Persian king, Cyrus. This second exodus is filled with the promise of God's love and care for the people.

The second reading, from Peter's second letter, looks toward the end of time. The writer is concerned with how we live in this time in anticipation for the time to come when the Day of the Lord will be revealed.

We live in the time in between Christ's first Advent and his second coming, and we gather in the Eucharist as people immersed by Baptism into God's Spirit. We are called not only to celebrate God's presence as our Shepherd but also to be messengers who, like John, announce the coming of God's kingdom. We do this by proclaiming the Word, by celebration of God's sacramental presence, and by lives of peace and growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord.

## HOLY DOODLING, OR YOUR NOTES FROM TODAY'S SERMON AND WORSHIP

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: Isaiah 40:1-11; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8; Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13.



Scan here

### EGIVING AT ST PAUL'S

Please feel free to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please visit online through your electronic device: [stpaulsenglewood.org/egiving.html](http://stpaulsenglewood.org/egiving.html) or follow the *qr* code to the left with your capable electronic device.

## PRAYERS

For those in need of immediate prayers: *John Bullough, Dawn Baxter Woodhouse, Crystal Baxter, Lisa Keenan.*

For those in need of continuing prayer support: *Nazera Wright, Yvonne Baldwin, David Eversley, Lilliam Gonzalez, Ina Martinez, Jeffrey McAllister, Cynthia McDonald, Trey Nelson, Fredelia Smith, Carol Yaner, Phillipa McLeod, Sharon Wells, Patti Banks, Rebecca Johnson, Ruth Hewlett, Pamella Miller.*

For those serving in the military or in harm's way: *Austin Herbert, Nicholas C. Basile, Justin Sheldon and Nagelia Harrison Sheldon, Ken Lambert, Nadi Kassem, Justin Coca, Antonio Ramirez, Marc McDonald, Gregory Halstead.*

For those celebrating birthdays this week: *John Herbert, Melanie Nelson, Father James Warnke, Thomas Troy Johnson, Earl Hester*

Cycle of Prayer, Anglican Communion: *West Buganda - (Uganda); in the Diocese of Newark: Christ Church, Harrison; St. John the Divine, Hasbrouck Heights; St. Luke's Church, Haworth; Search for the next Bishop of Newark.*

Our partners in faith: *St. Michael Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahado Church, Church of the Good Shepherd, Fort Lee; Congregation Kol HaNeshama.*

For those who have died, and those who mourn them. *Iva Woods Vanterpool (Mother of Allison McDaniel); Rose Mugeridge (Aunt of Kara Cooper)*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**COFFEE HOUR:** Please join us after the 10:30 service in the Parish Hall for fellowship and refreshments. Thanks to our host today: *The Parish Family*

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH:** *The 152nd Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held in the Parish Hall, today, December 10, 9:15 am, between the morning worship services.*

**NEXT SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE:** Second Sunday of Advent: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28; Psalm 126/Canticle 15.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:** Sunday School will resume next Sunday at 10:30 am and the children join their families in church in time for Communion. Sunday School includes elementary aged children through grade 4.

**KIDS' MASS:** *Invite a kid and family you know* to our weekly 30-minute Mass for Children, called *Awake My Soul*, 9:45 am Sundays in the Historic Sanctuary—it's only 30 minutes a week and is the perfect for early elementary children and younger to engage in our vibrant liturgy and worship on their own level with wiggles included. *Come and join us! The Kids' Service will take a recess, this Sunday, December 10, for the Annual Meeting. Kids' Mass will resume on Sunday, December 18.*

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS FOR 2018:** If you missed our in-gathering of commitments last Sunday, please do not hesitate to place your pledge card in the offertory. If you desire giving envelopes, please use a pledge card to indicate as such. There are pledge forms on the information tables throughout the Parish facilities.

**ADVENT SERIES:** Join Fr. Bill and Carrie Allport as they share a study of the scripture used in George Frideric Handel's *Messiah*. The series will be offered on Sunday mornings (9:30 am) and Wednesday evenings (7 pm), beginning Sunday, Nov. 26.

**GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2017:** If you would like to receive giving envelopes for the coming year, please fill out a pledge card and indicate your request. Envelopes will be ready before the end of the year.

**WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST & BIBLE STUDY:** The Wednesday evening worship and Bible Study will take a recess this week, December 13. We continue on December 20.

**GREENING OF THE CHURCH:** We need your help on Saturday, Dec. 23, 9 am-Noon. Join us for a morning of festivities as we decorate the greenery and trees in the Historic Sanctuary and Chapel as preparation for Christmas. We'll have cocoa, cookies, and music. *The more hands to help the better!*

**CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS & REMEMBRANCES:** If you would like your Christmas remembrances and gifts, either in thanksgiving or memorial, please submit them with the preprinted Christmas envelopes by December 20.

**THANK YOU** to our choirs, orchestra, and soloists for a wonderful performance of Handel's *Messiah* last Sunday evening! More than 300 people from our community attended. Congratulations!

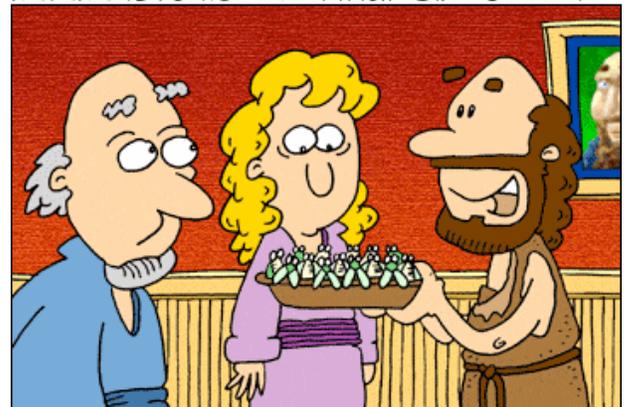
**BENEFIT CONCERT AT 5 PM:** "All That Cello" will present a benefit concert for the St Paul's Choir School on Sunday, December 10 at 5 pm in the Historic Sanctuary. Come and hear Jeehyoun Lee, Mi Sung Kang, and Suji Kim and friends present holiday favorites, as well as guest musicians playing handbells and piano. All donations will be given to the St Paul's Choir School, and everyone is welcome!

**CHOIR SCHOOL CONCERT:** The St Paul's Choir School will present a brief holiday concert at the Englewood Public Library on Saturday, December 16 at 7 pm. The concert is free and everyone is welcome.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

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| Dec 10 | The 152nd Annual Meeting of the Parish, 9:15 am in the Parish Hall   |
|        | MUSIC AT ST PAUL'S<br>5 pm Concert: Cello Trio   |
| Dec 16 | 7 pm Choir School Concert at Public Library  |
| Dec 23 | 9 am Greening of the Church<br>4 pm Recovery Mass, Good Shepherd, Ft Lee   |
| Dec 24 | 8 am Morning Prayer<br>10:30 am Morning Prayer<br>5 pm Christmas Eve Jazz Mass<br>10:30 pm Caroling Singing<br>11 pm Festive Eucharist |
| Dec 25 | 10:30 am Christmas Day Worship   |
| Jan 1  | 10:30 am New Year's Day Worship  |

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Thanks to Pam Burgess (See Matthew 3:1-17) 04-09-2001

WELCOME, MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME ...  
LOCUST?



### WAITING WITH THE WORD

Our waiting is always shaped by alertness to the Word. It is waiting in the knowledge that someone wants to address us. The question is, are we home? Are we at our address, ready to respond to the doorbell? We need to wait together, to keep each other at home spiritually, so that when the Word comes it can become flesh in us. That is why the Book of God is always in the midst of those who gather. We read the Word so that the Word can become flesh and have a whole new life in us.

—Henri J. M. Nouwen

### THINKING ABOUT STEWARDSHIP & TODAY'S GOSPEL

As we begin a new church year, Jesus reminds us that we are the ones whom God has left in charge; we are the stewards; and we told to stay alert, carrying out the tasks entrusted to us.

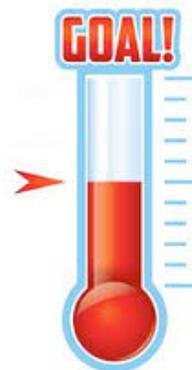
## SERVING THIS SUNDAY

8 am: *Pat O'Neil* (Lessons); *Pam Abner* (Prayers & EM); *James Mosley* (Acolyte); *Max McDaniel* (Vestry Host)

10:30 am: *Choir School* (First Lesson); *Abigail Allport and Veronique Dhont* (Second Lesson, Prayers, & EM); *GJ Hill and Gary Mason* (Pulpit EM); *Choir School* (Crucifer); *Joe Hill* (Gospeller); *Al Griffith* (Vestry Host)

Fellowship: *The Parish Family*

Counters: *Robin Jackson and Rafael Martinez*



## STEWARDSHIP 2018

We have received 27 of our 50 pledge goal and \$71,500 of our \$148,000 dollar goal

Could you make a choice to give of \$20-30 per week?

### HEAD OF THE CHURCH

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

### BISHOP OF THE CHURCH

The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, Bishop

### THE MINISTERS OF THE CHURCH

All the People

### 2017 VESTRY

The Rev. Dr. William H. Allport, II, *Presider*

Michele Simon & Max McDaniel, *Wardens*

Beverly Lannanman, *Treasurer*

Albert Griffiths (2019<sup>1</sup>), John Herbert (2017<sup>1</sup>)

George J. Hill (2019<sup>1</sup>), Robin Jackson (2018<sup>3</sup>)

Rafael Martínez (2017<sup>1</sup>), Aubrey McDonald (2017<sup>0</sup>)

Coralius Noble (2018<sup>2</sup>), Jonathan Stevens (2018<sup>1</sup>)

Nicole Thomas (2019<sup>1</sup>)

### ST. PAUL'S STAFF

The Rev. Dr. William H. Allport II, *Rector*

The Rev. Joanne O'Neill, *Deacon of the Parish*

Kai Alston, *Director of Christian Formation*

Mark A. Trautman, *Director of Music*

Diana Rodriguez, *Parish Administrator*

Lisa Keenan, *Financial Accountant*

Jerome Riddick, *Sexton*

Gary Mason and George Gill, *Sunday Sextons*

Marteze Golden, *Housekeeper*

### GET THE LATEST NEWS

Join the electronic communications of the Parish by following us on Facebook or signing up for daily messages (registration always available at the bottom of the website).

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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