

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*We believe that God is healing and restoring the world,
and that we are recipients of and participants in that healing and restoration.*



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2020

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

415 SOUTH 18TH ST., MOUNT VERNON WA 98274-4658
360-424-1822

E-MAIL: STPAULMV@COMCAST.NET

WEBSITE: WWW.STPAULSMV.ORG

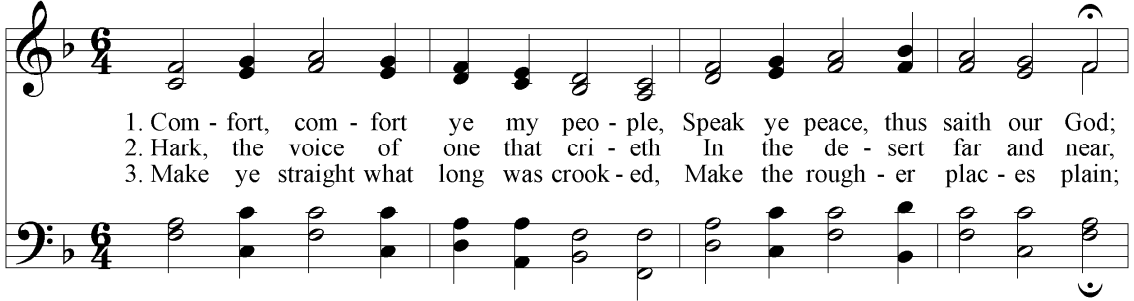
Morning Prayer, Rite II

Welcome and Announcements

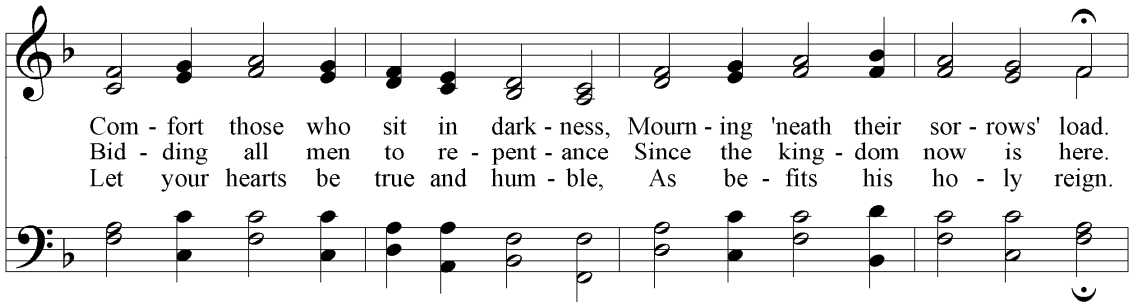
Please stand as you are able.

Opening Hymn 67

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People



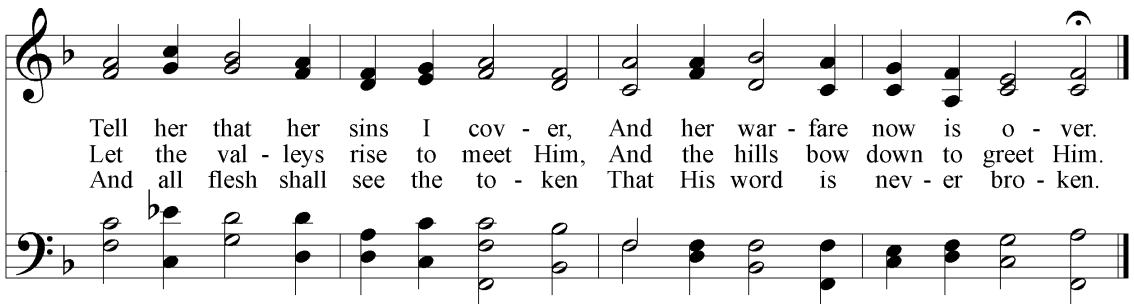
1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, Speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2. Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth In the de - sert far and near,
3. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er plac - es plain;



Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load.
Bid - ding all men to re - pent - ance Since the king - dom now is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, As be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem Of the peace that waits for them;
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a - way;
For the glo - ry of the Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



Tell her that her sins I cov - er, And her war - fare now is o - ver.
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 His word is nev - er bro - ken.

Opening Sentence

Officiant: In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Isaiah 40:3

Confession of Sin

The Officiant says to the people:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together, all kneeling:

**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 Officiant stands and 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 Invitatory and Psalter

All stand, as able.

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Officiant and People:

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Redeemer, and to the Sanctifier: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Officiant: Our King and Savior now draws near:

People: Come let us adore him.

Officiant and People:

Venite *Psalms 95:1-7*

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; *
let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, *
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *
and the heights of the hills are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it, *
and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

The people are seated.

Psalm 85:8-13



Show us your mer-cy, O Lord, and grant us your sal-va—tion.

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.
Truly, his salvation is very near to / those who fear him,
that his glory / may dwell in our land. [ANTIPHON]

Mercy and truth have / met together; *
righteousness and peace / have kissed each other.
Truth shall spring up / from the earth, *—
and righteousness shall / look down from heaven. [ANTIPHON]

The Lord will indeed / grant prosperi^{ty}, *
and our land / will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall / go before him, *
and peace shall be a / pathway for his feet. [ANTIPHON]



Readings

A period of silence will follow each reading.

Isaiah 40:1-11

The people remain seated.

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

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every 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.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get 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!”
See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Silence.

All stand, as able.

Canticle 12 A Song of Creation
Song of the Three Young Men, 35-65

Benedicite, omnia opera Domini

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

I The Cosmic Order

Glorify the Lord, you angels and all powers of the Lord, *
O heavens and all waters above the heavens.
Sun and moon and stars of the sky, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, every shower of rain and fall of dew, *
all winds and fire and heat.
Winter and Summer, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, *
drops of dew and flakes of snow.
Frost and cold, ice and sleet, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glorify the Lord, O nights and days, *
O shining light and enfolding dark.
Storm clouds and thunderbolts, glorify the Lord, *
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.

Glory to the Creator, and to the Redeemer, and to the Sanctifier: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

2 Peter 3:8-15a

The people are seated.

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. The 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. But 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.

Since 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, waiting 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? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Silence.

All stand, as able.

Canticle 10 The Second Song of Isaiah

Isaiah 55:6-11

Quaerite Dominum

**Seek the Lord while he wills to be found; *
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways *
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion, *
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts, *
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, *
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**For as rain and snow fall from the heavens *
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth, *
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth; *
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed, *
and prosper in that for which I sent it.**

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Redeemer, and to the Sanctifier: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Mark 1:1-8

The people are seated.

Officiant: A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Officiant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Silence.

All stand, as able.

Canticle 19 The Song of the Redeemed

Magna et mirabilia

Revelation 15:3-4

**O ruler of the universe, Lord God,
great deeds are they that you have done, *
surpassing human understanding.
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, *
O King of all the ages.**

**Who can fail to do you homage, Lord,
and sing the praises of your Name? *
for you only are the Holy One.
All nations will draw near and fall down before you, *
because your just and holy works have been revealed.**

**Glory to the Creator, and to the Redeemer, and to the Sanctifier: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

The people are seated.

The Sermon

Rev. Dennis Taylor

Hymn 56

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Verses

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And
2. O come, Thou Wis - dom from on high, Who
3. O come, O come, Thou Lord of might, Who
4. O come, Thou Rod of Jes - se's stem, From
5. O come, Thou Key of Da - vid, come, And
6. O come, Thou Day - spring from on high And
7. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind In

1. ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el, That mourns in
2. or - d'rest all things might - i - ly; To us the
3. to thy tribes on Si - nai's height In an - cient
4. ev - 'ry foe de - liv - er them That trust thy
5. o - pen wide our heav - 'nly home; Make safe the
6. cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh; Dis - perse the
7. one the hearts of all hu - man - kind; Bid thou our

1. lone - ly ex - ile here Un - til the Son of
2. path of knowl - edge show, And teach us in her
3. times didst give the law, In cloud and maj - es -
4. might - y pow'r to save, And give them vic - t'ry
5. way that leads on high, And close the path to
6. gloom - y clouds of night, And death's dark shad - ow
7. sad di - vi - sions cease, And be thy - self our

Refrain

1. God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u -
2. ways to go.
3. ty and awe.
4. o'er the grave.
5. mis - er - y.
6. put to flight.
7. Prince of Peace.

el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Apostles' Creed

All stand, as able.

**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 to the dead.
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.**

Prayers

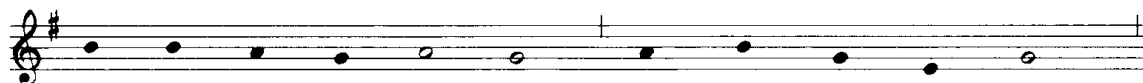
All stand, as able.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

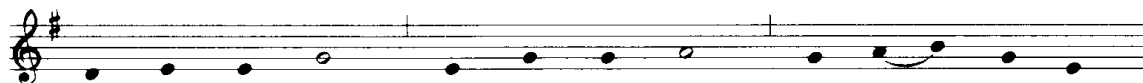
People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

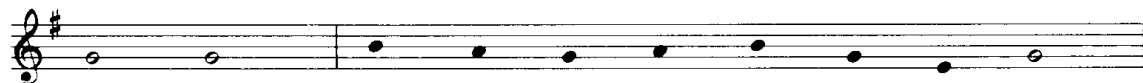
Officiant and People:



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in



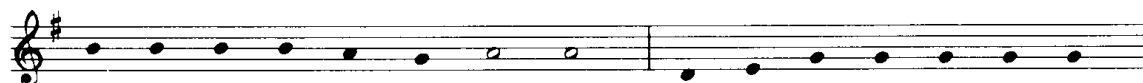
hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.



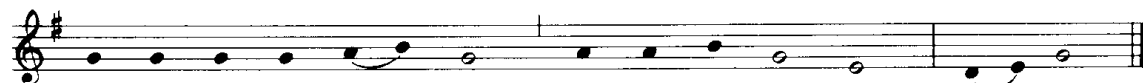
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who



sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom the pow - er,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Officiant and People say responsively:

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

Collects

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord God, almighty and everlasting Father, you have brought us in safety to this new day: Preserve us with your mighty power, that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity; and in all we do, direct us to the fulfilling of your purpose; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of your faithful people is governed and sanctified: Receive our supplications and prayers which we offer before you for all members of your holy Church, that in their vocation and ministry they may truly and devoutly serve you; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Hymn 76

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an -
 2 Then cleansed be ev - ery breast from sin; make
 3 For thou art our sal - va - tion, Lord, our
 4 To heal the sick stretch out thine hand, and
 5 All praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee, whose

1 noun - ces that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 2 straight the way for God with - in, and let each heart pre -
 3 re - fuge, and our great re - ward; with - out thy grace we
 4 bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; shine forth, and let thy
 5 ad - vent doth thy peo - ple free; whom with the Fa - ther

1 for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
 2 pare a home where such a might - y guest may come.
 3 waste a - way like flowers that with - er and de - cay.
 4 light re - store earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
 5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit ev - er - more.

The Prayers of the People

Reader: With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying
“Lord, have mercy.”

For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For Mount Vernon, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, or through outer space, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of Saint Paul and all of the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

To thee, O Lord our God.

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The General Thanksgiving

Officiant and People:

**Almighty God, Source of all mercies,
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks
for all your goodness and loving-kindness
to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,
not only with our lips, but in our lives,
by giving up our selves to your service,
and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

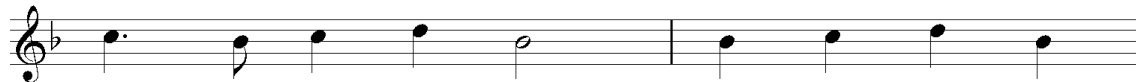
People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

Closing Hymn 54

Savior of the Nations, Come!



1 Sa - vior of the na - tions, come! Vir - gin's
 2 Won - drous birth! Oh, won - drous child of the
 3 Thus on earth the Word ap - pears, grac - ing
 4 Come, O Fa - ther's sav - ing Son, who o'er



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, both
 Vir - gin un - de - filed! Might - y God and
 his cre - a - ted spheres; hence to death and
 sin the vic - tory won. Bound - less shall your



heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 Ma - ry's son, ea - ger now his race to run!
 hell de - scends, then the heaven - ly throne a - scends.
 king - dom be; grant that we its glo - ries see.

Officiant: May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Romans 15:13

Offertory - Thank you for giving!

Please drop your offering in the church's mailbox or mail it to:

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
 415 S. 18th Street
 Mount Vernon, WA 98274

Advent Devotional 2020

The Advent Devotional Book is available daily at

<http://stpaulsmv.org/category/devotions/prepare-the-way/>

If you would like to receive a devotion from it each morning in your email, go here to sign up: stpaulsmv.org/2020-advent-devotional-book/. If you have any questions, please email Jen at jennifer.e.mccabe@gmail.com.

Your **Vestry** members request your prayers for this congregation and their leadership. They want to be in conversation with you. Speak with them so they know the needs of the congregation: Bonnie Schuh, Susan Cooper, Sandy McDougall, Dan Niven, Sara Young and Margaret Bird.

St. Paul's Prayer Team prays daily for those on the prayer list.
Please email Penny Worrell at penny.worrell@gmail.com.

All music in this bulletin is reprinted under OneLicense.net license #A-725912

Cover image: <http://stpaulsmv.org/category/devotions/prepare-the-way/>

Where are we on the Liturgical Calendar? – Advent

Advent Tells Us Christ is Near...

With the First Sunday in Advent, we begin one of two major cycles of the Church year: Advent-Christmas-Epiphany (the Incarnation Cycle). The other major cycle is Lent-Holy Week-Easter (the Paschal or Resurrection Cycle). In our liturgies, seasonal changes in scripture readings, liturgical texts, music and practice, along with colors and ornamentation, reveal each season's meaning within the overall shape of the cycle of which it is a part.

Advent means “arrival” and “coming.” Advent's readings weave together the three comings of Christ: in the past, in history, as a baby born in Bethlehem; in the future, at the end of all history, to bring in God's kingdom; and in the present, today and every day, in the Word and Bread and Wine of the Eucharist, in friend and stranger, in the ordinary moments of living, in our hearts. Advent is a season of waiting and expectation, hoping and yearning, looking for, preparing for, the coming of Christ.

At Christmas, God's promise of salvation is revealed in the birth of Jesus. The unlikely and wondrous gift is given—Incarnation! – God's Word made flesh. And the Word God has spoken in Incarnation is Love. Christmas is a season of amazement and celebration of Emmanuel, God's Love come among us in Christ.

Epiphany means “appearance, manifestation.” We hear stories of God revealed in Jesus, God in a human being made manifest. The season begins with the visit of the magi to the manger on the Feast of Epiphany and the baptism of Jesus on the first Sunday after. It ends with the vision of Jesus transfigured on the mountaintop, shot through with the glory of his divinity. Epiphany is a season of growing revelation and realization of what Advent points to and Christmas makes reality – that over 2,000 years ago, in the little town of Bethlehem, in a baby in a manger, God's grace, mercy, justice and peace came into the world in human form and lived among us as one of us. And human possibilities and potential were forever changed.

Long ago, God spoke to us through the prophets, but now God has spoken to us by a Son. May we be blessed in our Advent preparations, Christmas celebrations and Epiphany discoveries, drawn ever more deeply into the mystery of God in Christ.

Welcome to Saint Paul's!

We hope that your worship with us will be both inspirational and spiritually nurturing. Please feel free to participate in the worship service as much or as little as you wish. The prayer book gives directions as to when we stand, sit, or occasionally kneel; these are guidelines. What is more important is that you bring your complete self to worship God.

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion at the Lord's table. We use real wine in the cup. If you wish to receive only a blessing, simply cross your arms in front of you as the priest approaches. If you do not want to drink from the chalice, keep the piece of bread on your open palm, and present it to the chalice bearer, who will then dip the bread into the wine and place it on your tongue. Non-gluten bread is also available. Please inform us if this is your preference.

The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel <i>Bishop</i>	206-325-4200	grickel@ecww.org
The Reverend Paul Moore <i>Rector</i>	254-368-6475	padrequiteno@gmail.com
The Reverend Dennis Taylor <i>Deacon / Faith Community Nurse</i>	360-661-1551	deacon2rn@comcast.net
David Sloat <i>Organist and Music Director</i>	713-834-4335	dsloat617@msn.com
St. Paul's Office <i>Parish Administrator</i> <i>Bookkeeper</i>	360-424-1822	stpaulmv@comcast.net spbookkeeper@comcast.net

If you would like to receive our e-news, please send a message to stpaulmv@comcast.net.