

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
MACON, GEORGIA



**THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS**

Sunday, January 3, 2021 at Home

WELCOME!

Welcome in the Lord's name to St. Paul's Episcopal Church. No matter who you are and where you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome! You bless us with your presence. We are gathering in unique ways during this time of COVID, thus we are worshipping in our Outdoor Chapel. Please review all the posted instructions, found in the email confirming your registration and in the back of this bulletin. We all are following these guidelines to love and care for one another.

When you exit your car, please wear a mask until you return to your vehicle. Due to our safety guidelines, ushers will seat you based upon the size of your group or special needs. You may place your chair(s) in your assigned space; please remain there during worship. During worship, at various times we stand, sit, and kneel; these instructions are for those who are physically able. An * **indicates the people stand**. There will be no bulletin or handouts, processions, congregational singing, or offering plate. 'The Peace' will be passed without touch, using some distanced sign of peace. When our service concludes, please return to your vehicle with safe distancing and do not congregate. All these precautions are to protect each other's health. Thank you for your cooperation. We are delighted you are with us, and hope to see you again at future parish events.

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas commemorates the Incarnation of the Word of God in the birth of Jesus Christ. It is also called The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas Day is one of our seven principal feasts. The Christmas season lasts twelve days, from Christmas Day until Jan. 5, the day before the Epiphany. The season includes Christmas Day, the First Sunday after Christmas Day, the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and may include the Second Sunday after Christmas Day. In many parishes, the main liturgical celebrations of Christmas take place on Christmas Eve.

COVER ART

Wisdom Mural (1896 AD) - Robert Reid (1862-1929)

Mural located in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., USA.

The cover art is based on our first reading today, Jeremiah 31:7-14.

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE II

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

**indicates people stand | BCP is Book of Common Prayer | Hymnal 1982*

Prelude

***Hymn in Procession** *“Angels From the Realms of Glory”*

Hymn 93

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.
2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.
3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.
4. Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

***Opening Acclamation**

BCP, p.355

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

***Collect for Purity**

BCP, p.355

Celebrant: 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.

People: Amen.

***Gloria to God**

S-278

1. Glory to god in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
2. Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
3. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
4. you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
5. you are seated at the right hand
of the Father:
receive our prayer.
6. For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
7. you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father, Amen.

***The Collect**

BCP, p.357

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

Please be seated for the lessons.

THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gradual: Psalm 84

Quam dilecta!

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God

than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel**

Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

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

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod

heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judaea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Bryan Hinson

*The Nicene Creed

BCP, p.358

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.**

Prayers of the People

The word of God lives among and within us to strengthen and inspire. With confidence let us pray to our God, the Father, with words of hope and faith saying: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the church of Jesus Christ: God of light, empower your ministries and people to proclaim your gospel fearlessly wherever darkness obscures human dignity. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the nations of the world: God of peace, in your word we recognize the abundance of your enduring love. Grant to this world, marked by division and strife, a thirst for justice perfected in selfless love. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the hungry and abandoned: God of life, strengthen us to serve with joy those who experience the darkness of suffering. For our ministries with: Appleton Episcopal Ministries, Campus Ministry, Daybreak, Haitian Hope, Loaves and Fishes, Path to Shine, St. Paul Apartments and Village, and Weekend Lunch; Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Let us pray for all educators: God of wisdom, in your word we hear the proclamation of your truth. Enlighten all who teach with your Spirit of knowledge and understanding. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Let us pray for this community of faith: God of grace, give us hearts filled with love, voices to speak your praise, and lives conformed to the image of your Son. We pray especially for: ++Michael, +Rob, and +Don our bishops; Bryan+ and Gary+ our priests; for the bishop

and people of our companion and partner, Diocese of Cape Coast, Ghana; and for all congregations seeking new or renewed direction; Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Let us pray for the sick and the dying: God of glory, in your word we receive the promise of life beyond weakness and sorrow. Heal those who call upon you in faith, and reveal your light to those in the shadow of death. We pray especially for those on our long and short term prayer lists. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Creator of all, you have not abandoned your creation, but have made your dwelling with us in Christ. Hear your faithful people, and grant us the blessings of your mercy, for we make this prayer in the name of Jesus who is Lord forever and ever.

People: Amen.

The Peace

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

***The Great Thanksgiving**

Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP, p. 361

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

***Sursum Corda**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds adding the proper preface.

Celebrant: “Therefore we praise you ... proclaim the glory of your Name:”

***Sanctus**

Spoken

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 People may be seated, then the Celebrant continues.

Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

“We celebrate the memorial of our redemption...

The Great Amen

BCP, p.363

Celebrant: “... all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.”

All: AMEN.

The Lord’s Prayer

BCP, p.364

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

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, 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.

***Breaking of the Bread**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

BCP, p.364

Post Communion Prayer

BCP, p.365

Celebrant: 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 Blessing

***Closing Hymn**

“What Star is This, with Beams so Bright”

Hymn 124

1. What star is this, with beams so bright,
more beautiful than the noonday light?

It shines to herald forth the King,

and Gentiles to his crib to bring.

2. True spake the prophet from afar
who told the rise of Jacob's star;
and eastern sages with amaze
upon the wondrous token gaze.

3. The guiding star above is bright;
within them shines a clearer light,
and leads them on with power benign
to seek the Giver of the sign.

4. O Jesus, while the star of grace
impels us on to seek thy face,
let not our slothful hearts refuse
the guidance of thy light to use.

5. To God the Father, heavenly Light,
to Christ, revealed in earthly night,
to God the Holy Ghost we raise
our equal and unceasing praise.

***Dismissal**

BCP, p.366

The Deacon, or Celebrant, sends us forth into the world; the people respond

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*Please consider joining us for Drive-Through Communion at 753 College Street.
Available until 12 pm.*



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Robert C. Wright, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Don A. Wimberly, *Assisting Bishop*
The Rev. Bryan Hinson, *Priest-in-Charge*
The Rev. Dr. Gary Abbott, *Retired Priest-in-Residence*

STAFF

Nadine Cheek, *Organist/Choirmaster*
Dena Hobbs, *Campus Ministry*
Leah Lowndes, *Parish Administrator*
Akram Saymeh, *Bookkeeper*
Mary Patmon, *Custodian*

VESTRY MEMBERS

Teri Kramer, *Treasurer* | Russell Lewis, *Interim Chancellor* | Tamika Sanders, *Clerk*

Class of 2020

Dustin Gilmore
Alex Mitchell
Tamika Sanders

Class of 2021

Charlie Bradshaw
Teri Kramer
Nancy Ogilvie

Class of 2022

Billie Abbott
Andrea Freeman
Sean McCrackin

Thank you for joining us in worship.

We pray for those on our parish prayer list: Annelise, Betty, Bubber, Carol, Dawson, George, Jamie, Jim, Kaleb, Kay, Kimberly, Richard, Terri

We pray for those on our long term parish prayer list: Beatrice, Betty, Blair, the Broome family, Brother, the Coley family, Donna, Frank, George, the Gregory family, Jim, Mike, Rebecca, Richard, Vernon