

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church



The 3rd Sunday in Advent ~ Dec. 16, 2018

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<http://stpaulschurchmontrose.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsmontrose>

Sunday Worship: 10:00AM

Office Hours: 8:15am until 1:00pm Monday – Thursday

Serving Montrose and surrounding communities  
With God's Love through Jesus Christ  
Since 1831

**Welcome to St. Paul's**, Montrose, PA. We are so thankful that you are worshipping with us on this day. We have served Montrose and surrounding communities with God's love through Jesus Christ since 1831; and invite you to join with us in this long tradition of service. Please accept our hospitality; any member can assist you to our Coffee Hour in the Parish House following the worship service. Thank you for joining us this day. We invite you to come again and, with God's love, be a part of St. Paul's.

**OUR VISION:** To be a community of faith that shares the transforming love of God with all people through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**OUR MISSION:** To proclaim God's love by word and example and to seek Christ in one another.

### The Holy Eucharist

Announcements

### Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Introit:	<i>O come, O come, Emmanuel</i>	Hymn 56 v 1-3
The Lighting of the Advent Candles		
The Gathering Hymn	<i>O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling</i>	Hymn 539

### THE WORD OF GOD

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins  
***People:* His mercy endures forever.**

Collect for Purity:	BCP page 355
Trisagion	BCP page 356
The Collect of the Day	BCP page 212

**The First Lesson:** **Zephaniah 3:14-20**  
 Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments

against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

***People:* Thanks be to God**

**The Canticle:** Please respond by the half verse to our reading of Canticle 9, found on page 86 in your prayer book.

*Reader:* Glory be to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

***People:* As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen!**

**The Epistle Lesson:**

**Philippians 4:4-7**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord

***People:* Thanks be to God**

The Sequence Hymn *There's a voice in the wilderness crying* Hymn 75

**The Gospel**

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

**Luke 3:7-18**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire." And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages." As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

BCP page 358

The Prayers of the People

As we wait for Christ to come among us, let us make our requests known to God who is our stronghold and sure defense, saying, Come, O Holy One, and save us.

For the Church, and especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our bishop, that we may surrender all our worries to God and trust in God's providence for all our needs, let us pray to the Lord.

**Come, O Holy One, and save us.**

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on the people of St. Paul's as we anticipate and prepare for the person you will raise up for us to be the next rector of our parish. May we receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries.

**Come, O Holy One, and save us.**

For this Parish Family, that we may rejoice in all the blessings, opportunities, and gifts God has given us, let us pray to the Lord.

**Come, O Holy One, and save us.**

For the advent of peace and justice, that God will give insight and new vision to all those who work to turn swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, let us pray to the Lord.

**Come, O Holy One, and save us.**

For all who feel overwhelmed by life, that God's message of "have no fear" may renew their hearts and fill their spirits with hope, let us pray to the Lord.

**Come, O Holy One, and save us.**

For all who live daily with violence, oppression, injustice and hunger, and for those in need of our prayers, Margaret, Brad, Kathy, Joe, Esther, Charlotte, Alice, Jean, Charlotte, Esther, Jeanette, Jeanne, Bart, Steve, Kristina, Richard .....; that they may be touched and strengthened by God's healing love, let us pray to the Lord.

**Come, O Holy One, and save us.**

For all those suffering from addictions, that they may desire a clean and sober life, and find the resources for their bodies, minds and spirits that will allow them to do so; for all those who love someone who is addicted, that comfort and support be provided in their journeys; for all in the healing community

assisting recovery, that the Holy Spirit will refresh and strengthen them; for ourselves, that we share the power of God's healing and transforming love with all touched by this addictions epidemic; for St. Paul's that a spirit of unity in witness and action will be among us. Merciful God, accept the fervent prayers of your people.

**Come, O Holy One, and save us.**

For those who have died, remembering especially.....that the One who comes in glory will gather them into the joy of the kingdom, let us pray to the Lord.

**Come, O Holy One, and save us.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer, Thomas the Apostle and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ.

**To you, O Lord our God.**

Celebrant: O God, the fountain of life and rejoicing, hear the prayers we offer this day and restore our fortunes that we may live faithful lives sustained by your everlasting strength, in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ the Savior. **AMEN.**

Confession and Absolution  
The Peace

BCP page 360

## HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory	<i>Blest be the King whose coming</i>	Hymn 74
The Doxology:	<i>Praise God from whom all blessings flow</i>	Hymn 380, v3
The Eucharistic Prayer D		BCP page 372
The Sanctus		S125
The Lord's Prayer		
The Breaking of the Bread		
The Fraction Anthem		S155

The Communion

*Everyone is invited to the Lord's Table to receive the Sacrament or a Blessing.*

*Please cross your arms over your chest if you wish to receive a Blessing.*

The Hymn during Communion *Of the Father's love begotten* Hymn 82

The Post Communion Prayer BCP page 365

The Blessing

The Parting Hymn *Rejoice! rejoice, believers* Hymn 68

The Dismissal

The Postlude

**Altar Flowers today are from Vida Kiefer & John Finlon In Memory of  
Vida Finlon.**

**Our Ministers Today:**

Presider and Preacher: The Rev. John Wagner

Organist & Choir Director: Catherine Hammons

Altar Guild: Barb Undercoffler, Carol Lasher & Carol Marker

Announcements: Lynne Graham

Camera & Broadcast: Al Leigh & Andrew Wurth

Acolyte: Benjamin Zalewski or Sean Eckert

Counters: Tom Undercoffler & David Calby

Chalice Bearer: Nancy Dooling

Lector: Karen Blye-McAbee

Intercessor: Esther Welden

Greeter/Usher: Maggie Sock & Nancy Dooling

Hospitality: Vera Dunn & Barb Undercoffler

**Vestry:**

Lynne Graham, Sr. Warden [lbgraham52@gmail.com](mailto:lbgraham52@gmail.com)

Vickie Calby, Jr. Warden [calby53@gmail.com](mailto:calby53@gmail.com)

Nancy Dooling, Clerk of Vestry [materfamilias@outlook.com](mailto:materfamilias@outlook.com)

Sean Eckert [seaneckert44@gmail.com](mailto:seaneckert44@gmail.com)

Martha Kupscznk [marthakupscznk@gmail.com](mailto:marthakupscznk@gmail.com)

Sandra Seeger [sseeger@endlesscare.org](mailto:sseeger@endlesscare.org)

Maggie Sock [magmcgee50@gmail.com](mailto:magmcgee50@gmail.com)

Thomas Undercoffler [tunderco@frontiernet.net](mailto:tunderco@frontiernet.net)

**Christmas Flowers**

The cost of Poinsettias will remain the same as 2017 at 20.00 per flower. Please remit your check to the office as soon as possible or place in offering plate on Sundays. Envelopes are available at the back of the church. You may designate in memory of or in honor of someone if your wish. I must have all envelopes by **Dec. 23**. Thank you.

**STUDIES FOR ADVENT 2018**

My plan is to meet in the Guild Room during the Sunday coffee hour. I plan on beginning about 11:30 and ending by not later than 12:30.

Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> – Conclusion of the birth in Bethlehem of Judea.

If your plans require you to depart by noon, go in peace! Neither your dropping in and out, nor your early departure, will be seen as rude. As always, if you have any questions, please do ask. Fr. John