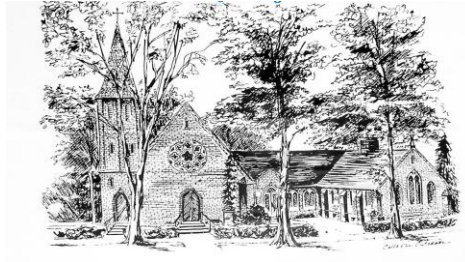


St. Paul's Episcopal Church



3rd Sunday of Advent – Dec. 15, 2019

276 Church Street,
Montrose, PA 18801, 570-278-2954
stpaulsmontrose@epix.net
<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 those who attend every Sunday, keep up the good work! If you are visiting, seeking, considering a new church family or your first church family, this is what you will find here at St. Paul's. We are a group of imperfect people who do our best to spread the love of Jesus. Judging is left to God; it's too much work for us mere mortals. We love children and don't care if your babies act like babies. We embrace you if you are gay, straight, Christian, not sure what you are, sad, happy, a person in addiction or someone in recovery. When we pass the peace, you will be greeted by all of us; don't be afraid--we like to hug! Everyone is welcome at the communion rail whether for a blessing or to receive the sacraments. You will be invited to coffee hour by at least ten of us. We promise you won't go away hungry! Give us a chance--we're eager to meet you!

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

The Prelude

Flute Ensemble

Pat-a-Pan French Carol
Noel Nouvelet French Carol

Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Introit: *O come, o come, Emmanuel* Hymn 56 v3

The Lighting of the Advent Candles

The Gathering Hymn *Come, thou long expected Jesus* Hymn 66

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

***People:* His mercy endures forever.**

Collect for Purity:

BCP page 355

The Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

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

The Response

Psalm 146:4-9

***Reader:* Please respond by the half-verse to our reading of a portion of Psalm 146.**

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! * **whose hope is in the LORD their God;**

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; * **who keeps his promise for ever;**

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, * **and food to those who hunger.**

7 The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; * **the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;**

8 The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; * **he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

9 The LORD shall reign for ever, * **your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

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

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Sequence Hymn *There's a voice in the wilderness crying* Hymn 75 v1-3

The Gospel

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

People: **Glory to you Lord Christ**

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see:

the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, ‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.’ “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

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 with joy for the glory of the Lord, let us offer prayers to God who opens the eyes of the blind saying: *Come, O Holy One, and save us.*

For the Church: especially for Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our bishop, that we may always proclaim to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, and do not fear!” ***Come, O Holy One, and save us.***

For this parish family, that we may wait patiently for the fulfillment of God's promise to us and rely on God's love in all things.

Come, O Holy One, and save us.

For an end to war and healing for the nations, that violence and bloodshed may cease, the innocent may be sheltered, terrorism ended, and peace be established in the hearts of all. ***Come, O Holy One, and save us.***

For openness of heart, that we may recognize God in the prophets, experiences and unexpected events of our lives.

Come, O Holy One, and save us.

For those everywhere who suffer from the power of nature, those whose lives are impacted by senseless violence, and for the sick and the suffering, remembering especially Margaret, Kathy, Joe, Alice, Naomi, Justin, Rita & Fr. John; that they may know the comforting and healing presence of God. ***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 all those who have died, remembering especially, that they may come to Zion singing for joy and gladness.
Come, O Holy One, and save us.

In the communion of blessed Mary, the God-bearer, Thomas the Apostle, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, to Christ our God.
To you, O Lord our God.

Celebrant O come, Son of David, hear our prayers this day, open our eyes to your presence and awaken our hearts to sing your praise, that we may announce in word and deed the good news of your reign. Glory to you for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Confession and Absolution
The Peace

BCP page 360

HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory *Song of the Birds*
The Doxology: *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*
The Eucharistic Prayer B

Flutes
Hymn 380, v3
BCP page 367

The Sanctus		S124
The Lord's Prayer		
The Breaking of the Bread		
The Fraction Anthem		S161
The Communion		
<i>Everyone is invited to the Lord's Table to receive the Sacrament or a Blessing.</i>		
<i>Please cross your arms over your chest if you wish to receive a Blessing.</i>		
The Hymn during Communion	<i>Let all mortal flesh keep silence</i>	Hymn 324
The Post Communion Prayer		BCP page 365
The Blessing		
The Parting Hymn	<i>Hark the glad sound! the Savior comes</i>	Hymn 72
The Dismissal		
The Postlude	<i>Carol of the Bells</i>	Ukrainian Carol

Altar Flowers this week are from John & Nancy Finlon & Vida A Kiefer In Memory of Vida Finlon.

Our Ministers Today:

Presider and Preacher: The Rev. Arthur L. Jones, III
Organist & Choir Director: Catherine Hammons
Altar Guild: Carol Lasher, Carol Marker & Barb Undercoffler
Announcements: Lynne Graham
Camera & Broadcast: Al Leigh & Andrew Wurth
Acolyte: Benjamin Zalewski or Sean Eckert
Counters: Richard Marker & Maggie Sock
Chalice Bearer: Vickie Calby
Lector: Cathy Hammons
Intercessor: Nancy Dooling
Greeter/Usher: Nancy Dooling & Karen Blye-McAbee

Vestry:

Lynne Graham, Sr. Warden lbgraham52@gmail.com

Vickie Calby, Jr. Warden calby53@gmail.com

Karen Blye-McAbee, Clerk of Vestry kbwolfson@hotmail.com

Stephanie Calby summerbreeze247@yahoo.com

Sean Eckert seaneckert44@gmail.com

Martha Kupscznk marthakupscznk@gmail.com

Maggie Sock magmcgee50@gmail.com

Memory Luncheon today at 12:30 following the service.

Free Coat Giveaway at St. Paul's Wed. Dec. 18 & Thu. Dec. 19 from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Christmas Flowers must be in by Sun. Dec. 22.

Christmas Eve Service at St. Paul's Tue. Dec. 24 at 11:00pm.

No Sunday Service on December 29th.

There will be a service on Saturday December 28th at 5:00pm.