St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Canton, Ohio

Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Basilius Achridenus, Archbishop of Thessalonike¯ (approximately 1169) from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tenn. Original source.

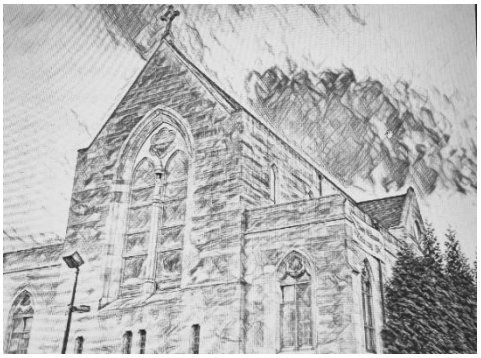
Sunday, December 31, 2023

First Sunday After Christmas Day

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Welcome to St. Paul's

Online and in-person services begin with music at 10:25 a.m.



St. Paul's Episcopal Church
425 Cleveland Ave SW
Canton OH 44702
(330) 455-0286

Website: www.stpaulscanton.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stpaulscanton
e-mail: stpaulsoffice@att.net
We're on YouTube: StPaulsCanton

Our mission

St. Paul's is an exceptionally welcoming Episcopal community in downtown Canton, grounded in faith, called by God's Love to minister to the world.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of the parish, at 330-455-0286.

First Sunday After Christmas Day
Holy Eucharist Rite II

Readings and Psalm
First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10--62:3
Psalm: Psalm 147
Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
Gospel: John 1:1-18

Prelude: *Forest Green* by Philip Marshall

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN: ***"O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Forest Green) (H 78)***

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)
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. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE: *"Glory to God" (Canticle 20) WLP 900*
[Refer to bulletin insert]

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY
Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

The Lessons

The people sit.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

The people sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

62:1For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
2The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
3You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 147

Remain seated.

1Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
2The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
3He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
4He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
5Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
6The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
7Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.
8He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
9He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
10He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
11He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
12But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Remain seated.

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Galatia.

23 Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith
would be revealed. 24 Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that
we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to
a disciplinarian.

4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born
under the law, 5 in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might
receive adoption as children. 6 And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of
his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave but a child,
and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN*: "From the Dawning of Creation" (Timeless Love) (WLP 748)*

All stand.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

All stand.

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[1]In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
[2]He was in the beginning with God. [3]All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being [4]in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. [5]The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

[6]There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. [7]He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. [8]He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. [9]The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

[10]He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. [11]He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. [12]But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, [13]who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

[14]And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. [15](John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") [16]From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. [17]The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. [18]No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON: ***Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry***

Celebrant Let us affirm our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed

THE CREED
All stand.

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.***

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, "Glorious Lord, grant us your peace."

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely.

YOUR INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS ARE INVITED

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Leader: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection.

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Celebrant: Mighty God, mercifully hear the prayers of the people you have chosen as your own. Give us zeal in our ministries and joy in our work, through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

CONFESSION OF SIN

The People sit, stand or kneel.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People: 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.***

Celebrant: 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 PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The people greet each other in the name of the Lord

Church Announcements

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY SENTENCE
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.
Psalm 96:9

OFFERTORY HYMN*: "Torches"* (John Joubert)

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin and receive power to become your children.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name: ♪ ♪ ♪

SANCTUS: ***"Sanctus Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" (Hirten) WLP 853***
Celebrant and People

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” ♪

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.” ♪

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. ***AMEN.***

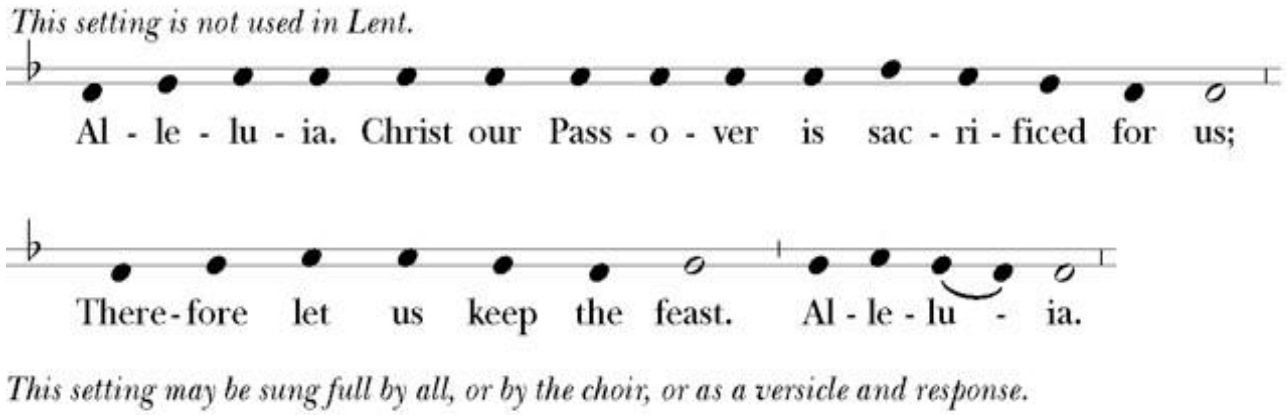
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be 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, forever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread

FRACTION ANTHEM: Christ Our Passover (S 152)



Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Celebrant: Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

Dearest Lord Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We love you above all things and long for you in our souls. Since we are not altogether in our church today to receive the bread and wine made holy, we ask you to come spiritually into our hearts. Fill us with your light and nourish us all with your word and Spirit. Amen.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please tell the clergy if you need gluten-free bread. If you come to the communion station for a blessing instead, please cross your arms on your chest. If you are interested in being baptized, please contact the Priest of the parish.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE GIFTS

COMMUNION HYMN: ***"In the Bleak Midwinter (Cranham) (H 112)***

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

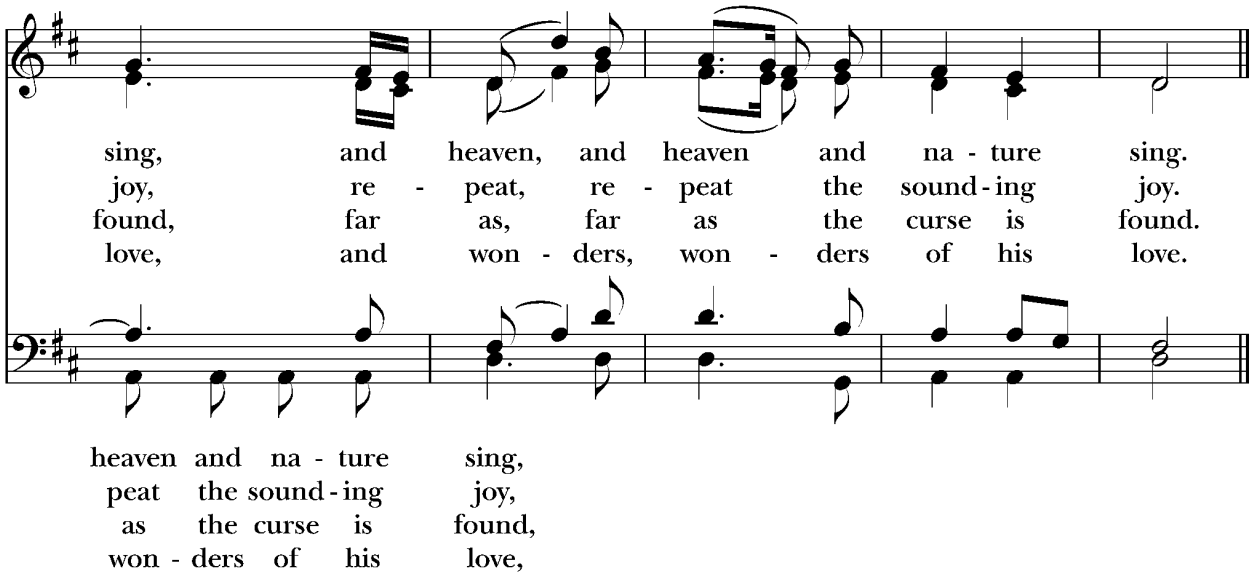
Let us pray together

Loving God, we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. ***Amen.***

BLESSING

Go in the joy and wonder of the greatest gift ever given, the birth of the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, God with Us. May the love of God be with you. May God hold you in the light of love. May God fill you with grace. May God bless you and keep you. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. ***Amen!***

RECESSIONAL HYMN: ***"Joy to the World! the Lord is Come" (Antioch) (H 100)***



DISMISSAL

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Fanfare on *Antioch* by Gere Hancock

Participants in Today's Liturgy:

Priest-in-Charge:	The Rev. Dr. Robin Woodberry
Director of Music:	Edward T. Grimes
Lector:	Demetrius Carrothers
Crucifer:	Demetrius Carrothers
Thurifer:	Douglas Colmery
Camera/Audio:	David Lewis, David Rotthoff
Altar Guild:	Barbara Anderson, Karen Swope
Counters:	Demetrius Carrothers, Jeff Nowlin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join Us TODAY with a Toast to 2024 at a New Year's Eve Coffee Hour Party! 12p-2p

Wednesday Study Group: Will resume this week on January 3rd.

Choir Rehearsal: Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7p-8p. Please see the music director, Edward Grimes for more information.

Epiphany Service of Lessons and Carols: On Saturday, January 6th at 4 p.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Massillon will be again hosting this service. All are invited to attend and/or participate.

Discernment Day, January 13 from 9:30am - 4:00pm, @ Bellwether Farm: Ministry Discernment Day is intended to help those who feel a call to service better understand that call in the context of the Baptismal Covenant, to explain the logistics of the discernment process, and, should you choose to enter a deeper exploration of a call to ordained ministry, to prepare you to work more effectively with a discernment committee.

Diocesan Winter Convocation: Join us at Winter Convocation, February 2-3, 2024, at Kalahari in Sandusky to get a one-day preview of College for Congregational Development. If you are interested in attending, please contact the Church Office, at 330-455-0286

Constant Contact Update

Starting at the beginning of the year, we will begin using the Constant Contact program to assist us with our emailing and contact needs. Some of you may remember that we have used this program in the past, and it is widely used throughout the Diocese. If we do not have your email on file, a request to be added to the program will be sent to your email. **You will need to accept the request in order for us to add you**. If we already have your email in the program, no action is needed on your part. You should receive the email request by Dec. 31st so please look for it. Contact Rev. Robin with questions, at 330-506-6647.

January Birthdays

3rd-	Rick Senften	18th-	Maureen Major	28th-	Ed Denning
11th-	Natalie Sutek	19th-	Nancy Reinbold	29th-	Cathi Johanning
12th-	Sabrina Patterson	21st	David Rotthoff	30th-	Cayson Schmidt
15th-	Owen Valentine	24th-	Megan Demastus	31st-	Barbara Anderson
17th-	Bethany Sutek	26th-	Wyatt Marcum	27th-	Mary Lou Stauffer

Happy Anniversary

Ed & Carol Sutek: 10th
Richard & Nancy Reinbold: 25th

January Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:30 am Service New Year's Eve Party 12p-2p	**January 1** New Year's Day!	**2**	**3** 10 am Bible Study	**4** 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	**5**	**6** 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
7 THE BAPTISM OF JESUS! 10:30 am Service	**8** 6 pm Communications Mtg.	**9**	**10** 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Finance Mtg.	**11** 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	**12**	**13** 9 am Gun Violence Prevention Workshop 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
14 9 am DOK Mtg. 10:30 am Service	**15** 12 pm Service 	**16**	**17** 10 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Outreach Mtg.	**18** 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	**19**	**20** 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
21 10:30 am Service Church Annual Meeting	**22**	**23** 7 pm Social Justice Book Club	**24** 10 am Bible Study	**25** 7 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm AA (Blue Room)	**26**	**27** 11 am HOT Lunch 7 pm AA (Library) 7:30 pm NA (Cmty Rm)
28 10:30 am Service	**29**	**30**	**31** 10 am Bible Study			

Session 1

Ministering for a Less Violent Community:

An Interfaith Workshop to Reduce Gun Violence

Saturday, January 13, 2024

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Registration and refreshments 8:30-9:00

Community Room of St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

525 Cleveland Ave. SW, Canton 44702

You are invited to send up to three members of your ministry team (ordained or lay).

At the conclusion of the workshop, your team will receive a jump drive with an Interfaith Gun Violence Prevention Tool Kit and other resources to utilize with your faith community for dialogue, feedback about existing barriers to action, and subsequent workshops.

RSVP by January 4, 2024, with names of attendees to: interfaithcoalitionstark@gmail.com

Shalom, Salaam, Shanti, Peace, On Behalf of the Interfaith Violence Prevention Coalition of Stark County:

Rabbi John Spitzer, *Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Israel*

Reverend Robin Woodberry, *Priest-in-Charge, St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

Mustafa Ozguler, *Secretary, Islamic Society of Northeast Ohio*

Father Edward Keck, *Retired Catholic Priest*

Reverend Hector McDaniel, *Outreach Pastor, Union Baptist Church*

Laurence Bove, *Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Walsh University*

Please contact workshop co-chairs with questions:

Lynne Dragomier:

ldragom1@kent.edu or 330.417.7416

Reverend Robin Woodberry:

Robinw10@prodigy.net or 330.506.6647

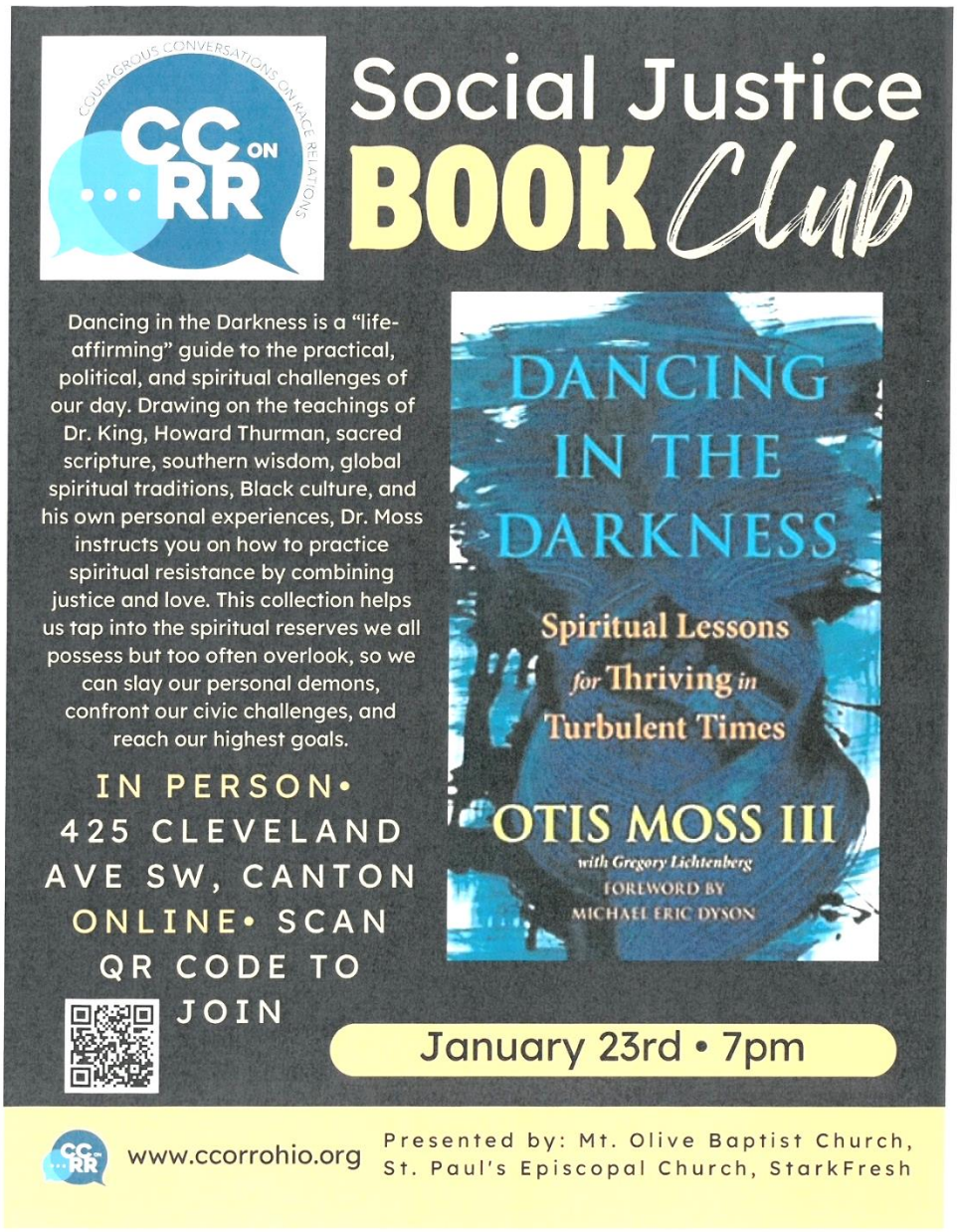
The Interfaith Violence Prevention Coalition of Stark County

Working Together for Shalom, Salaam, Shanti, Peace

CC ON ...RR
CONGRUOUS CONVERSATIONS ON RACE RELATIONS
Scan QR code to register
MLK DAY
12PM • SERVICE
1-4PM • VOLUNTEER
5:30PM • DINNER
MONDAY JANUARY 15TH, 2024
MLK Jr. Joint worship service
Mt. Olive Baptist Church 1403 13th St SE, Canton,
12 pm - 1 pm
On-site volunteering
at StarkFresh Grocery Store locations in Alliance & Canton
1 pm - 4 pm
Dinner gathering/ Curriculum kickoff event
Mt. Olive Baptist Church 1403 13th St SE, Canton,
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
www.ccorrohio.org

Save the Date: January 21, 2024
Annual Church Meeting

All ministries are asked to get their reports into the Church Office no later than January 14th.



Sermon Notes

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Bishop
The Right Reverend Anne B. Jolly

Priest-in-Charge
The Reverend Dr. Robin Woodberry

Staff
Edward T. Grimes, Director of Music

Peggy Neidig, Office Manager

Paul Schmucker, Sexton

Music Begins Sunday Services at 10:25am are also live-streamed on Facebook.

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