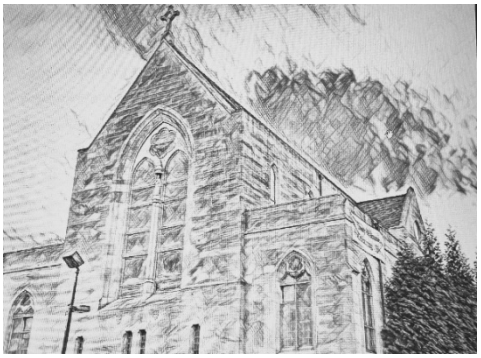
# St. Paul's Episcopal Church
# Canton, Ohio

## Fourth Sunday of Advent
### Holy Eucharist Rite 2
### Dec. 21, 2025, 10:30 a.m.

# Welcome to St. Paul's

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



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**
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(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, and called by God's Love to minister to the world.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**
**Holy Eucharist**
Celebrant: The Rev. Kay Ashby

**Readings and Psalm**

- Isaiah 7:10-16
- Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
- Romans 1:1-7
- Matthew 1:18-25

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**Prelude:** *Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland,* Johann Pachelbel

# Lighting the Advent Candles

Advent means “the coming.” It’s a season of preparation and anticipation, a time of repentance and reflection, and the first season of our church year.
The four candles we light over these four Sundays of Advent are set in a wreath, a circle with no beginning or end, representing the eternity of God’s love. For these four weeks, it sits prominently at the front of St. Paul’s.
Three of the candles – those lit on the first, second and fourth Sundays – are blue or purple, the liturgical color of the season. The third candle is pink for joy. The candle lit today is the candle of peace. At the center of the wreath is the large white candle we light on Christmas Eve.

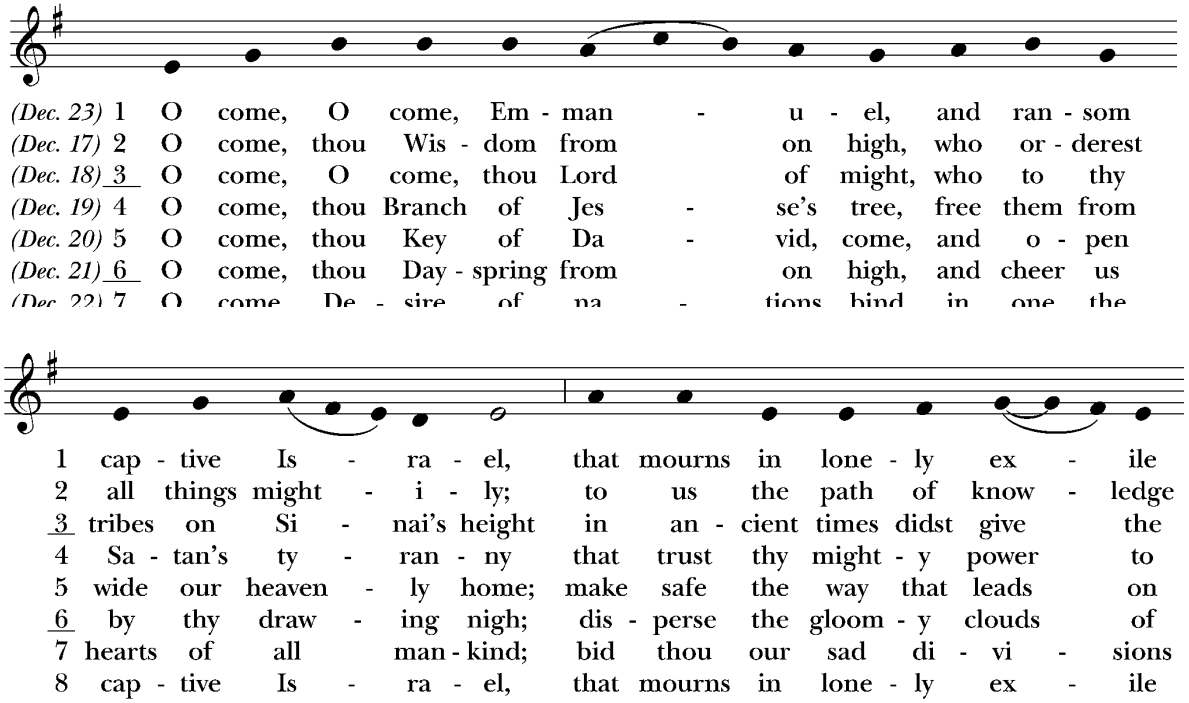
### Lighting the Fourth Advent candle: The Angel’s candle representing peace (Dec. 21, 2025)

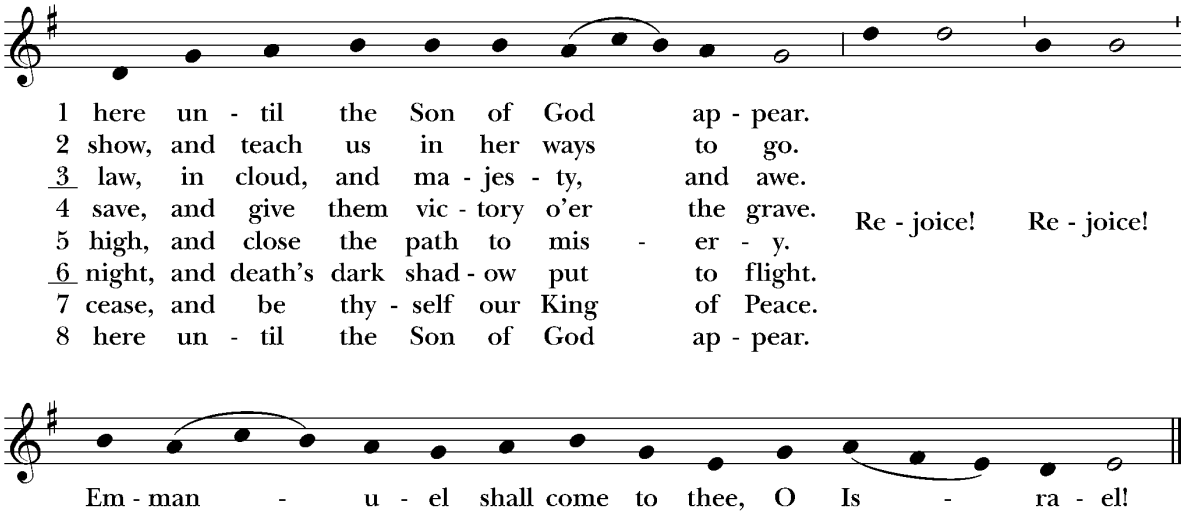
*Reader: Almighty God, let your blessing come upon the candles we light this Advent. May they shine as guides, leading us to love, to create, to reason, and to live in harmony with creation and with you as we wait for the coming of Christ. We ask this through the name of Jesus the Christ, our hope and savior.*
*(Four candles are lit.)*

# The Word of God

*Please stand in body or spirit*

## *Entrance Hymn: O come, O come Emmanuel* (H 56)






*The stanzas may be used as antiphons with "The Song of Mary" on the dates given.*

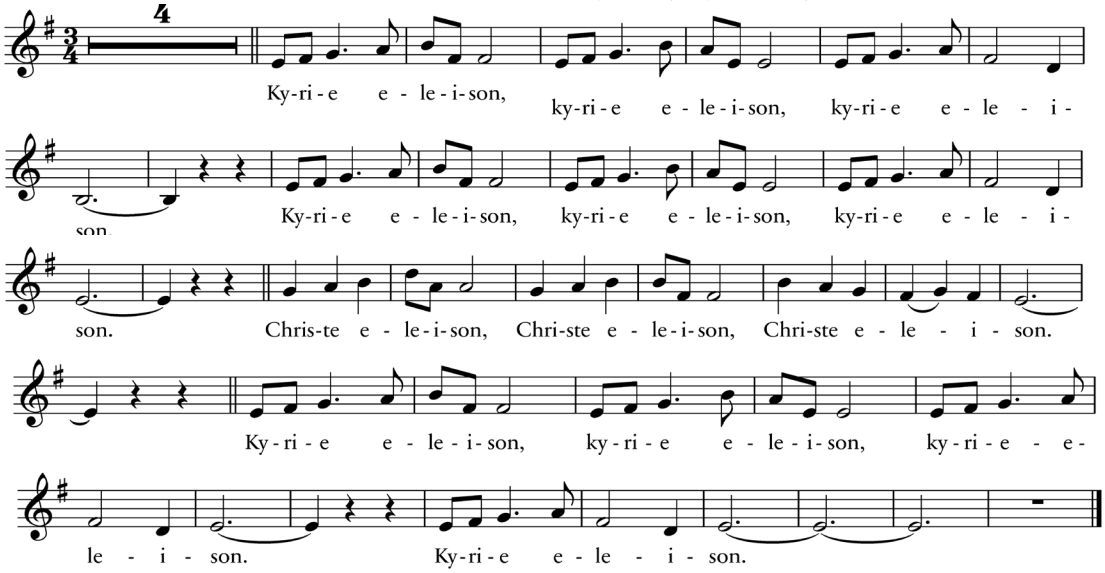
## Opening Acclamation

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, holy and living One.
*People* You come to your people and set them free.

### Collect for Purity

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.*

## KYRIE ELEISON: *Celtic Waltz (Tan) (AS20)*



**The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.
*People* And also with you.
*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

## The Lessons

*Please sit.*

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 7:10-16

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

10 Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11 Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep
as Sheol or high as heaven. 12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to
the test. 13 Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary
mortals, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him
Immanuel. 15 He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil
and choose the good. 16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the
good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

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

### PSALM 80:1-7, 16-18

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

[16]Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
[17]And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
[18]Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**READING: Romans 1:1-7**

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

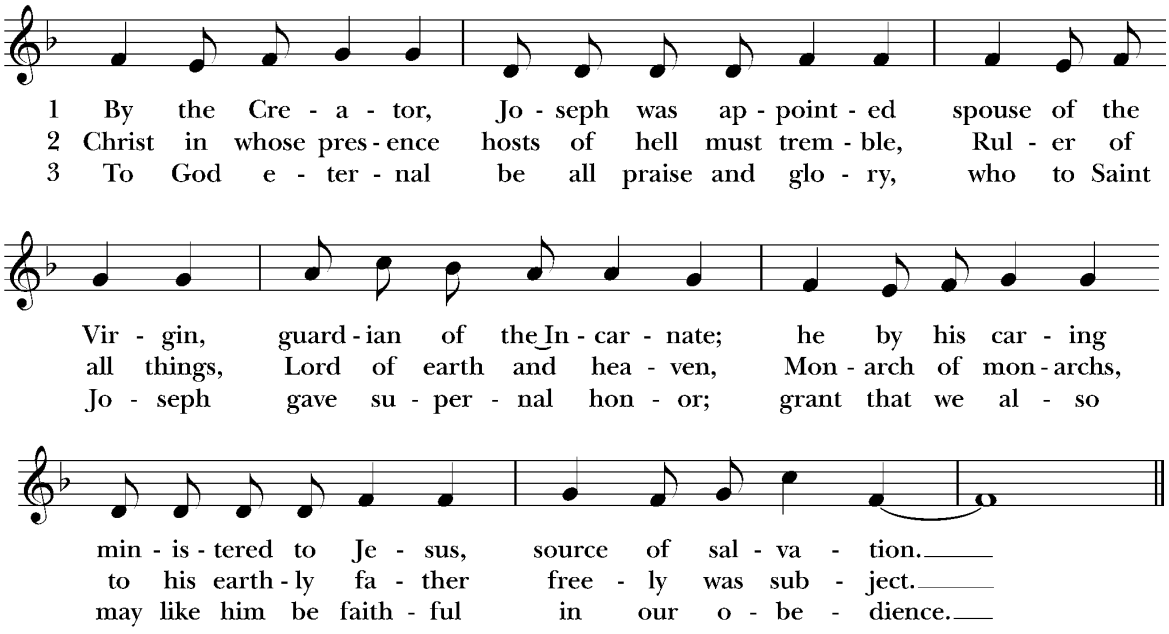
[1]Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, [2]which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, [3]the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh [4]and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, [5]through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, [6]including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

[7]To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

*Please stand in body or spirit*

## Sequence Hymn: *By the Creator, Joseph was appointed* (Bickford) (H262)



*Please remain standing if able*

## GOSPEL: Matthew 1:18-25

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

18 Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had
been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child
from the Holy Spirit. 19 Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to
expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 20 But just when he had
resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph,
son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is
from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will
save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by
the Lord through the prophet:
23 "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us." 24 When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of
the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, 25 but had no marital relations with her
until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

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

## The Sermon: The Rev. Kay Ashby

## The Creed

*Please stand in body or spirit*

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

*Please remain standing*

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially Peggy Neidig, Cara Warren, Alice Bolam, Valerie Frear, Molly Weisel, Gene, Andrea, Marilyn Dickinson, Ed Denning, Doug Geissinger, Joanne, Jackson, Gary, Richard Green, Steve Hamilton, Deborah Starkey, John Titmas, Holly Hillen, Bob Reiner, Frances Beacon, Vicki Simpkins and Ashley Stroud.
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
*Silent or aloud*

Please pray the St. Paul's Discernment Prayer together:
*O Lord our God,*
*May we, the parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, embrace your commandment of loving our neighbors as you have loved us while we discern who we are and how best to serve you.*
*We ask that you quiet our souls, so we may listen to you.*
*We ask that you grant us wisdom as we seek new leadership.*
*And lastly, we ask for the courage to follow wherever you lead us.*
*Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
*Amen.*

*Celebrant:* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Confession of Sin

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

*Priest and 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.

*The Priest* 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

*All stand.*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.
*People* And also with you.
*The People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### *Church Announcements*

# Holy Communion

## Offertory Sentence (Psalm 50:14)

*The Celebrant says*
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *A Day of Glory,* David Ogden

## The Great Thanksgiving

*The People remain standing.*

*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, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

*Celebrant and People*
*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.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days

you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.
On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

*We remember his death,*
*We proclaim his resurrection,*
*We await his coming in glory;*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.
We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Paul and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.
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 for ever. ***AMEN.***

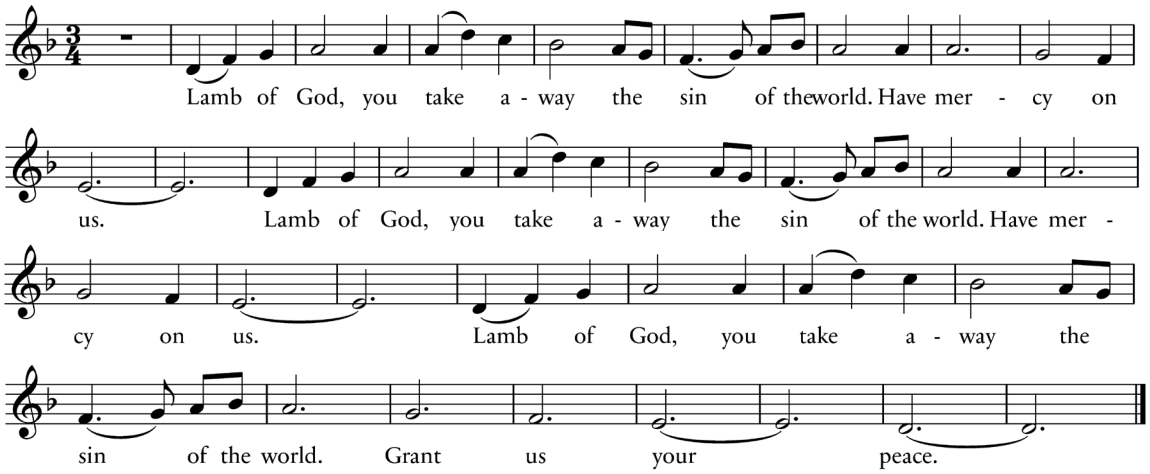
## The Lord's Prayer

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: *Lamb of God Agnus Dei* (Dunphy) (AS11)




*Celebrant*: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

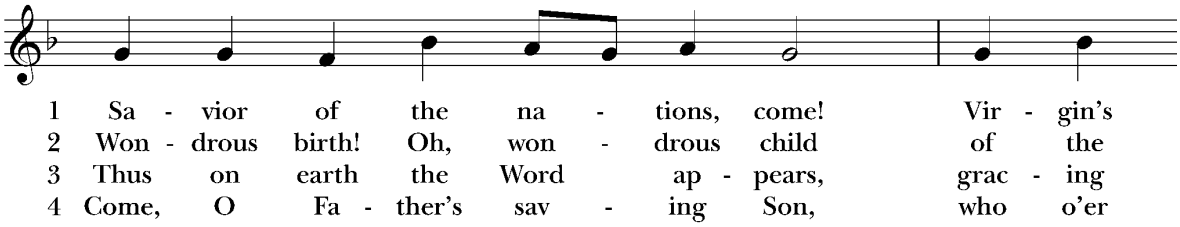
## Spiritual Communion

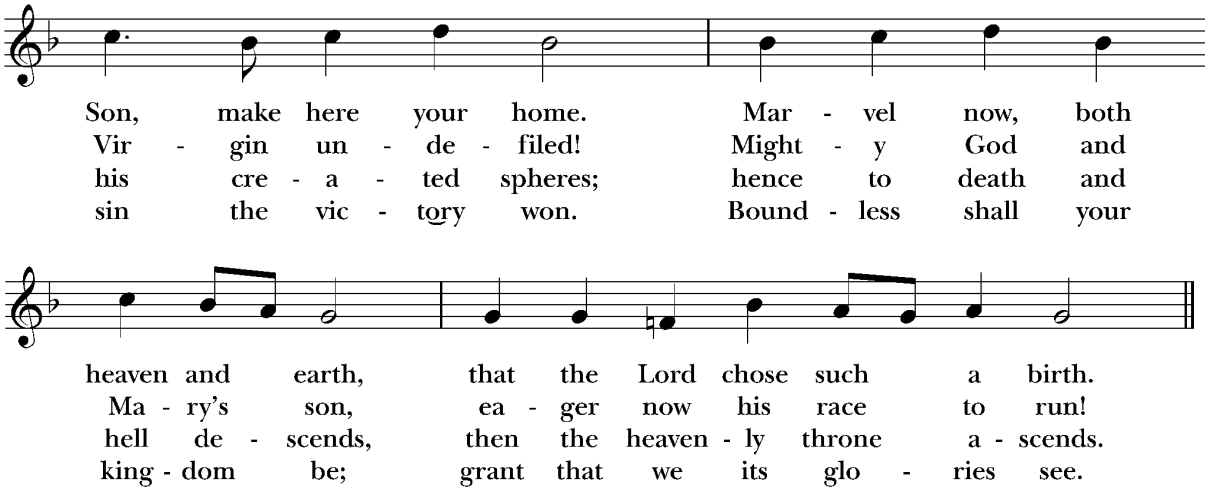
*Celebrant*: Please join us in praying with our siblings in Christ who are with us online and receiving communion spiritually.

*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 St. Paul's.*

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN: *Savior of the Nations Come* (H54)






## Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

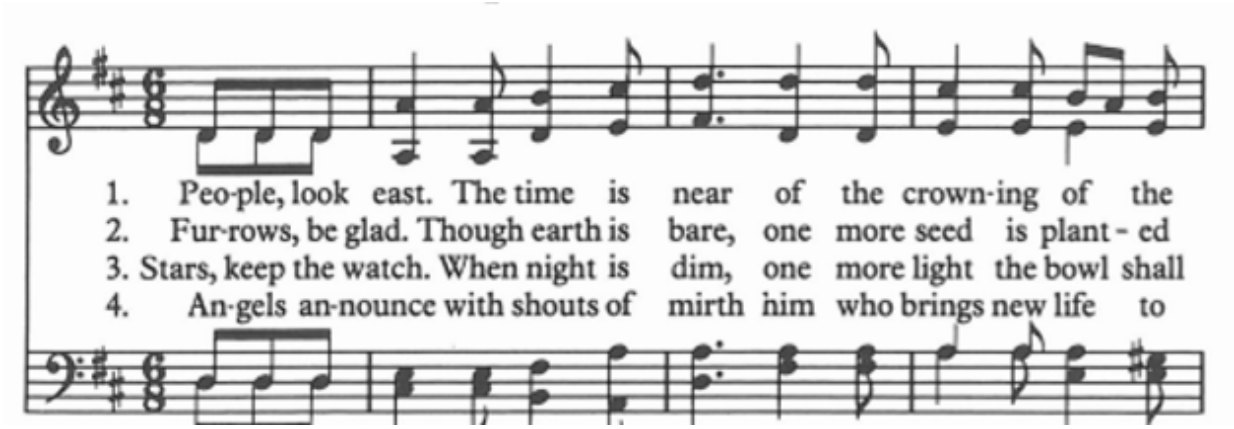
*Celebrant and People*

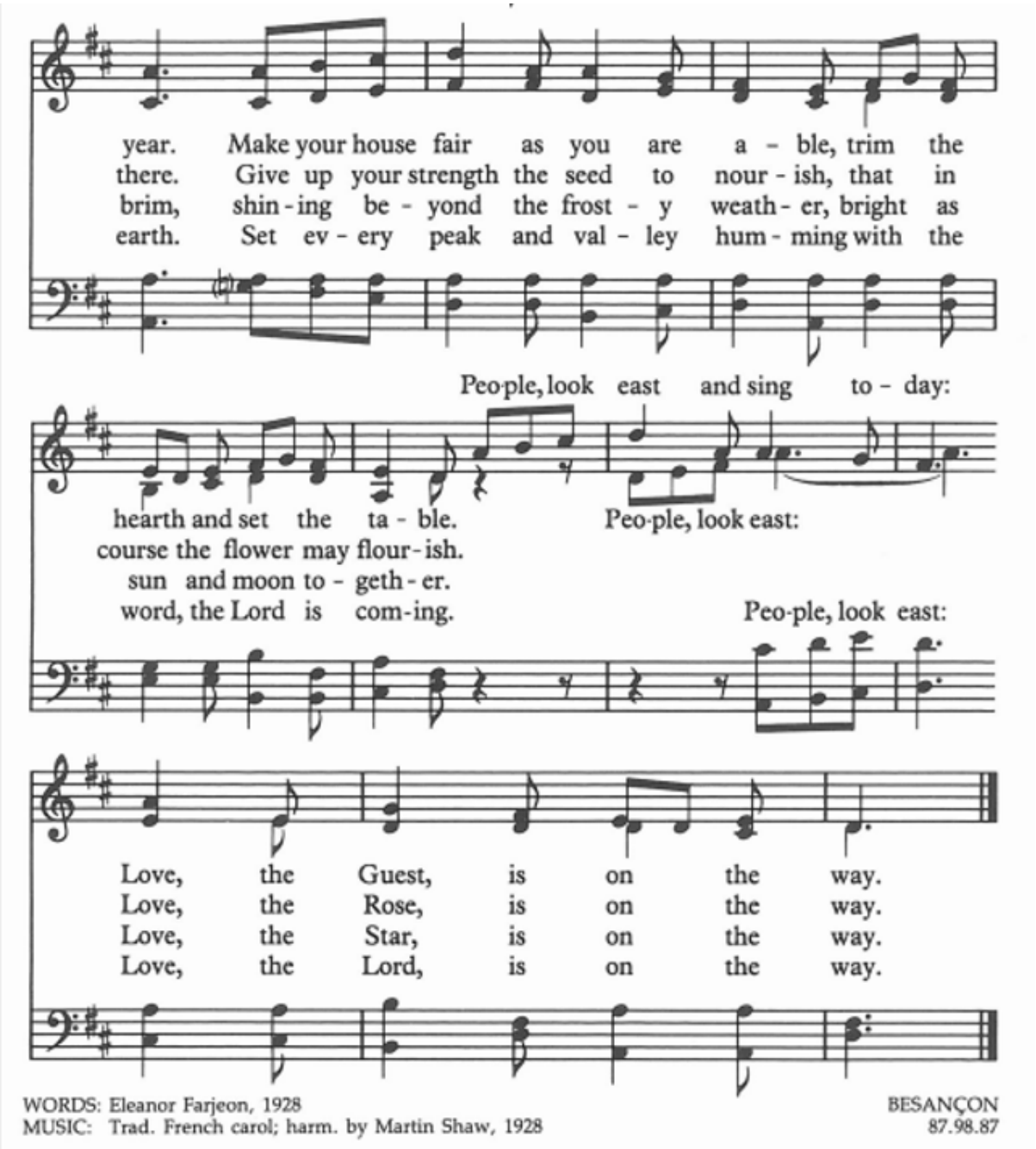
Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Post-communion blessing

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## RECESSIONAL HYMN: *People look East*






## Blessing

*Celebrant:* The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

*People:* Thanks be to God.

**Postlude:** *Variations on Est is ein Rose,* Gerald Near

**TODAY'S SERVERS:**
Celebrant: The Rev. Kay Ashby
Parish musician: Edward Grimes
Greeters: David Lewis
Crucifer: Demetrius Carrothers
Eucharistic Minister: Douglas Colmery
Video: David Lewis and David Rotthoff
Altar Guild: Douglas Colmery and Susan Phillips
Lector: Karl Roshong
Counters: M.L. Schultze and David Rotthoff

# Announcements

Celebrating December Birthdays
Richard Oloya, Dec. 4
William Kendrick, Dec. 5
Deborah Husted, Dec. 6
Margaret Moore-Neidig, Dec. 18
Dan Lewton, Dec. 23
John Titmas, Dec. 24
Jesus Christ, Dec. 25

# Special upcoming services

St. Paul's celebration of Christmas begins on Christmas Eve at 7:30 p.m. with carols, followed by the service at 8, and then a light reception. It is a lovely time to share spiritually and socially the gift of Christ in all our lives and within the St. Paul's family.
**This year, we also will offer a moment for quiet contemplation on Christmas Day, with an evening compline at 4 p.m. via Zoom.** Please gift yourself a few minutes to be surrounded with a quieter kind of Christmas joy. Here's the link: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86875259003?pwd=wysAOn8Zepw9GlSACVxKvxIkpWYXtr.1d

And here is the complete list of the services through Epiphany:

- Tuesday, Dec. 23, 4 p.m., Advent Evensong via Zoom. https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87952459454?pwd=bN49jT7NwFayBmTNTevxOngEIddGAA.1
- Wednesday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist; music begins at 7:30 p.m., service at 8 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 25: Christmas compline, 4 p.m. via Zoom https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86875259003?pwd=wysAOn8Zepw9GlSACVxKvxIkpWYXtr.1
- **Sunday, Dec. 28: First Sunday of Christmas, joint ecumenical service of downtown churches at Christ Presbyterian, 530 Tuscarawas St. W, 10:30 a.m.**
- Sunday, Jan. 4: Epiphany Sunday, Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.
- **Sunday, Jan. 4: Joint lessons and carols with St. Mark's and St. Timothy's at St. Timothy's, 226 3rd Street SE, Massillon, OH, 44646, 3 p.m.**

## Christmas Eve: Music, service and reception

Each year, the St. Paul's choir shares special music before our Christmas Eve service begins. Here's the music our choir will be singing, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

*Noel I* Louis-Claude Daquin
*The Holly and the Ivy* David Ogden
*Lullaby of Jesus* Grayston Ives
*Noel III* Louis-Claude Daquin
*Dans cette étable* Piers Maxim
*Gaudete* Barbara Rusbridge
*Noel VI* Louis-Claude Daquin

The music during the service also promises to fill St. Paul's with the sounds of joy: *O Come, All ye Faithful, Angels We have Heard on High, Of the Father's Love Begotten, I wonder as I wander, It Came Upon a Midnight Clear, Silent Night and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.* And please join us after the service for a sweet-and-savory reception in the Guild Hall.

# Bless the sharing of our Advent abundance

Please bring your Reverse Advent collections to St. Paul's on Christmas Eve so they can be blessed and so we can celebrate the spirit of giving that is so much a part of Christmas. Over the following week, we'll be sorting the personal products and food items for delivery to the YWCA on Epiphany, Jan. 6**.**

# Remembering those we've lost

Our friends with NA (Narcotics Anonymous) have invited us to a special service remembering loved ones who have died over the past year. The service is Monday at Crossroads Methodist Church (120 Cleveland Ave. SW). We're invited to come for minutes or hours, whatever each of us needs to hold near those we have lost during this holiday season.

# Cleveland's Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival

All are invited to attend the presentations of the 63rd Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival on Sunday, **Dec. 28**, at 2 and 4:30 p.m. at Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland.

Performances are open to the public, and there is no ticketing. The Festival, a volunteer production, is a multi-sensory Elizabethan Christmas experience with pageantry and music celebrating the light of Christ coming into the world. **If you would like to attend, please sign the sheet in the Narthex today**. We want to facilitate a Canton-to-Cleveland caravan. To learn more, visit the website**.**

# The Greening of St. Paul's

St. Paul's always gives Advent her due, but will be fully preparing for Christmas after service TODAY! We'll also have a party to celebrate the greening of the church for everyone who helps transform our sanctuary into its Christmas finery. There's friendship, joyful preparation and plenty more to share, so please plan to stay.

# Demi's road to the diaconate

We congratulate our junior warden, Demetrious Carrothers, as he formally steps onto the path of becoming a deacon in the Episcopal Church. Just what that means for him and for St. Paul's is best shared by Demi himself in this letter:

Dear Parishioners of St. Paul's:

I have been in discernment for the ordained ministry of the diaconate for the past year. I started to feel called toward becoming a vocational deacon a couple of years ago. A vocational deacon is different than a transitional deacon. Transitional deacons are ordained as step toward priesthood while vocational deacons stay in that ministry.
Vocational deacons are to give 3-6 hours a week to the parish they are assigned and are traditionally an unpaid position in the church. Deacons are called to bring the needs of the people to the church. The Episcopal Church describes deacons in the following manner:

> "Deacons are members of one of three distinct orders of ordained ministry (with bishops and presbyters). In the Episcopal Church a deacon exercises "a special ministry of servanthood" directly under the deacon's bishop, serving all people and especially those in need (BCP, p. 543). This definition reflects the practice of the early church, in which deacons were ordained "not to the priesthood but to the servanthood [diakonia, "ministry"] of the bishop" (Hippolytus, Apostolic Tradition). In the ancient Greek-speaking world the term diakonos meant an intermediary who acted or spoke for a superior. Christian deacons were agents of the bishop, often with oversight of charity. Since ancient

times the liturgical functions of deacons have suggested the activity of angels. As they proclaim the gospel, lead intercessions, wait at the eucharistic table, and direct the order of the assembly, deacons act as sacred messengers, agents, and attendants. The revival of the order of deacons in the twentieth century has emphasized social care and service. Many bishops in the Episcopal Church expect their deacons to promote care of the needy outside the church."

This call strengthen during the summer of 2024. I attended discernment day in October 2024 and shortly after sent my application to become an aspirant. The diocese formed a discernment committee that involved a priest, a deacon, two members of St. Paul's and another lay person from our mission area. We met six times (two hours each) from February through July 2025. I was given essay assignments about a question or set of questions pertinent to the topic of each meeting. The committee would then ask me questions on the topic and dig deeper into my essays.

The Committee was then tasked with making a favorable/ unfavorable recommendation to the Commission on Ministry for me to attend the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Applicants to the Ministry (BACAM) weekend on October 10-11, 2025. The committee gave a favorable recommendation.

BACAM weekend is a weekend of intense discernment in which aspirants go through four separate one-hour interviews with individuals (Lay and Clergy) from the diocese. This committee then makes a recommendation to the Bishop as to the aspirants call.

The Bishop makes the decision if an aspirant is to enter the formation process and become a postulant. Bishop Jolly informed me on December 9, 2025 that I have moved forward in discernment and I am a postulant for the diaconate. Formation classes will begin in the Fall of 2026 but my status as a postulant begins now. Canonically a postulant is not allowed to serve on vestry, other positions of leadership, and/or decision making for a parish. I am allowed to remain as a crucifer, lector, lay preacher, altar guild and serve in other ministries. I have already submitted my resignation from Vestry.

Formation will take an estimated 2-3 years and is another leg in a long journey of the discernment process. The Bishop will assign to me to a parish, other than St. Paul's Canton, should the formation process discern my call to the diaconate and I am ordained.

People tend to think that discernment for ordained ministry is a private affair, but what I have learned in the past year is discernment involves community. The people of St. Paul's have been a positive influence and motivation in my discernment process. I am extremely grateful for that. I wanted to let you know where I was on this journey for transparency's sake and to ask for your prayers as this journey continues.

Your Brother in Christ,

# Discernment moves forward

Despite the busy-ness of the holiday season, the Discernment process at St. Paul’s has been far from forgotten. In the last two weeks, we’ve had two meetings of significance as we look toward 2026. The first

was on Dec. 6 with the Rev. Alan Cowart of St. John's Episcopal Church in Cuyahoga Falls; Fr. Alan is our consultant for the Discernment process. The second was on Dec. 14 with the Rev. Audra Abt, canon for innovation for the Diocese of Ohio. From those meetings came the following launch-points for 2026.

- How to better support the Ashbys, who have agreed to remain our interim clergy and a part of the St. Paul's family throughout 2026.
- Determining which vicarious relationships St. Paul's should strengthen first with our wider community and within ourselves.
- Exploring how to deepen our spiritual lives through Episcopalian tradition.

The next meeting of the Discernment committee with Fr. Alan is Jan. 11. We welcome any questions, suggestions and other input you have before then. And please, keep the St. Paul's Discernment Prayer in your hearts and minds always.

*O Lord our God,*
*May we, the parish of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, embrace your commandment of loving our neighbors as you have loved us while we discern who we are and how best to serve you.*
*We ask that you quiet our souls, so we may listen to you.*
*We ask that you grant us wisdom as we seek new leadership.*
*And lastly, we ask for the courage to follow wherever you lead us.*
*Through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
*Amen.*

# What we believe

THE Episcopal CHURCH

The mission of The Episcopal Church, as stated in the Book of Common Prayer's catechism, is "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." In step with that mission, we follow Jesus into loving, liberating, and life-giving relationships with God, with each other, and with the earth.

*Of note…*

*The art on the cover of today's bulletin is "The Dream of St. Joseph," illustrating the Gospel reading of Matthew. It's by Philippe de Champaigne and displayed at The National Gallery in London.*